

## **Tracer wire for Watermain Installations**

### **Materials**

All trace wire shall have HDPE insulation intended for direct bury, color coated per APWA standard for the specific utility being marked. THHN/THWN is not intended for direct bury.

- **Open Trench:** Trace wire shall be #12/14 AWG Copper Clad Steel, High Strength with minimum 450 lb. break load, with minimum 30 mil HDPE insulation thickness.
- **Directional Drilling/Boring -** Trace wire shall be #12 AWG Copper Clad Steel, Extra High Strength with minimum 1,150 lb. break load, with minimum 30 mil HDPE insulation thickness.
- **Trace wire – Pipe Bursting/Slip Lining:** Trace wire shall be 7 x 7 Stranded Copper Clad Steel, Extreme Strength with 4,700 lb. break load, with minimum 50 mil HDPE insulation thickness.
- **Direct bury wire connectors:** shall include 3-way lockable connectors and mainline to lateral lug connectors specifically manufactured for use in underground trace wire installation. Connectors shall be dielectric silicon filled to seal out moisture and corrosion, and shall be installed in a manner so as to prevent any uninsulated wire exposure.
- Non locking friction fit, twist on or taped connectors are prohibited.

### **Termination/Access**

- All trace wire termination points must utilize an approved trace wire access

### **Installation - General**

- Trace wire installation shall be performed in such a manner that allows proper access for connection of line tracing equipment
- Trace wire systems must be installed as a single continuous wire, except where using approved connectors. No looping or coiling of wire is allowed.
- Any damage occurring during installation of the trace wire must be immediately repaired by removing the damaged wire, and installing a new section of wire with approved connectors. Taping and/or spray coating shall not be allowed.
- Trace wire shall be installed at the bottom half of the pipe and secured (taped/tied) at 5' intervals.
- In occurrences where an existing trace wire is encountered on an existing utility that is being extended or tied into, the new trace wire and existing trace wire shall be connected using approved splice connectors, and shall be properly grounded at the splice location as specified.