



The Town of Leesburg
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF PLAN REVIEW

TO: DCSM Holders and DPR &
Utilities Staff

DATE: April 26, 2019

FROM: William R. Ackman, Jr., P.E.
Director, Dept. of Plan Review

RE: Interpretation regarding the
practice of installing fire meters at
newly developed facilities within a
commercial building's fire sprinkler system

**Subject: Interpretation of DCSM Sections 2-150 as related to details WS-30,
WS-31, and WS-32**

Prepared by: Director of Plan Review

In accordance with DCSM Section 1-420, the Director of Plan Review has the authority to interpret the technical language of the DCSM for specific meaning and intent. Therefore, I (in coordination and cooperation with the Director and Deputy Director of The Utilities Department) have determined that in addition to the minimum requirements stated therein, the language in the above referenced DCSM Sections shall be interpreted, as follows, to add clarity and flexibility to the DCSM.

The Department of Utilities has determined that the practice of installing fire meters at newly developed facilities is not standard industry practice in order to monitor and bill for water used within a commercial building's fire sprinkler system. Because the Town is empowered to perform annual cross connection compliance inspections that reveal plumbing changes that lead to water loss or theft the Utilities Department recommends the following:

“Effective immediately, fire meters are not required for proposed developments as noted in Section 2-150 of the Town's Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM) and as depicted in details WS-30, WS-31, and WS-32. Plans under review prior to April 30, 2019 may continue to be designed with fire meters as submitted, however engineers and developers are no longer obligated to design and install fire meters for fire service lines. All plans submitted after May 1, 2019 shall not be required to design and install fire service meters.”

Section 2-150 of the Town's DCSM states that “Fire flow usage is free and in the event of excess usage of water due to a fire, the customer will be issued a credit for the excess usage.” This section will be removed and the applicable details will be edited during the upcoming DCSM revisions.