

Department of Public Works

Christopher Ciaramella, *Superintendent DPW/WSD*

319 Charger St., Revere MA 02151



Patrick M. Keefe Jr.

Mayor

Dear Mr. Bamberg,

Thank you for your public records request regarding utility mapping for the Point of Pines area, including Delano Ave, Alden Ave, Bickford Ave, and the abutting section of the Lynnway, as well as “before and after” plans related to the Alden Mills Fire Station project.

After a diligent search, the City confirms that it maintains records responsive to certain portions of your request. However, specific categories of records are being withheld under Exemption (n) of the Massachusetts Public Records Law, G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n), because disclosure is, in the City’s reasonable judgment, likely to jeopardize public safety.

1) Records withheld under Exemption (n)

- Detailed utility plans and as-built drawings showing the internal layout and structural elements of municipal water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater systems within the requested area (including exact pipe alignments and depths, valve and gate locations, interconnections, bypasses, hydrants, manholes, catch basins, force mains, and similar appurtenances).
- GIS exports and map layers (including attribute tables) revealing precise coordinates, system connectivity, pressure zones, control points, and emergency interties.

2) Statutory basis

G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n) protects records “including, but not limited to, blueprints, plans, policies, procedures and schematic drawings” relating to the security or safety of “utilities...or other infrastructure,” where disclosure is likely to jeopardize public safety or cybersecurity.

3) Public-safety rationale

The records listed above reveal exact locations and configurations of critical infrastructure. Public disclosure would materially lower the effort needed to interfere with or damage systems by exposing water distribution control points (valves, hydrants, interconnects) and sewer/stormwater structures (manholes, siphons, force mains). It would also expose system interdependencies (pressure districts, bypasses, redundancies) in ways that could maximize disruption. For these reasons, the City is withholding these categories under Exemption (n).

4) Redaction

We considered redaction; however, the sensitivity arises from the combination of spatial precision, connectivity, and appurtenance placement. Redactions sufficient to neutralize risk would remove the very details that make the materials useful as “detailed maps,” so partial release is not feasible.

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5) Non-exempt, high-level information available

We can provide non-sensitive summary information that does not disclose control points or connectivity:

Alden Ave

- 8-inch sanitary sewer line
- 10-inch water distribution line
- 10-inch stormwater collection line

Lynnway (abutting the subject area)

- 12-inch sanitary sewer line
- 10-inch water distribution line

We can also provide a generalized vicinity schematic (no coordinates, depths, or appurtenances; alignments shown schematically only). Please let us know if you would like to receive this schematic.

6) Clarification regarding “after” plans

With respect to your request for “after” or post-construction utility plans for the Alden Mills Fire Station project: those plans do not yet exist. Accordingly, there are no responsive records for that portion of your request at this time.

7) Alternative field verification

For construction or locating needs that require on-the-ground verification without exposing secured plan data, please contact Dig Safe (811). This option can help identify any above ground location of utilities in and around your home. This might be a good option to consider.

Sincerely,

Chris Ciaramella