National Fire Protection Association

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: NFPA Technical Committee on Private Water Supply Piping Systems

FROM: Elena Carroll, Administrator, Technical Projects

DATE: October 13, 2011

SUBJECT: NFPA 291 ROC **TC** Letter Ballot (A2012)

The ROC letter ballot for NFPA 291 is attached. The ballot is for formally voting on whether or not you concur with the committee's actions on the comments. Reasons must accompany all negative and abstention ballots.

Please do not vote negatively because of editorial errors. However, please bring such errors to my attention for action.

Please complete and return your ballot as soon as possible but no later than **Thursday, October 27, 2011.** As noted on the ballot form, please return the ballot to Elena Carroll either via e-mail to ecarroll@nfpa.org or via fax to 617-984-7110. You may also mail your ballot to the attention of Elena Carroll at NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169.

The return of ballots is required by the Regulations Governing Committee Projects.

Attachments:

Comment(s)
Letter Ballot

291-1 Log #1 AUT-PRI Final Action: Accept in Principle
(4.13.1, 4.13.2, and A.4.13.1 (New))

Submitter: David R. Hague, Liberty Mutual Commercial Markets
Comment on Proposal No: 291-4
Recommendation: Add new text to read as follows:

4.13.1* Fire hydrants should be flow tested every five years to verify capacity and marking of the hydrant.

A.4.13.1 When flow test data is needed, such data should not be more than 5 years old since conditions in the piping and system demands can change. It is not the intent of this section to require routine 5 year testing of each hydrant if there is no immediate need for flow test data or if test data less than 5 years old is available from an adjacent hydrant on the same grid.

4.13.2 Fire hydrants should be flushed at least annually to verify operation, address repairs, and verify reliability.

Substantiation: Proposal 291-4 was written with mandatory language which is not appropriate for a recommended practice. However, the proposed language has merit. Consistent with ISO, as indicated in the technical substantiation of the proposal, Liberty Mutual engineering standards will not recognize flow test data older than 5 years and in some cases flow testing is required more often. Hydrants should be tested at least every five years to verify capacity and color coding only when flow test data is needed. It is not the intent of this
comment to require periodic 5 year flow testing unless such data is needed or if test data is available from a nearby hydrant on the same grid or loop. Water supply test results older than five years should not be trusted since the condition of the water supply can change drastically in that period of time.

Annual flushing of hydrants should be completed routinely to clear debris form the hydrant barrel and to verify that dry-barrel hydrants drain properly, particularly when located in cold climates.

The Technical Committee rejected the proposal stating that the proposed language falls under the scope of NFPA 25. NFPA 25 does not address public water supply systems. Chapter 7 (Private Fire Service Mains) of NFPA 25: states: "7.1 This chapter shall provide the minimum requirements for the routine inspection, testing and maintenance of private fire service mains and their appurtenances."

Chapter 7 of NFPA 25 is based on the systems installed under the scope of NFPA 24 "Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances".

The proposed language, in non-mandatory form, is appropriate for inclusion in NFPA 291.

This is not original material; its reference/source is as follows:
Language was taken from the ROP, proposal 291-4.
Committee Meeting Action: Accept in Principle
Insert the word "public" at the beginning of the proposed 4.13.1. and 4.13.2 . Accept the remainder of the proposed language as written. Sections should read as follows:

4.13.1* Public fire hydrants should be flow tested every five years to verify capacity and marking of the hydrant.

A.4.13.1 When flow test data is needed, such data should not be more than 5 years old since conditions in the piping and system demands can change. It is not the intent of this section to require routine 5 year testing of each hydrant if there is no immediate need for flow test data or if test data less than 5 years old is available from an adjacent hydrant on the same grid.

4.13.2 Public fire hydrants should be flushed at least annually to verify operation, address repairs, and verify reliability.