



WATER BY-LAW REVIEW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

March 2015

For more information on this report, please contact:

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Among the various free-form methods to comment, below is a summary of the feedback received along with responses (where applicable).

DATE RECEIVED	SOURCE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Nov 10/14	311	Caller would like to offer the following recommendation: do the same thing as country municipalities, put a double check valve on the water meter after it enters the home so that nothing can get back into municipal water supply. This option demands one puts an expansion tank within 6 feet of hot water tank. Citizen also wanted to state his main concern was safety first.	Unable to get a hold of stakeholder.
Nov 10/14	Website	Why nothing about frozen water lines? Or better yet the many occurrences of brown water.	<p>Thank you for your comment Gary.</p> <p>For current info on how we're reducing discoloured water in our water system, please visit: http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/dicolouredFAQ.stm#6</p> <p>For current info on how we've prepared to prevent, predict, and deal with frozen pipes, please visit: http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/frozenPipes/default.stm</p>

Nov 11/14	Website	<p>I was hoping the issue of flouride in our water would be addressed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) forcing everyone to consume flouride is immoral. Anyone who wishes to consume it may do so, but there must be a choice. 2) forced medication is against human rights. 3) if people are worried about tooth decay, add it to sugary drinks that cause it. 4) Nobel peace prize winners and Harvard professors among others are constantly speaking up against flouride. It's time for us to listen. <p>I'm looking forward to a day in Winnipeg where we are not forced to ingest toxic industial waste.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment Gabriele.</p> <p>Fluoridation is not covered by the Water By-Law revision. Benefits of fluoridating our drinking water can be found at: http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/fluorideFAQ.shtml</p>
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Nov 13/14	Website	<p>Maybe it is time for a class action lawsuit against the City of Winnipeg for poisoning us against our will by dumping this toxic waste into our drinking water. The nuclear industry bought and paid for the study which “proved” that fluoride prevented tooth decay. Then they tricked the public health authorities across North America to BUY their toxic waste to add to the water supply so that they wouldn’t have to pay to process and decontaminate it themselves. There are now dozens of peer reviewed studies showing that not only does fluoride not prevent tooth decay but that it has numerous cytotoxic effects especially on infants and children’s neurological development. I only use distilled water for cooking and drinking, unfortunately, you breathe in fluorine gas when it aerosolizes in the shower. We need better water filtration and UVC (Ultraviolet C wavelength light) disinfection of our water to minimize the amount of chlorine needed for disinfection and total elimination of fluorine.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment Alan.</p> <p>Fluoridation is not covered by the Water By-Law revision. Benefits of fluoridating our drinking water can be found at: http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/fluorideFAQ.shtm</p>
Nov 14/14	Facebook /Website	<p>The "few" homes this would affect refers to homes in which area? First guess is older homes in areas like Scotia, Weston, Deer Lodge, River Heights, Old St. Vital.....doesn't seem like "a few" and seems like some homeowners will be having to foot the bill twice for maintaining City infrastructure (once through property taxes, and again when the contractor is tearing up the old lines). Stinks to me!</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment Zoe.</p> <p>The number of locations that are currently serviced with a non-conforming private water service pipe is estimated at less than 0.5%, meaning the majority of properties are serviced with a water service pipe that is connected to a fronting water main.</p>

Nov 21/14	Facebook	<p>Can the City provide what the number is of homes have lead lines. I'm thinking a lot in the west end, north end, scotia area, old st vital, old st boniface, possibly older st James.. Will it be staggered or a set deadline to change out your line? Will it be set up like current process where you set up a turn off, excavation occurs/push done and a turnkey comes to inspect once complete and turned on? City resources for turn ons and offs will need to be considered in the timeframe being that there are limited crews and many daily appointments already.</p> <p>Will the city will be covering some cost; if so are there plans for this to be covered by raising water rates or through general revenue with taxes? Will these upgrades be able to be applied for through the Province's version of RRAP?</p> <p>The specifications for new home installations of water meters will be released prior to the by-law being approved?</p> <p>Every other utility at a rental property, if agreed to be paid by the tenant, stays with the tenants. Water is the only one penalizing the owner if their tenants don't pay the bill. Why not update and change this to be the tenants responsibility like hydro?</p> <p>Currently water meters must be accessible to perform repairs. The bylaw revision states it will provide a clear wording on how a meter has to be accessible. If an appointment is made and attended to, the homeowner is advised they need to make changes (ie: remove drywall to access tailpieces) what is this section going to state?</p>	<p>Hi Madelaine - thank you for your patience, as we were working on a response.</p> <p>1) Lead services are not covered in the Water By-law revision. For current info on how we're reducing lead in our water system, please visit http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/leadQA.stm</p> <p>2) Yes, the majority of the proposed standard detail drawings for water meter installations are posted on http://wwdengage.winnipeg.ca/water-bylaw/; please see the documents and reports section.</p> <p>3) The Water By-law revision does not propose any changes to owners responsibility for water charges. Section 55(2) in the draft Water By-law restates the City's authority under The City of Winnipeg Charter to add unpaid water charges to property taxes. This issue has been reviewed by the City outside the scope of the Water By-law Review.</p> <p>4) The Water By-law revision does have a specific section on accessibility of water meters. Section 51 in the draft Water By-law explains accessibility. Included in this section is the requirement if alterations are required the owner would be responsible and pay the associated costs. One example of inaccessible is a permanent structure such as a finished wall blocking access to a water meter.</p> <p>Thank you for your comments.</p>
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Nov 26/14	Website	<p>I am disappointed that the water by-law review doesn't make the occupants of a property responsible for the water bills, rather than the property owner. When the city is regularly billing someone for water use on a property, why are the property owners stuck with any unpaid amounts? The city already has an account and billing history for the occupants. How is this different than if the cable TV companies want to charge the property owner for overdue amounts instead of their actual customer whom they've been billing? I think the city is simply taking the easy way out and charging the property owner. This seems a clear-cut case of a 'user-fee' system that the city is circumventing because simply because they can get away with it.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment E.H.</p> <p>Although tenants may be the consumers of the water, under section 41 of the City of Winnipeg Neighborhood Liveability By-Law, landlords are required to ensure that running water is available to every dwelling.</p> <p>Landlords may find it beneficial to place the water bill in their name and collect water charges from their tenant as a condition of their lease agreement. This would ensure landlords know on a more timely basis whether the tenant is meeting this obligation of their tenancy.</p> <p>By adding unpaid water charges to property taxes, the City helps ensure fairness to all rate payers by reducing bad debts.</p> <p>Landlords can register with the utility, and we will work with them to keep them up to date on the status of the accounts for their rental units.</p> <p>More information for landlords is available at http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/dept/landlord.stm</p>
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Nov 27/14	Website	<p>Water bills should follow the occupants like every other bill out there (Hydro, phone, internet, cable, etc). The city takes the easy way out by billing property owners, which should not be allowed. This allows cheating tenants to get away without paying, and causes honest people to foot the bill. Essentially it means good tenants pay the added business costs of bad tenants who do not pay their bills. And adds frustration to everyone.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment Jonathon.</p> <p>Although tenants may be the consumers of the water, under section 41 of the City of Winnipeg Neighborhood Liveability By-Law, landlords are required to ensure that running water is available to every dwelling.</p> <p>Landlords may find it beneficial to place the water bill in their name and collect water charges from their tenant as a condition of their lease agreement. This would ensure landlords know on a more timely basis whether the tenant is meeting this obligation of their tenancy.</p> <p>By adding unpaid water charges to property taxes, the City helps ensure fairness to all rate payers by reducing bad debts.</p> <p>Landlords can register with the utility, and we will work with them to keep them up to date on the status of the accounts for their rental units.</p> <p>More information for landlords is available at http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/dept/landlord.stm</p>
Dec 4/14	Website	<p>Exactly! We are commenting on CHANGES that should also be made – not what the current by-law states!! We are already aware of the city’s backwards way of doing things.</p>	<p>No response required.</p>
Dec 5/14	Website	<p>I am glad that the city is taking steps to make sure that our drinking water is protected from backflow, and to prevent unmetered and illegal use of water.</p> <p>Has the city considered creating wording around limiting outdoor water use? In the summers our water</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments and questions Megan.</p> <p>Part 2 section 17 of the draft by-law pertains to water rationing. This section provides the City flexibility in managing our water supply depending on the situation and associated</p>

		<p>consumption increases significantly for use in watering lawns and washing vehicles, etc. Many other municipalities across Canada have designated days and times that water can be used for these purposes. I don't know if this is something that would fall under this by-law, but I think it would help reduce the amount of water needing to be treated at the water and waste water treatment plants, which would potentially save on costs for the city.</p>	<p>risks.</p> <p>Water supply planning studies have revealed that outdoor water use in Winnipeg is very small. On a typical residential bill, outdoor water use amounts to approximately 4-6% of the annual bill. Through our continued water conservation program messaging residents are encouraged to check their lawn by completing the "spring" test and if necessary water their lawn exclusively in the early morning or late evening.</p>
Dec 10/14	Website	<p>I looked at Section 41 of the Neighborhood Liveability By-Law and I don't see where it says that landlords are financially responsible and that the city is not responsible for collecting the amounts due from the consumer.</p> <p>The water department should do like the other utilities and make it an issue between the consumer and utility?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment Bob.</p> <p>The draft Water By-law continues to follow a long-standing policy recommendation that was adopted by the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on April 15, 2003.</p> <p>The adopted recommendation states:</p> <p>That the Water and Waste Department continue to transfer the unpaid water bills of tenants to owner's property taxes.</p> <p>More information is available at: Standing Policy Committee Meeting Minutes</p>
Jan 13/15	Website	<p>My frequently asked question is: Does an existing fire sprinkler system require a testable double check valve assembly backflow preventer for premise isolation in the new waterworks bylaw and is that clearly stated in the bylaw?</p>	<p>Thanks for your comment Heather.</p> <p>All commercial and industrial buildings including apartment buildings will require premise isolation. This includes fire protection systems and potable water systems as stated in the National Plumbing Code and B64.10 CSA standards. The two systems will be independently protected as not to interfere</p>

			with either system when testing, maintenance or replacement is required on the backflow preventers.
Jan 15/15	Website	<p>I have been a City of Winnipeg resident for 51 years and a St. Norbert, “rur-ban”(rural/urban) homeowner for 29 years. In this time frame we, the City of Winnipeg, St.Norbert South and West residents, with cisterns have seen price increases in our drinking water rise from \$13 per 1,000 gallon (1985) to \$45 per 1,000 gallon/(2013) or portion of. Needless to say we have been water conservationists since time immemorial.</p> <p>I am concerned that our water service is NOT regulated!?! No watch dog has been involved to regulate :1) price increases, 2) service availability and 3) quality control over our drinking water; service provider’s trucks and standpipe(s).</p> <p>There have been instances where water delivered to my home was definitely was NOT City of Wpg. sourced and was pumped out of some rural water standpipe(s) or private well and delivered as City water.</p> <p>Our land taxes have increased exponentially in the last 29 years without any local improvements to water delivery or land drainage and removal systems. Especially our water delivery services! Myself and our neighbors,on Father LaBonte Rd, Turnbull Drive,Perreault Avenue, Pembina Hwy addresses south of Rue des Trappiste, Waverly Blvd, Brady Road, have expressed concern to City of Winnipeg officials : Mr. John Angus, Mr. Justin Swandel, Mr. Dave Gaudreau, Mr Rod, Bruinooge in the past years without any resolution. If we (the residents) had been allowed to hook up to “RM of Ritchot” based water supply when it was</p>	<p>The City of Winnipeg Water Works By-law only regulates the operation of the City of Winnipeg’s waterworks system, and does not govern the process to extend water pipes.</p> <p>The City’s Local Improvement Process addresses the extension of services, such as water mains. More information is on the City of Winnipeg website at http://winnipeg.ca/publicworks/Services/LocalImprovements.asp</p> <p>The City operates two standpipe locations that provide access to City water for haulers. More information is on our website at http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/standpipeNotice.stm</p> <p>We regulate the process for accessing the water from our standpipes. However, water haulers are regulated by the Province of Manitoba. If you have concerns related to bulk water hauling, please contact your local Public Health Inspector or visit the Health Protection Unit website at manitoba.ca/healthprotection</p>

	<p>implemented some years ago to their resident rural properties this would not be the issue that it is today as our home property values and safety (drinking water and fire fighting capacities) would not be in question. Our homes are regarded comparable in real estate prices to homes with unquestionable water supply and sewers either within the City of Winnipeg or to upgraded homes on Red River Drive which are also water serviced by the RM of Ritchot water services, as per Board of Revision, City of Winnipeg.</p> <p>What I would like to know is : In this current revision of the City's water bylaw's will there finally be a provision that allows us "rur-ban" residents to apply to our neighboring RM's for the supply directly to our homes, without the use of cisterns nor "trickle systems", for resident home water services?</p> <p>Will there be a provision that the City's Water Waste & Pollution Control Center monitor the quality and safety of OUR drinking water? Will there be a provision that quality control and Health & Food Safety Standards be met and monitored by the vessels and companies supplying our drinking water?</p> <p>In the very memorable past, there was a local water hauling service who's truck and delivery service was not as clean as our local Septic Service Trucks, and quite frankly, no one could answer as to whom is keeping the service provider to regulated standards. The common answer was " Switch service provider." but the other provider's did NOT want the extra homes to also provide for and only took over, albeit grudgingly,, when that particular provider absolved his business. With his</p>	
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	<p>business demise there are currently NO existing businesses that offer cleaning services for cisterns. Many newer resident homeowners are not aware of this yet. It will be left to homeowners to try this without knowing the Food/ Water quality standards nor will they be aware of the very real risks to health and property when attempting this themselves.</p> <p>Almost as concerning, 30 years ago there were several water service providers to choose from. Now there are two locally. Kenny's Water hauling Service and Lee's Water Hauling Service. They are relatives. They are both aging and there is no competition for service nor replacements for them coming up through the ranks as the Rural Municipalities now are providing home water services to their constituents and essentially the business has died off with the decrease in demand. When these two gentlemen call it a career who will deliver our drinking water?</p> <p>Headingley is now serviced by their neighboring Rural Municipality. North Main Street (North of the City of Winnipeg Pollution & Control Center) may source it's water delivery from a Rural Municipality also. Which leaves a very small pocket of taxpaying residents in Winnipeg South without water serviced properties. Potable and un-potable is not even a determining factor nor present in this equation.</p> <p>Our properties are watershed from the Brady Road Landfill making local underground wells unusable. Which leaves me to respectfully request," Please do not overlook us residents, yet again, when making revisions to the City of Winnipeg Water By-Law's".</p>	
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	<p>I, on behalf of my neighbors, implore you to either provide water supply, water supply alternatives, as well as water quality regulation and safety measure provisions for our properties at this time as you are reviewing and making additions to our City of Winnipeg Water By-Law.</p> <p>I Thank you for your time and consideration of these long overdue matters and look forward to actively working towards solutions to these very overlooked situations of grave importance to the residents of St. Norbert (South and West).</p> <p>Respectfully, Andrea DeRuddere</p>	
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January 15, 2014

Water By-law Consultation
1199 Pacific Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3E 3S8

Re: New Draft Water By-law

I am writing to provide comment and propose an alternate option for the *Compound, Turbine or Electromagnetic WM 75mm --250mm Combined or Domestic Service* drawing which is a proposed addition to the City of Winnipeg Standard Construction Specifications as detailed in the new Draft Water By-law.

StreetSide Developments prefers that the first control valve, located before the tee to the domestic water and the sprinkler system (highlighted in the attached drawing for reference) be removed. Since this initial valve adds a second shut-off point to the sprinkler system, it must be monitored by tying into the fire alarm system. This adds complexity and another potential failure point to both of those critical life safety systems.

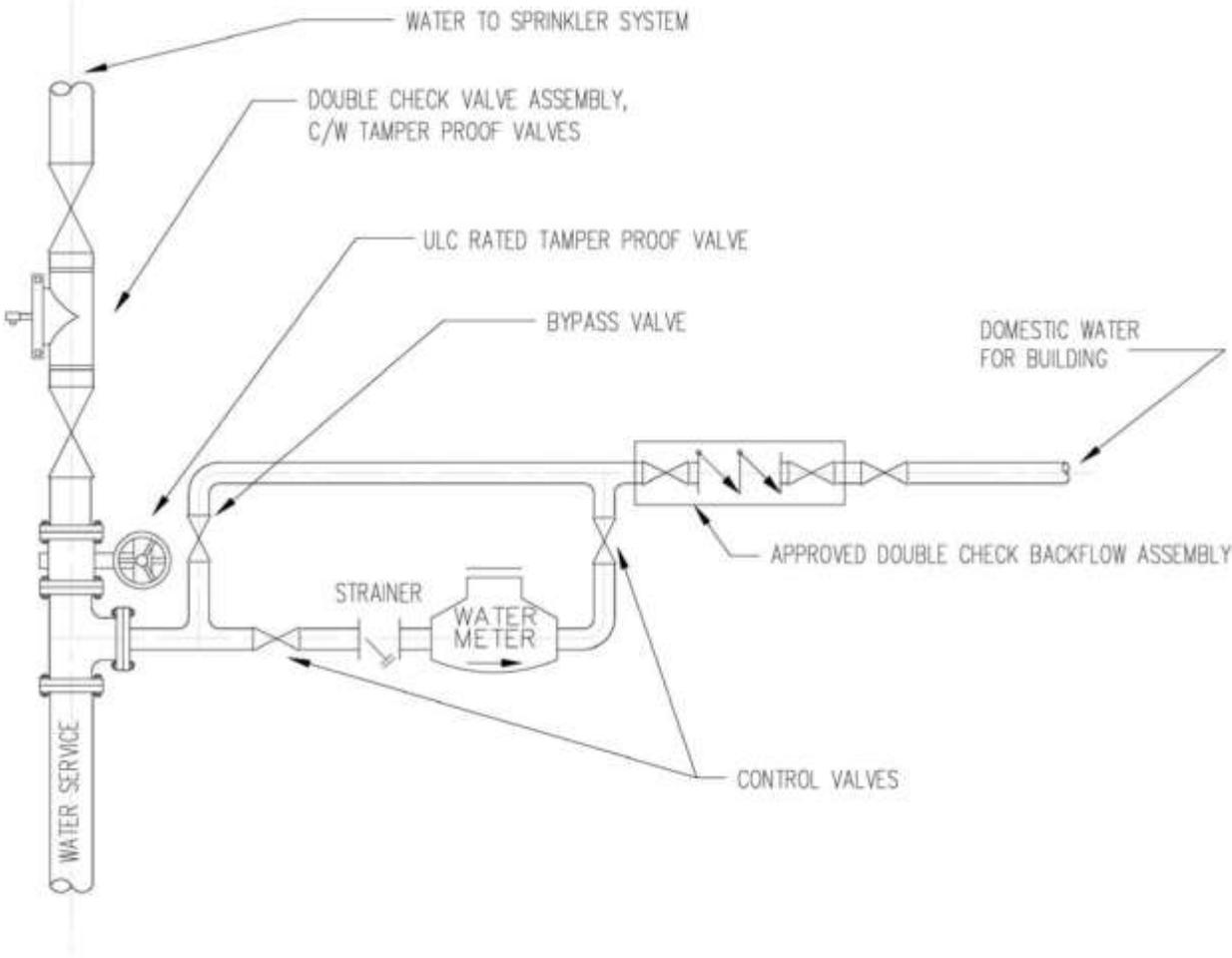
I have attached a proposed alternate combined water service detail that we have used on a number of recent building developments that does not have this redundant control valve. We request that this detail be considered as an accepted alternate for the proposed New Water By-law.

Regards,



Jonathan Osachuk, C.E.T.
StreetSide Developments

PROPOSED ALTERNATE COMBINED WATER SERVICE DETAIL

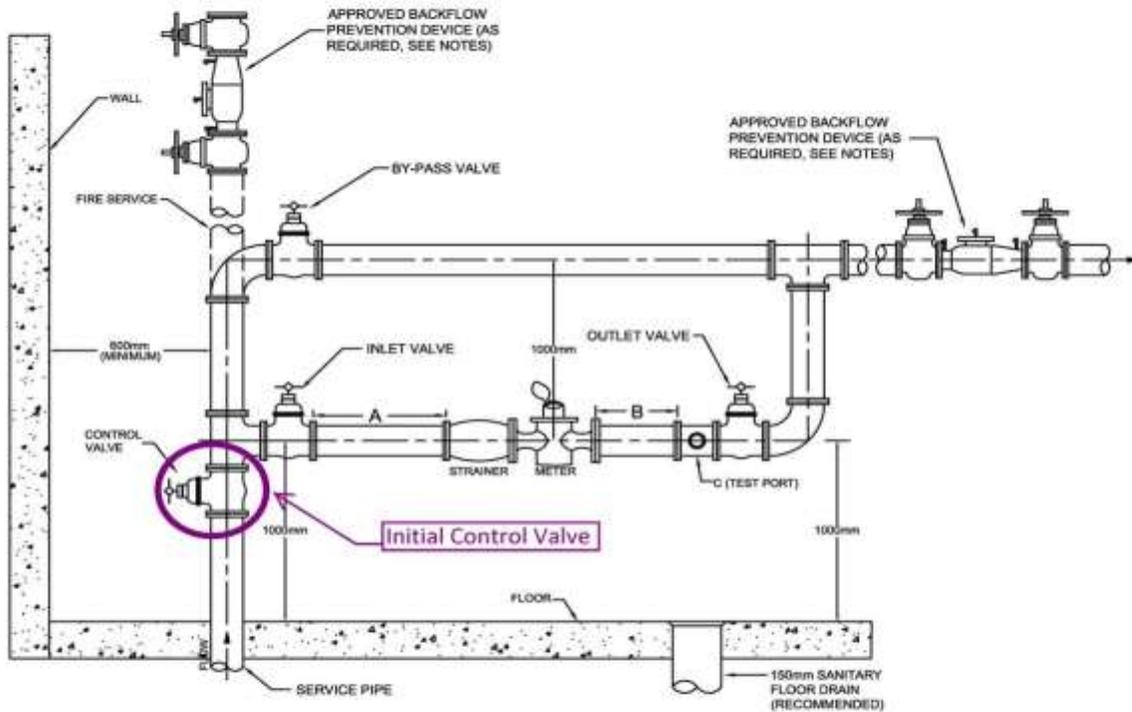


A - 5x STRAIGHT PIPE DIAMETER
 B - 4x STRAIGHT PIPE DIAMETER
 C - TEST PORT



C - TEST PORT

FLOOR



PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE CITY OF WINNIPEG STANDARD CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS



THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
 WATER & WASTE DEPARTMENT

INSTALLATION DETAILS FOR
 COMPOUND, TURBINE OR ELECTOMAGNETIC
 TYPE WATER METER IN BUILDINGS
 75mm - 250mm COMBINED OR DOMESTIC
 SERVICE PIPE

From: Houle, Brent
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 11:27 AM
To: JOsachuk@qualico.com
Cc: WWDFeedback
Subject: RE: Comment on New Draft Water By-law

Good Morning Jonathan,

I apologize for the delayed response.

The technical working group for this project is reviewing your letter and alternate drawing.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Brent Houle, C.E.T.
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