SECTION VII

Cold Weather Installation

1. “Top feed” manifolds should be used on all sites with a discernible slope to allow for proper drainage of the manifolds and the 3/4” and 1/2” lateral connectors into the drip tubing.
2. The main supply and return lines shall be installed below the frost line and shall feed the shallow “top feed” manifolds with a single vertical section of insulated sch 40 PVC pipe. Insulation shall be minimum 1/2” thick foam insulation (or equivalent).
3. On flat sites where “top feed” manifolds will not drain therefore requiring the use of side feed manifolds, 12” cover is recommended between highest point of 1/2” black flexible PVC pipe (non loop connections) and final grade. On drip tubing installations less than 12” this would require additional cover over the header ditch area to create the 12” separation. Any additional cover is to be graded and tapered into landscape without compacting soil in tubing area. Please see note on loop connections below.
4. Dense vegetation turf cover to be established over supply trench, return trench and tubing prior to 1st exposure to cold weather. If vegetation cannot be established, then trenches and tubing to be covered with a thick layer (minimum 6”) of mulch, straw/hay, etc. until such turf cover is established. Cover must be stabilized and maintained until dense vegetative turf is established. Amount of cover may need to be adjusted to account for settling.
5. All valve boxes that house “remote zone valves” shall be insulated by contractor. Insulation to consist of either blue board, bagged Styrofoam peanuts or equivalent. If fiberglass insulation is used it must be sealed to prevent it from becoming saturated. The “remote valves” shall be placed on a bed of gravel or screenings (4”-6”). Positive grade away from valve boxes is encouraged to reduce the volume of groundwater that may collect in valve box. Certain sites may require positive drains to daylight.
6. All loops connecting drip runs with 1/2” flexible PVC shall be slightly elevated (minimum 1”-2”) so that they drain into the drip tubing after the pump shuts off. It is contractors responsibility to ensure these loops stay elevated during and after the loops are backfilled.
7. All main supply and return trenches to be installed below the local frost line. If this is not possible due to site restrictions then adequate soil must be added over the top of the trenches so that the effective depth remains below the frost line after settling occurs. The added soils must be prepared for turf cover and stabilized. If vegetation cannot be established then trenches are to be covered with an additional layer (minimum 6”) of mulch, straw/hay, etc. until such turf cover is established.
8. Sufficient ground cover around the hydraulic unit is required to insulate the unit. All pipes entering and leaving the hydraulic unit shall elbow vertically down 90 degrees to a depth below the frost line prior to extending away from the unit horizontally. Additional insulation inside the hydraulic unit is encouraged. Insulation to consist of either blue board, bagged Styrofoam peanuts, or equivalent. If fiberglass insulation is used it must be sealed to prevent it from becoming saturated.
9. All conduit entering into the control panel shall be sealed to prevent condensation inside the panel.
10. Established vegetation height shall be minimum 4”-6” throughout winter months.
11. Air release valves shall be placed below the ground surface inside a valve box but at an elevation above the highest drip line in that particular zone.