

Repeated repairs wasteful

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WHEN water consumption is high, it seems to place exceptional strain upon pumping facilities, water mains and personnel. Hot weather regularly results in numerous water line breaks in many parts of Oklahoma City, as well as in other communities.

The break in a 60-inch main at SE 74 and Douglas that occurred on Aug. 18 raises questions about the adequacy of repairs being made. This failure left several homes and businesses in that part of the city without water pressure, as other breaks had done in about the same place in July 1983, in November

1982 and in June 1982.

Breaks of a major water main at the same location four times within 14 months would seem to indicate that something is seriously wrong with the engineering design, with the materials used or in the manner in which repairs are being made.

The expense of making the same repairs over and over is considerable, but another factor is that it keeps crews busy so that repairs of smaller breaks elsewhere must be delayed. Every break wastes water and inconveniences citizens. This big failure needs to be examined more carefully and permanent repairs made.