



# Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2171

Governor Mike Beebe

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

June 17, 2014

STEVE DUFRESNE  
VAN BUREN WATERWORKS  
2806 BRYAN RD  
VAN BUREN, AR 72956

**RECEIVED**

BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

6/23/2014

STEVE DUFRESNE  
DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES

RE: Water Meter Installation and Sewage Disposal Approval Documentation  
Arkansas Department of Health's Rules and Regulations  
Pertaining to Public Water Systems

Sir/Madam:

A longstanding requirement contained in the Arkansas Department of Health's Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Public Water Systems (Regulations) concerns obtaining documentation of approval of sewage disposal and plumbing inspection prior to providing water service to a new building or residence. Section IV. F. "Plumbing Inspection and Sewage Disposal Required" of the Regulations requires that prior to a public water system providing service to a new building or residence, the customer must provide documentation to the water system that sewage disposal system has been approved and that a plumbing inspection has been performed and found to be in compliance.

Recently, there have been cases where water systems provided customers with water service even though sewage disposal had not been approved and no documentation provided to the water system. In some of these cases, the property in question was not suitable for sewage disposal and the property owner was left without the ability to obtain a sanitary sewage disposal system. This can result in significant economic loss to those who get "the cart before the horse".

Public water systems can assist their customers in keeping "the horse before the cart" by requiring customers to show documentation of sewage system approval and plumbing inspection prior to providing water service. The requirement to do so is contained in the Regulations and failure to comply with the regulations will result in the water system being cited for a violation.

The Arkansas Department of Health values the positive working relationship that it has with public water systems and is appreciative of the efforts that water systems make in complying with this requirement and assisting customers in making sure they have necessary approvals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 501-661-2171.

Sincerely,

J. Terry Paul, R.S.  
Chief, Environmental Health Branch  
Arkansas Department of Health

Cc: Jeff Stone, Director, Engineering Section, Arkansas Department of Health

The use of secondhand or used pipe is prohibited unless it was previously used for the distribution of potable water, or approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

### **E. Disinfection of Pipe**

Before being placed in service, all new water distribution systems, extensions to existing systems, any valved section of such extension or any replacement of the water distribution system shall be properly disinfected. Prior to disinfection, all dirt shall be removed by thorough flushing. All valves and appurtenances affected shall be operated while the pipeline is filled with the disinfecting agent. Following disinfection, all treated water shall be thoroughly flushed from the pipeline and bacteriological samples shall be taken to determine the efficiency of the disinfection procedure. Before the system or line is placed in service, two consecutive series of samples that are not collected on the same day must show that the water is bacteriologically safe for drinking purposes. Disinfection shall conform with American Water Works Association, "Standard Specifications for Disinfecting Water Mains," C651-92, or the latest revision thereof.

### **F. Plumbing Inspection and Sewage Disposal Required**

#### **1. Approved Sewage Disposal Required**

No public water system shall provide service to a new building or residence in an unsewered area until the customer provides written documentation that the Department of Health has approved plans for construction of a sewage disposal facility for the building or residence, or that no disposal system approval is required by the Department of Health for the building.

#### **2. Plumbing Inspection Required**

No public water system shall provide new service to any building or residence until the customer provides written documentation that the service line and building plumbing were inspected by the system's certified plumbing inspector, and found to be in substantial compliance with the State Plumbing Code (Rules and Regulations Governing Construction, Installation, and Inspection of Plumbing and Drainage).

##### **a) No System Plumbing Inspector**

If the system has no certified plumbing inspector, the written documentation shall be obtained from the Department of Health's Area Plumbing Inspector or a certified inspector designated by the Area Inspector.



## **b) Temporary Construction Service**

Temporary service for construction purposes, in unsewered areas, may be provided only after compliance with Section XIV. F. 1, above.

## **XV. RETURN OF COOLING WATER**

The return of heating or cooling water to a potable water storage reservoir or distribution system is prohibited.

## **XVI. CROSS CONNECTIONS**

Any physical connection is prohibited whereby a public water system whether community or non-community, is connected to an unsafe or questionable water supply system either inside or outside of any building or buildings.

### **A. Prohibited Services**

Domestic water shall not be supplied to any device, equipment, or service connection which may permit the contamination of the water supply by backsiphonage or backflow. Provision of water service to any service connection found to contain a cross-connection shall immediately be terminated, unless a backflow prevention device of a type approved by the Arkansas Department of Health is installed between the cross-connection and the public water system.

## **XVII. NOTIFICATION**

### **A. Notification of Arkansas Department of Health**

The owner shall report to the Arkansas Department of Health within the 48 hour time limit prescribed by the Arkansas Department of Health the failure to comply with any primary drinking water regulation including failure to comply with monitoring requirements. The owner is not required to report analytical results to the Arkansas Department of Health in cases where the analysis was performed by the Arkansas Department of Health Laboratory.

The owner shall report to the Arkansas Department of Health within four hours of the discovery and evaluation of any emergency condition located in the water system which affects the ability of the water system to deliver adequate quantities of safe water to its customers. Examples of such emergencies include loss of pressure in the distribution system, failure of the source or treatment facility or parts thereof, voluntary