

**BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**Rules and Regulations Governing Rendering of Service**

The Rules and Regulations as herein set forth or as they may hereafter be amended by the Board of Directors of the BCWA, shall govern the rendering of water service by the BCWA. Every Customer, upon the signing of an application for water service, or upon the taking of water service, will be bound by said Rules and Regulations.

**1. Definitions**

- (a) "Customer": the party who has made application for water service who is being supplied with water service on the premises described in the application.
- (b) "Authority": the Bristol County Water Authority, acting through its Officers, Executive Director, Manager or other duly authorized employees or agents, each acting within the scope of the particular duties entrusted to him.
- (c) "Service Connection": a pipe or tubing with appurtenances used to conduct water from the main to the property line of the premises.
- (d) "Premise": as used herein shall designate:
  - 1. A building under one roof owned or leased by one Customer, or
  - 2. A group or combination of buildings owned or leased by one Customer or
  - 3. One unit of a double house (duplex), or
  - 4. A building owned or leased by one Customer containing more than one apartment and having one entrance and using one hall in common or
  - 5. A building owned or leased by one Customer having a number of apartments, offices or lofts which are rented to tenants, or
  - 6. A public building such as a town hall, schoolhouse, fire station, etc., or
  - 7. A single lot or park or playground, or
  - 8. Each unit in a building of row units having party walls or each unit in a building of multiple units.

## **2. Applications For Water Service**

- (a) When required by the Authority, application for a street service connection or application for water service through an existing street service connection shall be made in writing at the office of the Authority by the owner or occupant of the premises to be supplied. The application for water service shall clearly outline the class, scope and type of use to be made of the service as well as the purpose for which it is to be used.
- (b) Any change in the identity of the contracting Customer at a property, or in the service as described in an application will require a new application and the Authority may, after reasonable notice, discontinue the water service until such new application has been made and accepted.
- (c) The owner of a premises to be supplied with a new service, or their duly authorized representative, shall at the time of application pay to the Authority the estimated cost of a complete street service connection. This cost will be determined by the Authority, and will be based on the average cost of service installations for the calendar year immediately prior to the date of application. This average cost will be revised by the Authority at the end of each calendar year and will apply only to services 3/4 inch and 1 inch in size. When a 3/4" or 1" water service requires either cement-base restoration or curb-to-curb paving, the customer shall deposit with the Authority the estimated cost of the complete installation. The deposit will be adjusted upon completion of work to agree with the actual cost and expense to the Authority.<sup>9</sup> When a developer requests six (6) or more services at one time on the same main extension, a deposit equal to the estimated cost of installation will be required. When completed, an adjustment will be made to actual cost. For services larger than 1 inch, the Customer shall deposit with the Authority the estimated cost of the complete installation and the deposit will be adjusted upon completion of the work to agree with the actual cost and expense to the Authority.

## **3. Special Applications For Water Service**

- (a) Water for transient, temporary or special purposes must be applied for and regulated by the BCWA.
- (b) Whenever a service connection is made to the mains for temporary service, or for building and construction purposes, the applicant will bear the entire cost and expense of installing and maintaining such service, and shall also bear the entire cost and expense of eliminating such service (if required) when temporary usage has terminated. The applicant will be liable for the amount of water used in accordance with the schedule of rates of the Authority.

<sup>9</sup> Amended February 8, 2012, Effective Date February 8, 2012

#### **4. Customer's Liability For Charges**

- (a) Customer who has made application for water service to any premises shall be held liable for all water consumed and service furnished to such premises until such time as the Customer properly notifies the Authority to discontinue the service for his account.
- (b) The Authority may at any time require of any metered Customer a cash deposit to secure the performance by the Customer of the terms and conditions of the Authority under which water service is supplied. The amount of the deposit shall be:

- (1) For Residential Customers:

Two twelfths of the estimated annual bill for water service when the account is billed monthly.

Three twelfths of the estimated annual bill for water service when the account is billed quarterly.

- (2) For Commercial Customers:<sup>8</sup>

Three hundred percent (\$300%) of the Residential customer deposit amount.

#### **5. Customer's Deposits**

- (a) The deposit will be refunded after final settlement of the Customer's account or sooner at the discretion of the Authority.
- (b) The Authority reserves the right to discontinue water service to the premises of the Customer whenever the Customer fails to pay bills for water service rendered in accordance with the Rules of the Authority. The deposit shall not be considered a payment of account of a bill during the time the Customer is receiving water service.

#### **6. Service Connections**

- (a) The Authority will make all service connections to its mains.
- (b) As used herein, service connection means the service pipe or tubing from the main to approximately within two feet of the property line, including the corporation cock, curb cock and curb box. It shall be laid approximately at right angle to the main, and shall remain the property of the Authority and under its sole control and jurisdiction. Service connections will be made if the property on which the premise exists has a main 15 feet beyond the projection of the property's side boundary line. Service lines across easements will not be granted.

- (c) The curb box shall be set level with the grade of the sidewalk, or street shoulder, outside the traveled road area. The curb box shall be kept accessible at all times.

<sup>8</sup> Approved unanimously by the Board of Directors on 1/16/08. Effective 1/17/08.

- (d) The Authority will furnish, own and maintain such service connections. All costs of installation, i.e.: material, excavation, backfill, removal and replacement of paving, walks and curbs, securing of all permits shall be borne by the Customer. Charges for service connections will be as outlined in part (c) of Rule No. 2 -Applications For Water Service.
- (e) The Authority may limit the size of service connections as it sees fit in the best interests of the Authority.

## **7. Customer's Service Pipes**

- (a) The Authority will specify the size, kind and quality of the materials which shall be laid between the end of the BCWA's service connection and the BCWA's meter reader.
- (b) The service pipe from the service shutoff to the location of the BCWA meter shall be furnished and installed by the Customer.
- (c) The Customer's service pipe shall be subject to the inspection and approval of the Authority before the water will be turned on. No fixture or connection shall be attached to or any branch made in the service pipe between the meter and street main.
- (d) The service pipe shall be laid at all points at least five feet below the surface of the ground and shall be placed on firm earth so as to give unyielding and permanent support and shall be installed at least five feet from any other utility or other facilities, public or private, unless otherwise specifically authorized and approved by the Authority.
- (e) The Customer shall install bleeder type shut off valves approved by the Authority immediately before and immediately after the location of Authority meter to provide proper drainage for all the pipes.
- (f) The Customer shall make all changes in his portion of the service pipe required due to changes of grade, relocation of mains, or other causes.
- (g) Each premise shall be supplied through a separate street service connection, curb cock and box unless specifically authorized or approved by the Authority, in which event the owner is to be solely responsible for all water used.

- (h) When more than one building, apartment or premise is supplied through a single service pipe, on specific authorization by the Authority, any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Authority with reference to either or any of the said buildings or premises shall be deemed a violation as to all. The water service shall be discontinued through the service connection after reasonable notice shall have been given and reasonable opportunity allowed for each building or premises to attach their service pipe to separately controlled service connections which will be installed in accordance with these rules and regulations.
- (i) Any repairs or maintenance necessary on the Customer's service pipe or any pipe or fixture in or upon the Customer's premises shall be performed promptly by the Customer at the Customer's expense and risk.
- (j) The Customer shall promptly notify the Authority of any leak, defect or damage affecting the service pipe between the main and the meter.
- (k) The Customer may be required to install a check valve or backflow prevention device on the outlet side of the meter to protect against reverse flow into the main distribution system.
- (l) Any newly constructed premises shall install a check valve or backflow prevention device on the outlet side of the meter to protect against reverse flow into the main distribution system.

## **8. Cross Connections Not Allowed**

No pipe or fixtures connected with the mains or service lines of the Authority shall also be connected with pipes or fixtures supplied with water from any other source unless specifically approved by the Authority and the Department of Health of the State of Rhode Island.

## **9. Meters and Meter Installations**

- (a) The Authority, after discussion with the Customer or a representative of the Customer, shall specify the type and size of meter to be installed.
- (b) Meters will be furnished, installed and removed by the Authority and shall remain the property of the Authority.
- (c) The Customer shall provide, at the Customer's expense, a readily accessible and protected location for the installation of a meter at such a point as will control the entire supply to the premises. This location must be acceptable to the Authority as most convenient for its service so that the meter may be easily examined, read or removed. The Customer shall also provide suitable pipe connections and the necessary

valves and other fittings as may be designated by the Authority for the proper installation and protection of the meter.

- (d) When the Customer's meter is not installed in a building, it shall be placed in a meter box or vault approved by the Authority and furnished at the expense of the Customer. The box or vault shall be placed just inside the Customer's property line or at such other location as may be designated by the Authority.
- (e) Meters will be maintained by the Authority at its expense insofar as ordinary use is concerned, but loss or damage due to hot water, freezing or external causes shall be paid for by the Customer.

## **10. Meter Tests and Fees**

- (a) All meters are accurately tested before installation and are also periodically tested. The Authority may at any time remove any meter for routine tests, repairs or replacement and may, at its option and expense, test any meter it has reason to believe is registering inaccurately.
- (b) Any Customer may request the Authority to make a special test of the accuracy of a meter. The special test fee, as established herein, shall be paid in advance by the Customer. If the meter is found, in testing, to be four percent or more incorrect to the prejudice of the Customer, the fee paid shall be returned to the Customer.
- (c) For special tests of meters made upon request of the Customer, no fee shall be charged for the first test. Any subsequent request shall be billed at the existing rate.
- (d) The special test of a meter requested by a Customer should be witnessed by the Customer or the Customer's duly authorized representative.

## **11. Public Fire Hydrants**

- (a) All public fire hydrants shall be furnished, installed and maintained by and at the expense of the Authority at the request of the individual towns. Fire hydrants, approved by the individual towns, to be installed in new developments shall be installed at the expense of the developer.
- (b) Any expense for repairs caused by negligence of the employees of the municipality or members of its fire department will be paid for by the municipality.
- (c) The use of fire hydrants will be restricted to the taking of water for the extinguishing of fires. Water shall not be taken from any fire hydrant for construction purposes, sprinkling streets, flushing sewers or gutters or for any other use, unless specifically permitted by the Authority for a specific project or occasion.

- (d) Inspection and tests of public fire hydrants will be made by the Authority at convenient times and reasonable intervals.
- (e) Whenever a change in location, size or type of a fire hydrant is ordered by the municipality such change will be made by the Authority at the expense of the municipality.

## **12. Private Fire Service or Hydrants**

- (a) Private fire services for use as a supply to a fire sprinkler system or hydrant are permitted upon approval by the BCWA of an application submitted by the Customer.
- (b) The Authority will determine the size of the service. The Authority will make the connection to its main and will furnish and install the service connection from the main to within about two feet of the property line. This work shall be done at the expense of the Customer.
- (c) A gate valve controlling the service connection shall be placed at the end of the service connection or at such other point as may be approved by the Authority. Said valve shall be furnished at the expense of the Customer. Any valve pit or vault which may be required will be furnished at the expense of the Customer.
- (d) The entire private fire service system shall be subject to the inspection, test and approval of the Authority before the service is activated.
- (e) A private fire service connection is furnished for the purpose of supplying water for the extinguishment of accidental fires only. Any use of water from such a connection for any other purpose is forbidden, unless specifically authorized by the Authority.
- (f) Water used for extinguishing accidental fires will not be charged to the Customer if prompt notice is given to the Authority of such use.
- (g) Private fire protection service shall, at the option of the Authority, be required to include a detector meter. The detector meter will be furnished and installed by the Authority at its own expense. The meter will be installed at a location approved by the Authority. The meter will be maintained by and at the expense of the Authority.
- (h) Any repairs or maintenance performed on the Customer's portion of the service line, whether done by the Customer or the Authority, will be at the Customer's expense. Any work performed between the main and the gate valve will be done by and at the expense of the Authority.
- (i) The entire private fire street service connection and all parts of it which are located outside the property line of the Customer and any meter or other indicating or controlling device and all parts and appurtenances thereof, no matter where located,

are and forever remain the property of and under the complete jurisdiction of the Authority.

- (j) Hydrants and other fixtures connected with a private fire service connection may be sealed by the Authority and such seals shall be broken only in case of fire or as specifically permitted by the Authority. The Customer must immediately notify the authority of the breaking of any such seal.

### **13. Discontinuance of Water Service**

- (a) Service rendered under any application, contract or agreement may be discontinued by the Authority, after reasonable notice for any of the following reasons:
  - 1) For willful or indifferent waste of water as determined by the BCWA.
  - 2) For failure to protect from damage the meter, or service pipe on the property of the Customer in a condition satisfactory to the Authority.
  - 3) For tampering by the Customer, or others with the knowledge of the Customer, with any meter, connections, service pipe, curb cock, seal or any other property of the Authority controlling or regulating the Customer's water supply.
  - 4) For failure to provide the Authority's employees free and reasonable access to the premises supplied or for obstructing the access to the Authority's meter or other property controlling or regulating the Customer's water supply.
  - 5) For non-payment of any fees or charges accruing under the rates, rules and regulations of the Authority.
  - 6) Customers found in violation of water bans will be <sup>4</sup> fined \$50 for the first violation, \$150 for the second violation and, \$300 for the third and subsequent violations. Fines are payable within three working days from the date of violation. Failure to pay fines will result in water shut-off upon 48 hours prior notice by certified mail. All water turn-off/turn-on charges, and all call-out charges as applicable, will be added to all fines. Water shut-off will continue until payment in full is received by the BCWA. Customers may contest the fine(s) and/or water shut-off at a hearing on the matter by calling the Executive Director at 245-2033 or by a request in writing sent to the Executive Director at 450 Child Street, P O Box 447, Warren, RI 02885.
- (b) The water service will be discontinued to any premises due to temporary vacancy upon written request of the Customer, without in any way affecting the agreement in force.

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<sup>4</sup> Water ban shut off policy voted unanimous at Emergency Meeting of 7/10/95.



- (c) Discontinuing the supply of water to any premises, for any reason, shall not prevent the Authority from pursuing of moneys due from the Customer.

#### **14. Renewal of Water Service After Discontinuance**

When water service to any premises has been terminated for any reason other than temporary vacancy it will be renewed only after the acceptance of a new application. If the service was discontinued for any reason other than the request of the Customer, the conditions, circumstances or practices which caused the water service to be discontinued must be corrected to the satisfaction of the Authority. All charges due and payable by the Customer in accordance with the Authority rates, rules and regulations must be current.

#### **15. Turn-On Charge**

- (a) When it has been necessary to discontinue water service to any premises because of a violation of the rules and regulations due to non-payment of any bill, a turn-off and turn-on charge will be incurred to cover the expense of restoring service. This charge, together with any arrears that may be due the Authority for charges against the Customer, must be paid before the water will again be turned on.
- (b) If at the time of such discontinuance of service the Customer does not have a service deposit with the Authority, the Authority may require a cash deposit as a guarantee of the payment of future bills before the water will be turned on.

#### **16. Bills for Water Service**

- (a) Customers are responsible for furnishing the Authority with their correct billing address. Failure to receive bills will not be considered an excuse for non-payment nor permit an extension of the date when the account would be considered delinquent.
- (b) All bills will be sent to the address entered on the application unless the Authority is notified in writing by the Customer of any change of address.
- (c) Payments shall be made at the offices of the Authority or at such other locations as may be designated by the Authority.
- (d) Neither the Authority nor the Customer shall be bound by bills rendered under mistake of fact as to the quantity of water delivered.

#### **17. Abatements and Refunds**

No abatement shall be made for water leaks, beyond the outlet side of the Authority meter in damaged pipes or fixtures belonging to the Customer. The quantity of water recorded by the meter shall be accepted as correct by both the Customer and the Authority except when the meter has been found to be registering inaccurately. In such cases an estimate of the

quantity of water used will be determined by the average registration of the meter when working or by such other fair and reasonable methods as shall be based on the best information obtainable.

## **18. Fire Protection, Boiler and Engine Water Supply**

The Authority does not guarantee a sufficient or uniform pressure or an uninterrupted supply of water. Customers are cautioned to provide their own sufficient storage of water where an absolutely uninterrupted supply must be assured, such as for fire protection, steam boilers, or other water related systems.

## **19. Interruptions in Water Supply**

The Authority may, at any time, shut off the water supply in the mains in case of accident, or for the purpose of making connections, alterations, repairs, changes, or other reasons. The Authority may also restrict the use of water in order to reserve a sufficient supply for public fire service or other emergencies whenever required by the public welfare.

## **20. Liability of Authority**

- (a) The Authority shall not under any circumstances be held responsible to any person or persons for any loss or damage from any excess or deficiency in the pressure, volume, or supply of water, due to any cause whatsoever. The Authority will undertake to use reasonable care and diligence in order to prevent and avoid interruptions and fluctuations in the service but cannot and does not guarantee that such will not occur.
- (b) The Authority shall in no event be liable for any damage or inconvenience caused by reason of any break, leak or defect in the Customer's service pipe, plumbing system or fixtures.

## **21. Extensions of Mains**

The Authority may extend its water mains along public ways and/or through private property to any public or private streets within its service area on the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Upon application for an extension of a water main, the Authority shall determine the availability and adequacy of the water supply in the area, the necessary size of mains and shall make an estimate of the cost of the proposed extension. The estimate shall include the cost of pipe, valves, fittings, all other materials, and all other costs such as labor, permits, etc., including the Authority's expense for supervision, engineering, insurance, tools and equipment, accounting and other overhead expenses.
- (b) An applicant desiring to contract for a main extension shall execute a contract substantially in the form hereto attached and place a deposit with the Authority in the amount of the cost estimate.

- (c) Should the actual cost of the extension be less than the estimated cost, the Authority shall refund the difference when the actual cost has been ascertained. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, the applicant shall pay the difference. The intent of this provision is that the applicant's payment will be the actual cost of the extension. Any costs due to the Authority shall be paid or acceptable arrangements made before the main extension is activated by the Authority.
- (d) Where the condition exists that additional service connections other than the applicant's may be made to the extended main, upon the applicant's request the Authority will endeavor to impose and pay over to the applicant and additional connection charge subject to an as provided in the provisions of the contract referred to in (b) above. This provision does not apply to an extension within a new plat. Applicability of this provision (d) will be determined by the Authority in its sole discretion.
- (e) No interest shall be paid by the Authority on the applicant's deposit or on any unrefunded balances.
- (f) Extensions made under this Rule shall upon acceptance by the Authority remain the property of the Authority.
- (g) The Authority reserves the right to further extend its water mains from the terminus of each water main extension made under this Rule. The applicant or the applicant's agent, paying for an extension, shall not be entitled to any refund attaching to the Customer's extension.
- (g) In the event that an applicant desires an extension in a private street or across private property, he shall furnish to the Authority, without expense to the Authority, any easements, including temporary easements for construction, necessary for the installation and maintenance of the required facilities. The easement(s) shall be satisfactory in form and substance to the Board of Directors of the Authority, and must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- (h) Developers shall install main extensions in developments and/or projects where the main exceeds 1000 feet.
- (i) Developers may install main extensions in developments and/or projects where the main is 1000 feet or less.
- (j) The BCWA will install main extensions, at the option of the developer, in developments and/or projects as described in (i) above.

- <sup>1</sup>(k) In the event that the Authority requires the installation of a watermain larger than the size required to comply with Authority Specification No. 100, in a private development and/or project, the Authority shall reimburse the applicant for the incremental cost of purchasing the larger size pipe upon satisfactory installation of the watermain. The reimbursement shall be at current Authority bid prices for pipe.

Example: cost of 1000' of 8" diameter pipe at Authority bid price \$7/ft. (pipe purchase only) \$7,000.  
cost of 1000' of 12" diameter pipe at Authority bid price \$12/ft. (pipe purchase only) \$12,000.

Reimbursement due applicant: \$5,000.

## 22. General

- (a) The service pipes, meters and fixtures on the Customer's premise shall at all times be accessible to the Authority for observation or inspection.
- (b) No person other than Authority personnel shall turn the water on or off at any street valve, corporation cock, curb cock, or other street connection, or disconnect or remove any meter. Penalties provided by law for any such action will be rigidly enforced.
- (c) Employees or agents of the Authority are expressly forbidden to demand or accept any compensation for any service rendered to its Customers except as covered in these rate, rules and regulations.
- (d) No employee or agent of the Authority shall have the right or authority to bind it by any promise, agreement or representation contrary to the letter or intent of these rules and regulations.
- (e) Any complaint against the service or employees of the Authority should be made at the office of the Authority and preferably in writing.

## 23. Terms of Payment

- (a) The appropriate service charge and the charge for water consumed as set forth herein shall be billed in arrears for all Customers. Bills shall be rendered quarterly or monthly at the option of the Customer. All bills are due and payable when rendered. If not paid within thirty (30) days after the presentation of same, service may be discontinued after ten (10) days notice to the Customer. The deposit, if any, shall be applied against such bills or any other arrears due from the Customer.
- (b) Service may be discontinued on two days notice to the Authority.

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<sup>1</sup> Extensions of Mains amended by adding subsection (k) on 7/23/92.

## 24. Special Provisions

- (a) When a building or premises is occupied by more than one family or business, each family or business may have a separate meter upon request of the owner or tenant, provided that the interior piping is arranged by and at the expense of the owner or tenant to permit such segregation. If separate meters are installed, each meter will be treated as a separate Customer and the readings of such meters will not be combined for billing purposes. When separate meters are not requested or the piping arrangement will not permit separate meters, the Customer of record shall guarantee the payment of the bill.
- (b) The use of water by the same Customer in entirely separated premises or localities shall not be combined and each installation shall be considered a separate installation.

## 25. Cross-Connection Control <sup>2, 3</sup>

### 1. Policy

Cross-Connections between public water supplies and non-potable sources of contamination or private wells represent one of the most significant threats to health in the water supply industry. This program is designed to maintain the safety and potability of the water in the **BCWA** distribution system by establishing rules and procedures to control cross-connection situations using a containment strategy to prevent the contamination of public drinking water by the backflow of water or other fluids from a source or sources other than its intended or approved source(s) of supply.

### 2. Purpose

A. To protect the public water supply served by **BCWA** from the possibility of contamination or pollution through backflow or back-siphonage into the public water system from the customer's internal distribution system.

B. To promote the elimination or control of existing cross-connections, actual or potential, between its customers in-plant potable water system, and non-potable systems.

C. To provide for the maintenance of a continuing program of cross-connection control which will effectively prevent the contamination or pollution of all potable water systems by cross-connection.

### 3. Authority

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires that the water purveyor has the primary responsibility for preventing water from unapproved sources, or any other substances, from entering the public potable water system. This intent is further clarified in the Rhode Island

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<sup>2</sup> BCWA Adopted 11/24/92, Effective 1/1/93

<sup>3</sup> BCWA Adopted 11/10/09, Effective 11/10/09

General Law Section 46-13-22 (Cross-Connection Control) and The Rhode Island Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Drinking Water, Section 9.4 (Cross-Connection Control), which are hereby incorporated by reference. In addition, authority arises from the Rules and Regulations published by BCWA, and the RI Plumbing Code (RI General Law Section 23-27-3 and SBC -3).

#### **4. Definitions**

- A. Approved – Accepted by **BCWA** as meeting an applicable specification stated or cited in this regulation, or as suitable for the proposed use.
- B. Auxiliary Water Supply - Any water supply, on or available, to the premises other than the purveyor’s approved public potable water supply.
- C. Backflow – The flow of water or other fluids, mixtures or substances into the distributing pipes of a potable water supply system from any source other than intended approved source of supply.
- D. Backflow Preventer – A device or means designed to prevent backflow or back-siphonage.
  - a. Air Gap – A physical separation sufficient to prevent backflow between the free-flowing discharge end of the potable water system and any other system. Physically defined as a vertical distance equal to twice the diameter of the supply side pipe diameter; but no less than one (1) inch.
  - b. Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker – A device which prevents back-siphonage by creating an atmospheric vent when there is either a negative pressure or sub-atmospheric pressure in a water system.
  - c. Barometric Loop – A fabricated piping arrangement rising at least thirty-five (35) feet at its topmost point above the highest fixture it supplies. It is utilized in water supply systems to protect against back-siphonage.
  - d. Double Check Valve Assembly – An assembly of two (2) independently operating loaded check valves with tightly closing shut-off valves on each side of the check valves, plus properly located test cocks for the testing of each check valve.
  - e. Double Check Valve with Intermediate Atmospheric Vent – A device having two (2) independently operating loaded check valves separated by an atmospheric vent chamber.
  - f. Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker – A device which is connected to a hose bibb and which acts as an atmospheric vacuum breaker. Not to be used under constant pressure.

- g. Pressure Vacuum Breaker – A device containing one or two independently operated loaded check valves and an independently operated spring loaded air inlet valve located on the discharge side of the check valve(s). The device includes tightly closing shut-off valves on each side of the check valve(s) and properly located test cocks for the testing of the check valve(s).
  - h. Reduced Pressure Principal Backflow Preventer – An assembly consisting of two (2) independently operating loaded check valves with an automatically operating differential relief valve located between the two (2) check valves, tightly closing shut-off valves on each side of the check valves plus properly located test cocks for the testing of the check valves and the relief valve.
  - i. Residential Dual Check – An assembly of two (2) loaded independently operating check valves without tightly closing shut-off valves and test cocks. Generally employed immediately downstream of the water meter to act as a containment device.
- E. Backpressure – A condition in which the owner’s system pressure is greater than the supplier’s system pressure.
- F. Back-Siphonage – The flow of water or other fluids, mixtures or substances into the distribution pipes of a potable water supply system from any source other than its intended source caused by the sudden reduction of pressure in the potable water supply system.
- G. Department – The State of Rhode Island Department of Health.
- H. Containment – A method of backflow prevention which requires a backflow prevention device at the water service entrance directly after the meter outlet valve and always before the first tap to any appliance, appurtenance, device, pump, pressure vessel, apparatus or outlet intended to serve or handle water.
- I. Contaminant – A substance that will impair the quality of the water to a degree that it creates a serious health hazard to the public leading to poisoning or the spread of disease.
- J. Cross-Connection – Any actual or potential connection between the public water supply and a source of contamination or pollution.
- K. BCWA – Bristol County Water Authority
- L. Fixture Isolation – A method of backflow prevention in which a backflow preventer is located to correct a cross-connection at an in-plant location rather than at a water service entrance.

- M. Owner – Any person who has legal title to, or license to operate or inhabit in, a property upon which a cross-connection inspection is to be made or upon which a cross-connection is present.
- N. Person – Any individual, partnership, company, public or private corporation, political subdivision or agency of the State of Rhode Island, a department, agency or instrumentality of the United States or any other legal entity.
- O. Pollutant – A foreign substance, that if permitted to get into the public water system, will degrade its quality so as to constitute a moderate hazard, or impair the usefulness or quality of the water to a degree which does not create an actual hazard to the public health; but which does adversely and unreasonably effect such water for domestic use.
- P. Water Service Entrance – That point in the owner’s water system beyond the sanitary control of the water supplier; generally considered to be the outlet end of the water meter and always before any unprotected branch.
- Q. Executive Director – The official in charge of **BCWA** who is vested with the authority and responsibility for the implementation of an effective cross-connection control program and for the enforcement of the provisions of its Rules and Regulations.

## 5. Administration

- A. **BCWA** will operate a cross-connection control program, to include the keeping of necessary records, which fulfills the requirements of the Rhode Island Department of Health, Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Drinking Water, Section 9.4 (Cross-Connection Control).
- B. Every owner shall allow their property to be inspected for possible cross-connections and shall follow the provisions of **BCWA**’s program if a cross-connection is present.
- C. **BCWA** requires that the public supply be protected by containment at all water service connections. The owner shall be responsible for water quality beyond the outlet end of the containment device and should utilize fixture outlet protection for that purpose, as prescribed in the plumbing code. The owner shall utilize a qualified independent cross-connection control specialist to assist in the survey of the owner’s facilities and to assist in the selection of proper fixture outlet devices, and the proper installation of said devices. All costs shall be borne by the owner.
- D. Both **BCWA** and the owner shall attempt to eliminate all cross-connections.



## 6. Responsibilities

### A. BCWA

1. On new installations, **BCWA** will provide an on-site evaluation and/or inspection of plans in order to determine the type of backflow preventer that will be required by **BCWA** for containment. In any case, a minimum of a dual check valve will be required in any new construction.
2. For premises existing prior to the start of this program, **BCWA** will perform surveys and follow-up inspections of plans and/or the premises and inform the owner by letter of any corrective action deemed necessary, the method of achieving the correction, and the time allowed for the correction to be made. Ordinarily, forty-five (45) days will be allowed. However, this time period may be shortened or extended depending upon the degree of hazard involved, the complexity of the upgrade and the history of the device(s) in question.
3. **BCWA** will not allow any cross-connection to remain unless it is protected by an approved backflow preventer which shall be regularly tested to assure satisfactory operation.
4. **BCWA** will inform the owner by letter, of any failure to comply, by the time of the first re-inspection. **BCWA** will allow an additional fifteen (15) days for the correction. In the event the Owner fails to comply with the necessary correction by the time of the second re-inspection, **BCWA** will inform the Owner by letter, that the water service to the Owner's premises will be terminated within a period not to exceed five (5) days. In the event that the Owner informs **BCWA** of extenuating circumstances as to why the correction has not been made, a time extension may be granted by **BCWA** but in no case will exceed an additional thirty (30) days.
5. If **BCWA** determines at any time that a serious threat to the public health exists, the water service will be terminated immediately.
6. **BCWA** will conduct initial premise surveys to determine if a containment backflow prevention device already exists, the nature of existing hazards and corrections to be made. Initial focus will be on high hazard industries and commercial premises with concurrent emphasis on residential properties.
7. **BCWA shall have on its staff a person who is a certified backflow prevention device surveyor.** **BCWA shall have on file a list of private contractors who are certified backflow device testers. All charges for these tests will be paid for by the Owner of the building or property.**

## **B. Owner**

1. The owner shall be responsible for the elimination or protection of all cross-connections on his premises. The owner shall be responsible for the water quality beyond the outlet end of the containment device and should utilize fixture outlet protection for that purpose.
2. The owner, after having been informed by a letter from **BCWA**, shall absorb all costs to install, perpetually maintain, and inspect or have inspected, any and all backflow preventers on his premises.
3. The owner shall correct any malfunction of the backflow preventer which is revealed by periodic inspecting. This shall include the replacement of parts or the replacement of the backflow preventer, if deemed necessary by **BCWA**.
4. The owner shall inform **BCWA** of any proposed or modified cross-connections and also existing cross-connections of which the owner is aware, but have not been found by **BCWA**.
5. The owner shall not install a by-pass around any backflow preventer unless there is a backflow preventer of the same type on the by-pass. Owners who cannot shut down operations for testing of the device(s) must supply additional devices necessary to allow inspecting to take place.
6. The owner shall install backflow preventers in a manner and location approved by **BCWA**. At a minimum, the owner shall install, at his own expense, an approved device at the water service entrance.
7. The owner shall only install backflow preventers approved by **BCWA**.
8. Any owner having a private well or other private water source, must assure that it is never cross-connected to the **BCWA** system. An air gap between the systems shall be maintained at all times. The owner will be required to install a high hazard backflow preventer at the service entrance if a private water source is maintained, even though it is not cross-connected to the **BCWA** water system.
9. In the event the owner installs plumbing to provide potable water for domestic purposes which is on the **BCWA** side of the backflow preventer, such plumbing must have its own backflow preventer installed.
10. The owner shall be responsible for the payment of all fees for annual or semi-annual device inspections, re-testing in the case that the device fails to operate correctly, and second re-inspections for non-compliance with **BCWA** requirements.

11. The Owner of any auxiliary water supply shall register a description of the auxiliary water supply with **BCWA**.

12. All residential buildings will be required to install a residential dual check valve device immediately downstream of the water meter. If **BCWA** determines that the degree of hazard warrants a different device, the owner shall comply with this decision.

13. Commercial customers shall install a backflow prevention device commensurate with the degree of hazard, as determined by **BCWA** immediately downstream of the water meter. The customer shall also maintain and inspect the device as required by **BCWA**, and submit records of said inspections/test results as required.

14. The owner should be aware that installation of a backflow device results in a potential closed plumbing system within the residence. As such, provisions may have to be made by the owner to provide for thermal expansion within the closed loop system, i.e., the installation of thermal expansion devices and/or pressure relief valves.

## **7. Records and Templates**

**A. BCWA** will initiate and maintain the following records:

1. Master list of all service connections relying upon backflow preventers to protect the public water system.
2. Inventory information on approved air gaps or backflow preventers to include description, installation date, history of inspections, tests, repairs, test results, and the name of the inspector/tester.
3. Copies of inspection results and summaries.
4. Program summary reports and backflow incident reports.

**B. BCWA** will prepare standardized survey forms, reports, and notifications to be used during implementation of this Program.

## **8. Enforcement Policy**

The Executive Director shall be responsible for the protection of the public potable water distribution system from contamination or pollution due to the backflow or back-siphonage of contaminants or pollution through the water service connection. The Executive Director or designated agent shall give notice, in writing, to each customer to install an approved backflow prevention device at each service connection to his premises. The customer shall, within (45) days, install approved device or devices at his own expense; and failure, refusal, or inability on the part of the customer to install said device or devices within (45) days shall constitute a

ground for discontinuing water service to the premises until such device or devices have been properly installed. **Penalties may be added.**

## **9. Quality Assurance and Control**

All persons testing backflow devices in **BCWA** system shall possess a current certification from a recognized certification program acceptable to the **BCWA**. This certification must be available to **BCWA**, if requested.

All backflow preventers shall be approved by the Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research of the University of Southern California (FCCCHR-USC) and/or the American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE).

## **10. Public Education**

**BCWA** will promote the elimination of existing cross-connections, actual or potential, between its customers' in-plant potable water system(s) and any non-potable source through public education.

All new and existing customers shall be informed of the dangers of cross connections to the safety of the public water supply system. This information shall include an explanation of backflow, typical residential (or commercial) cross-connections and the threats that may be introduced should a backflow condition occur. The importance of removal or protection of cross connections within the private water system shall be stressed.

The owner shall be informed that installation of a backflow device results in a potential closed plumbing system with the residence or commercial building. As such, provisions may have to be made by the owner to provide for thermal expansion within the closed loop system, i.e., the installation of thermal expansion devices and/or pressure relief valves.

## **11. Response**

**BCWA** will respond to all suspected cross-connection contamination issues in accordance with the Emergency Response Plan available in the **BCWA Water System Supply Management Plan, November, 2004**.

## **12. Existing in-use Backflow Devices**

Any existing backflow preventer shall be allowed by **BCWA** to continue in service unless the degree of hazard is such as to supercede the effectiveness of the present backflow preventer, or result in an unreasonable risk to the public health.

### **13. Degree of Hazard**

BCWA recognizes the threat to the public water system arising from cross-connections. All threats will be classified by degree of hazard and will require the installation of approved backflow prevention devices for high and low hazards.

#### **A. Low Degree of Hazard**

If backflow were to occur, the resulting effect on the water supply would be a change in its aesthetic qualities. The foreign substance must be non-toxic to humans. The following types of backflow prevention devices may be used for the containment of on-site contaminants for low hazard situations:

- a. Air gap (AG)
- b. Atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB)
- c. Pressure vacuum breaker (PVB)
- d. Double check valve assembly (DCVA)
- e. Reduced pressure principal backflow preventer (RPZ)
- f. Combination of the above

#### **B. High Degree of Hazard**

If backflow were to occur, the resulting effect on the water supply could cause illness or death if consumed by humans. The foreign substance may be toxic to humans rather from a chemical, bacteriological or radiological standpoint. The effects of the contaminants may result from short or long term exposure.

Only the following types of backflow prevention devices may be used for the containment of on-site contaminants for high hazard situations:

- a. Air gap (AG)
- b. Reduced pressure principal backflow preventer (RPZ)
- c. Combination of the above

#### **C. Degree of Hazard Schedule**

##### High Degree of Hazard

Athletic Fields  
Campgrounds  
Car Washes  
Hotel/Motel  
Laundry Facility

##### Low Degree of Hazard

Barber Shops  
Hot Tubs  
Government Office Buildings  
Multiple Family  
Public Storage Facility

Dry Cleaners  
Lawn Care Service  
Mortuary  
Pest Control Facility  
Photo Processing Facility  
Radiator Shop  
Restaurant/Bar  
Septic Tank Service  
Service Station  
Shopping Mall  
Super Market  
Vehicle Paint Shop  
Warehouse Facility  
Pet Salon  
Hospitals  
Dentists/Doctors  
Laboratory  
Nursing Homes  
Veterinarian/Kennel  
Food/Beverage Processing  
Landfill/Dump  
Painting/Plating Facility  
Sewage Treatment Facility  
Condominiums/Town homes  
Hair & Nail Salons/Pedi Spas  
Manufacturing Facility  
Irrigation System  
Waterfront/Boat Dock  
Private Well  
Pool - Above Ground/In Ground  
Fish Ponds  
Cistern

**14. Periodic Testing**

- A.** All backflow prevention devices shall be inspected, and high hazard devices tested, at least annually.
- B.** Periodic inspections shall be performed by the property owner's certified inspector or his delegated representative.
- C.** Any backflow preventer which fails during a periodic test will be repaired or replaced. When repairs are necessary, upon completion of the repair the device will be tested a second time at the owner's expense to insure correct operation. High hazard situations will not be allowed to

continue unprotected. If the backflow preventer fails the test and cannot be repaired immediately, the service must be terminated. The owner is responsible for spare parts, repair tools, or a replacement device. Parallel installation of two (2) devices is an effective means of the owner insuring uninterrupted water service; and is strongly recommended when the owner desires such continuity.

**D.** These devices shall be repaired or replaced at the expense of the owner whenever said devices are found to be defective. Results shall be recorded on standard forms; and copies distributed to the owner and Executive Director within (5) days of the actual test.

**E.** Backflow prevention devices will be inspected more frequently if **BCWA** feels that due to the degree of hazard involved, additional inspections are warranted. Cost of the additional inspections will be borne by the owner.

## **15. Strainers**

**A.** BCWA strongly recommends that all new retrofit installations of reduced pressure principle devices and double check valve backflow preventers include the installation of strainers located immediately upstream of the device to prevent fouling of backflow devices due to unforeseen circumstances occurring to the water supply system such as water main repairs, water main breaks, fires, periodic cleaning and flushing of mains, etc. These occurrences may 'stir up' debris within the water main that will cause fouling of backflow devices installed without the benefit of strainers.

**Bristol County Water Authority  
Schedule A - General Metered Service**

**Applicability:**

General metered service in entire territory serviced by Authority.

**Character of Service:**

All year metered service.

**Commodity Charge:**

A charge will be made for all water used as registered by the meter, as set forth below:

	Cubic Feet Per		Rate Per
	Month	Quarter	100 Cubic Feet
For the first	500	1,500	\$2.984
For the next	1,000	3,000	\$8.432
For the next	8,500	25,500	\$6.422
For the next	20,000	60,000	\$2.984
All over	30,000	90,000	\$3.865

**Service Charge:**

In addition, all metered general water service Customers shall pay a service charge based on the size of the meter installed. Customers with multiple meters shall be charged for each meter at the indicated rate.

Size of Meter	Service Charge	
	Per Month	Per Quarter
5/8"	\$22.88	\$68.63
3/4"	34.35	103.05
1"	57.25	171.76
1 1/2"	114.47	343.43
2"	183.15	549.43
3"	343.43	1,030.36
4"	572.37	1,717.11
6"	1,144.79	3,434.30
8"	1,831.63	5,494.84
10"	2,632.98	7,898.84
65 Years or older 5/8"	17.53	52.57



## **Terms of Payment**

Bills for metered general water service furnished under this schedule are to be rendered in arrears, either quarterly or monthly at the option of the Customer, and are due and payable when rendered.

**Effective:** On service rendered on or after March 1, 2013.

Bristol County Water Authority  
49 Bradford Street  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809-0569

Effective 8/8/05, New Address  
Bristol County Water Authority  
450 Child Street  
P O Box 447  
Warren, RI 02885-0447

**Bristol County Water Authority  
Schedule B - Private Fire Protection**

**Applicability:**

Applicable throughout the entire territory served by the Authority for service to private protection facilities.

**Rates:**

For each service connection to the Water Authority's mains used wholly or in part to supply private fire protection appliances owned and maintained by the Customer, the following charges shall apply:

For each 4-inch connection and smaller	\$444.04 Per Annum
For each 6-inch connection	\$998.99 Per Annum
For each 8-inch connection	\$1,776.30 Per Annum
For each 10-inch connection	\$2,775.59 Per Annum

No additional charge will be made for private fire protection appliances, including but not limited to fire hydrants owned and maintained by the Customer. If water is used for any other purpose, the General Metered Schedule of Rates shall apply. The Authority shall require the installation of a separate service pipe and meter for all fire services.

**Terms of Payment:**

All bills for private fire protection service furnished under this schedule are to be rendered quarterly in arrears and are due and payable in full when rendered.

Bristol County Water Authority  
49 Bradford Street  
Bristol, RI 02809-0569

Effective 8/8/05, New Address  
Bristol County Water Authority  
450 Child Street  
P O Box 447  
Warren, RI 02885-0447

**Bristol County Water Authority  
Schedule C - Municipal Fire Protection**

**Applicability:**

Applicable throughout the entire territory served by the Authority for service to public fire hydrants as requested by the towns of Barrington, Bristol and Warren.

**Hydrant Rental Charge:**

For each hydrant connection \$400 Per Annum

Fire service connections for municipal sprinkler systems are charged under Schedule B.

**Terms of Payment**

All bills for municipal fire protection service furnished under this schedule are to be rendered quarterly in arrears and are due and payable in full when rendered.

**Effective:** On service rendered on or after March 1, 1992

**Special Provisions**

Service taken under this schedule is to be used exclusively for the extinguishing of fires.

Bristol County Water Authority  
49 Bradford Street  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809-0569

Effective 8/8/05, New Address  
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450 Child Street  
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Warren, RI 02885-0447

**Bristol County Water Authority  
Schedule D: Miscellaneous Fees**

1. Service Installation Fee	<sup>3,5, 7, 10</sup> Barrington, <sup>5, 7, 10</sup> <u>Bristol &amp;</u> <sup>4,5, 7, 10</sup> Warren
3/4" Service Installation in Unpaved Street	\$1,300.00
3/4" Service Installation in Paved Street	\$2,500.00
1" Service Installation in Unpaved Street	\$1,600.00
1" Service Installation in Paved Street	\$3,000.00
Service Installation over 1"	Actual Cost

When six (6) or more services are requested on the same main extension, a deposit equal to the estimated cost will be required. Upon completion of the project and full accounting, an adjustment to actual cost will be made, in lieu of the above schedule.

When a 3/4" or 1" water service installation requires either cement-base restoration or curb-to-curb paving a deposit equal to the estimated cost will be required.<sup>10</sup>

2. Main Extension Deposit	Actual Cost
3. Service Installation Fee for Temporary or Construction Purposes	Actual Cost of installing and maintaining service and cost of eliminating service if required.
4. Meter Test Fee	
For special tests of meters made upon request of the Customer - One test per year	No charge
Second & subsequent tests	\$50.00 <sup>6</sup>
5. Service Turn-on/Turn-off Charge	
To partly cover the expense of turning on the water once it has been disconnected because of violation of the rules and regulations, on account of nonpayment of any bill or a customer request.	\$30.00 <sup>8</sup>
6. Shut-off for Non-Payment	\$60.00 <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Amended on April 29, 1993, Effective Date May 1, 1993

<sup>4</sup> Amended on July 1, 1996, Effective Date July 1, 1996

<sup>5</sup> Amended March 1, 2001, Effective Date March 1, 2001

<sup>6</sup> Amended December 10, 2003, Effective Date January 1, 2004

<sup>7</sup> Amended April 5, 2006, Effective April 5, 2006

<sup>8</sup> Amended June 10, 2009, Effective June 11, 2009

<sup>10</sup> Amended February 8, 2012, Effective February 8, 2012

**Bristol County Water Authority**  
**Schedule D: Miscellaneous Fees (Cont'd)**

7. After Hours Service Call

- |    |   |                       |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| a. | For a service call made after regular hours that could have been handled during regular hours (before 11pm) | \$98.00 <sup>6</sup>  |
| b. | After 11pm and before 6am on weekdays, and Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays                                    | \$130.00 <sup>6</sup> |

8. Frozen Meter

- |    |  |                       |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| a. | During regular business hours  | \$100.00 <sup>6</sup> |
| b. | After regular hours (before 11pm)  | \$133.00 <sup>6</sup> |
| c. | After 11pm and before 6am on weekdays, and Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays | \$165.00 <sup>6</sup> |

9. Read Only Fee \$10.00<sup>6</sup>

10. Special Requests

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| a. | Bulk water sales which require a temporary meter connection to a fire hydrant, plus cost of water used. | \$27.69 |
| b. | Labor charge for Special Requests:<br>At a prevailing hourly rate for Working Foreman.                  |         |

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