



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors
From: Gary W. Fern, P.E., Executive Director
Date: June 10, 2009
Re: Leak Policy
cc: James M. Bowling, IV

In 2008, the Board of Directors reviewed the Leak Policy and at that time, upon recommendation by the ACSA staff, decided not to make any revisions. Upon further review, the ACSA staff presents to the Board of Directors proposed revisions to the ACSA Rules and Regulations which will better define the Leak Adjustment Policy practiced by the ACSA.

Specific reference to leak adjustments is found in Section 12-02. Water and Sewer Rates on Page 19 of the ACSA Rules and Regulations. Proposed language has been included in the attached Resolution to modify Item B of this section. The intent of the proposed revision is to clarify that a leak adjustment will only be considered on water service lines. Adjustments will not be considered for irrigation systems and interior plumbing systems.

A definition for water service is also proposed.

Board Action

We request the Board of Directors approve the attached Resolution for inclusion in the ACSA Rules and Regulations.

GWF/dbh/dmg

SECTION 1 - GENERAL CONDITIONS

1-01. INTRODUCTION.

1. The purpose of this publication is to establish and furnish information on the rules and regulations which have been adopted by the Albemarle County Service Authority of Albemarle County, Virginia in accordance with the *Virginia Water and Waste Authorities Act* of 1950, as amended, and which are applicable to the public water and sanitary sewerage facilities now existing or which may, in the future, be under the jurisdiction of the Albemarle County Service Authority. This publication establishes the rates, rules and regulations which govern the use of the public water and sanitary sewerage facilities within the Jurisdictional Areas of the Albemarle County Service Authority.
2. Inquiry for information or clarification of any item herein pertinent to these policies shall be directed to the Executive Director, Albemarle County Service Authority, 168 Spotnap Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

1-02. VALIDITY.

1. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of these ordinances is, for any reason, held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of any other part of this ordinance which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.
2. No statement or regulation contained in this publication shall be construed to interfere with any additional requirements which may be imposed by the State Board of Health or Water Control Board.
3. In the event of any deviation between the rules and regulations in this publication, and applicable rules and regulations of the State Board of Health or the Water Control Board, it shall be understood that the rules and regulations of said State agencies shall prevail insofar as the sanitary sewerage works and public water supply facilities within the jurisdictional Areas are concerned.

1-03. EFFECTIVE DATE.

These Rules and Regulations shall take effect and be in full force from and after July 1, 1983.

1-04. DEFINITIONS.

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the meaning of terms used herein shall be as follows: [Revised 3/21/91]

ACSA or Authority or Service Authority - The Albemarle County Service Authority, including its governing and operating bodies and designated agents. Any office referred to solely by title (e.g., Executive Director, Manager of Accounting) shall be the person retained in this position by the Authority.

Act - The *Virginia Water and Waste Authorities Act* of 1950, as amended

Applicant - Any person or entity requesting water and/or sewer service from the Authority.

Assisted Living Facility – A multi-family structure where the injured or aged are provided non-continuous care.

Auxiliary Meter - A water meter dedicated to the service of an irrigation system when the property's non-irrigation water needs are supplied by a primary meter. [Added 01/01/06]

Backflow - The flow of water or other liquids, mixtures, or substances into the distributing pipes of a potable water supply from any other than its intended source. Backsiphonage and backpressure are types of backflow.

Board - The Board of Directors of the Authority.

B.O.D. - Biochemical Oxygen Demand; the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five (5) days at 20 degrees C., expressed in parts per million. The laboratory determination shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in Standard Methods).

Building Sewage Drain - That part of the lowest horizontal piping of a sewage system which receives the discharge from the sanitary sewer inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer beginning five (5) feet (1.52 meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.

Building Sewer - The extension from the building sewage drain to the public sewer or other place for disposal.

Construction Approval - A letter issued by the Authority to a developer which authorizes him to construct facilities for which the design plans and specifications have been approved by the Authority.

Contractor - Any person(s), firm, group or affiliates charged with the responsibility of constructing the facilities described in the Authority's *General Water and Sewer Construction Specifications*. [Revised 6/20/85]

County - The County of Albemarle, Virginia, its governing and operating bodies and designated agents.

Cross-Connection - Any actual or potential connection between the potable water supply and a source of contamination or pollution. Cross-connection includes any potable water supply outlet which is submerged or can be submerged in wastewater or any other source of contamination.

Customer - Any person or entity recorded in the accounts of the Authority as receiving water and/or sewer services and responsible for payment for such services.

Developer - Any person, firm, corporation or association having an interest, whether legal or equitable, sole or partial, in any premise requiring the design and construction of facilities which would be under the jurisdiction of the Authority and would become part of the public utilities system of the Authority.

Existing Buildings - Those existing buildings for which a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued by the Albemarle County Inspections Department. [Added 6/19/86]

Equivalent Residential Connections (ERC's) - The conversion of metered services to the equivalent of single-family residential connections per the following ratios: [Added 6/29/89]

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>ERC's</u>
5/8"	1	1
1"	2.5	2.5
1 1/2"	5	5
2"	8	8
3"	15	15
4"	25	25
6"	50	50

Facilities - Any and all component and pertinent parts of the entire systems of the water and sanitary sewer utilities under the jurisdiction of the Authority, such as water pipe lines and their appurtenances, water storage tanks, filtration or treatment facilities and pumping stations, sewer lines and their appurtenances, sewage pumping stations and treatment plants, including these items and others now constructed, installed, operated or maintained by the Service Authority, or any which may be approved and accepted in the future as additions to or extensions of the systems.

General Water and Sewer Construction Specifications - The Specifications of the Authority, Adopted January 20, 1983, as amended.

Health Hazard - Any condition, devices, or practices in the water supply system and/or its operation which create or, in the judgment of the Authority, may create, a danger to the health and well-being of any customer.

Hospital – A building or buildings where the sick or injured are provided overnight medical or surgical care.

Irrigation System - A device or combination of devices having a pipe or other conduit installed in the landscape for the purpose of applying ACSA provided water to residential or commercial lawns, landscapes or greenspace.

Jurisdictional Area - The territory included within the boundaries of the Authority and in which the Authority has been privileged to provide and regulate both existing and future water and sanitary sewerage facilities.

Nonpotable Water - Water that is not safe for human consumption or that is of questionable potability.

Nursing Care Facility – A building or buildings where the injured or aged are provided continuous overnight care and include centralized kitchen and/or dining services.

Person - Any individual, firm, corporation, association, society or group.

Plumbing Fixture - Installed receptacles, devices or appliances supplied with water or that receive or discharge liquids or liquid-borne wastes.

Plumbing System - The water supply distribution pipes, plumbing fixtures, including their respective connections, devices and appurtenances within the property lines of the premises; and water-treating or water-using equipment.

Potable Water - Water free from impurities in amounts sufficient to cause disease or harmful physiological effects. Its bacteriological and chemical qualities shall conform to the requirements of the Virginia Waterworks Regulations of the State Department of Health.

Premise - Any building, group of buildings, or land upon which buildings are to be constructed which is or may be served by the facilities of the Service Authority.

Primary Meter - A water meter installed to measure all water supplied to a customer exclusive of water supplied to an irrigation system or to measure water supplied to an irrigation system when no other water use is required on the property or all meters installed prior to January 1, 2006. [Added 01/01/06]

Public Sewer - A sewer in which all owners of abutting properties have equal rights, and which is controlled by the Service Authority.

Rain Sensor - An electric device that measures rainfall and will override the irrigation cycle of an irrigation system, thus turning it off when a predetermined amount of rain has fallen. To meet the requirements of this section, a rain sensor shall be adjusted to shut off irrigation systems in response to one-fourth (1/4) inch or less. [Revised 06/17/04]

RWSA - The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, its representatives and designated agents.

Sanitary Sewage - That water-carried waste which derives principally from dwellings, business buildings, institutions, industrial establishments and the like, exclusive of any storm and surface waters.

Sanitary Sewer - A sewer to which storm, surface and ground waters are not intentionally admitted.

Sewage - A combination of water-carried waste from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface and storm waters as may be present.

Sewer Volume Charge - The charge made on all users of the public sewerage system whose wastes do not exceed in strength the concentration values established as representative of normal domestic sewage.

Sewerage - The system of sewers and appurtenances for the collection, transportation, pumping, and treatment of sewage.

Shall or **will** - Are mandatory; **may** is permissive.

Undeveloped Lot – Any parcel of land on which no building exists which requires water or sewer for occupancy. [Added 1/27/05]

Water Line or **Main** - A pipe or conduit for transporting water.

Water Service – The pipe which extends underground from the primary meter or auxiliary meter to the exterior face of a structure.

Water System - All structures, appliances and equipment owned and operated by the Authority and used to collect, store, and transport water for drinking or domestic use and the distribution of water to the public.

SECTION 12 - RATES AND FEES

12-01. GENERAL.

All fees are payable prior to connection to any facility owned or used by the Authority. Rates and fees are fixed to provide funds sufficient at all times for the following purposes:

- A. To pay the cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the systems on account of which revenue bonds are issued, including reserves for such purposes, and for replacement, depreciation and necessary extensions.
- B. To pay the principal of and the interest on the revenue bonds as they shall become due and to accumulate reserves therefore.
- C. To provide a margin of safety for making the payments above.

12-02. WATER AND SEWER RATES.

Rates for water and sewer service shall be established by the Board pursuant to the procedures specified in the Act. Normally, rates will not be changed more often than annually. The rates established will apply to all customers of the system with the following exceptions:

- A. No charge will be assessed for water used for fire protection.
- B. ~~When a customer's water service line leaks, no sewer charge will be made for the estimated amount of water not passing into the sanitary sewage collection system. Upon presentation of evidence that the leak has been promptly repaired, the water charge will be adjusted to the wholesale rate for all water above the customer's normal consumption.~~Upon presentation of evidence that a customer's water service line leak has been promptly repaired, the water charge will be adjusted to the wholesale rate for all water above the customer's normal consumption, and no sewer charge will be made for the estimated amount of water not passing into the sanitary sewer system. No other water and sewer charge adjustments shall be considered, including those for leaks on irrigation systems and interior structure plumbing systems.
- C. Any meter dedicated to the service of the irrigation system, whether "auxiliary" or "primary", shall be billed as a "water only account" and shall not be subject to the sewer rates provided there is no physical connection to the public sewer system. [Added 01/01/06]

12-03. MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE [Added 01/01/06]

The purpose of this charge is to defray in part the cost of billing each month. All dedicated irrigation meters shall be subject to the monthly service charge, even for months during which the irrigation system is not operational or during a water emergency.

12-04. CONNECTION FEE.

All new water and sewer services connected to Authority facilities shall pay a connection fee, the purpose of which is, in part, to defray the cost of meter installation, including necessary materials and labor.

12-05. LOCAL FACILITIES FEE.

The purpose of this fee is to defray, in part, the cost of installing mains, valves, fire hydrants and other appurtenances which are necessary to provide water and wastewater service to abutting properties and which have been provided by someone other than the customer. Accordingly, all new water and sewer connections for which a developer or customer has not installed and funded these local facilities will be assessed this charge.

12-06. SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEE.

All new water and sewer services shall pay a system development fee, the purpose of which is to defray, in part, the cost to Albemarle County Service Authority of providing major transmission and distribution mains, collection lines, pumping stations and storage facilities which are necessary to provide service to new customers. [Revised 6/29/89]

12-07. BUCK MOUNTAIN SURCHARGE.

In accordance with the joint resolution signed by the City of Charlottesville, County of Albemarle, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority and the Authority, all new Authority water connections in the urban service area will be assessed a surcharge to pay a portion of the Buck Mountain Reservoir land acquisition costs.

12-08. FARMINGTON CAPITAL RECOVERY FEE.

All connections to the water lines in Farmington subdivision identified as ACSA Project 2002-1 shall be charged a fee of \$7,384.00. [Added 4/18/02]

12-09. CONNECTION FEES FOR IRRIGATION METERS. [Added 01/01/06]

All irrigation systems installed after January 1, 2006 shall be served by a dedicated service connection.

A. Auxiliary Meters.

Dedicated irrigation meters will be deemed "auxiliary meters." The actual cost of installation plus the Buck Mountain Surcharge, when applicable, shall be charged provided that the property's non-irrigation water needs are served by a "primary meter."

B. Primary Meters.

Dedicated irrigation meters will be deemed "primary meters" and subject to all applicable connection fees if the property has no non-irrigation water needs.

12-10. TAPPING FEE.

Where the Authority provides water main taps to accommodate line extensions, fire sprinkler systems and similar uses, a tapping fee will be assessed to the customer in accordance with the following schedule: [Amended 6/18/98]

TAPPING

Machine	TAP SIZE	LINE SIZE	PRICE
E-4	3/4" - 1"	1 1/4" - 3"	\$100.00
B-100	3/4" - 1"	4" - 24"	\$100.00

A-2	1 1/2" - 2"	6" - 24"	\$150.00
CL-12	4" - 12"	4" - 24"	\$60.00/inch

12-11. RWSA CAPACITY CHARGE.

All new water and sewer connections to the Authority systems shall be assessed a charge to defray, in part, the cost of providing capacity for a new customer in the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority system. This charge shall be assessed on the basis of equivalent residential connections (ERC). [Added 6/29/89, Revised 5/1/05]

12-12. COST RECOVERY FOR TREATMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES.

A surcharge for the higher cost of treating wastes with BOD and/or suspended solids concentrations greater than 240 parts per million shall be charged per the *Sewerage User Regulations* incorporated as Appendix A [Added 3/21/91]