

ROCHESTER PUBLIC UTILITIES WATER SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised October, 2007
(Effective November 1, 2007)

INTRODUCTION

Rochester Public Utilities (hereafter referred to as RPU) has assembled this booklet to assist its customers, prospective customers and their architects, engineers or plumbing contractors in planning for, making arrangements for, obtaining and maintaining municipal water service.

The information presented here is intended to supplement the requirements of the Minnesota Plumbing Code Chapter 4715 and all other applicable federal, or state, and municipal codes, regulations, laws and ordinances. It is always necessary to refer to and comply with such other codes, regulations, laws, and ordinances when planning, designing, and installing a new water service. Specific requirements of RPU do not intentionally conflict with any other requirements known to be in effect as of the publication date of this booklet. Any apparent conflicts of this nature should be brought to the attention of RPU for interpretation.

RPU wishes to serve its customers promptly and satisfactorily. It will endeavor to cooperate with customers and their authorized representatives to the fullest extent in completing service connections with as little delay and inconvenience as possible, and will gladly give special attention to any particularly difficult situation confronting a customer.

RPU will be happy to confer with those customers desiring information concerning rates, services, fees, charges, etc., upon request by telephone or otherwise. Such requests should be directed to an RPU Customer Service Representative (at the RPU Service Center, 4000 East River Road NE, phone 507.280.1500, 1.800.778.3421 or fax 507.280.1642 or online fax 507 .280.1643).

The current Water Service Rules and Regulations are also available at:
http://www.rpu.org/builders/water_rules_and_regulations/

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SECTION 100

DEFINITIONS

Accessory Building: A structure, on a parcel of property, whose maintenance and use is not the primary purpose of the parcel.

Air Gap: The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere from the lowest opening of any device discharging to the flood rim of the receiving device.

Backflow Preventer: A device or means to prevent backflow into the potable water system.

Board of Health: The Olmsted County Health Board, or the Olmsted County Health Officer acting pursuant to its authority.

City: The City of Rochester, Minnesota.

Combined Domestic/Fire Service: A single water service line providing both domestic water service and fire protection service to a building or premises.

Common Service: A water service line which serves more than one metered premises.

Commodity Charge: That portion of a customer's water bill which is directly related to the quantity of water used during the billing period.

Corporation Stop: A device designed to connect a water service sized 2" or smaller to a water main.

Cross-connection: Any connection or arrangement, physical or otherwise, between a potable water supply system and any plumbing fixture, or tank, receptacle, equipment, or device through which it may be possible for nonpotable, used, unclean, polluted, or contaminated water or other substance to enter any part of such potable water system under any condition.

Curb Box: A device designed to provide access to a curb valve.

Curb Valve: A device designed to control the flow of water within a service line from a water main (located outside a customer's building or premises).

Curb Wrench: A device designed to operate a curb valve.

Customer: Any individual, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity now being served or to be served, using the water service of RPU at any specified location.

Customer Charge: That portion of a customer's water bill intended to recover the fixed cost of providing water service.

Deduct Meter: A device designed and used to measure water used in a process where the water used becomes a product or is lost to evaporation. The deduct meter usage is subtracted from the normal water meter reading for the purpose of determining the sewer billing.

ERT: A wireless Encoder Receiver Transmitter fitted on a water meter to permit automatic meter reading (AMR). A handheld or vehicle-mounted radio transceiver broadcasts a wake-up signal to the ERT, and the ERT then sends the present water meter reading back to the transceiver.

Fire Service: A single water service line providing water to fire protection devices (such as sprinklers or fire hose connections) within a building or premises.

House Piping: A series of pipes for the conveyance of water extending from the water meter to points of consumption within a building.

Irrigation Meter: A water meter installed for the express purpose of metering water used for irrigation. Water measured by irrigation meters is not to enter the sanitary sewer system.

Premises: A defined area of a property parcel or building contained thereon, where water consumption occurs.

Readily accessible: Capable of being reached safely and quickly for installation, operation, repair, replacement or inspection without requiring those to whom ready access is requisite to remove obstacles, panels or similar obstructions.

Remote Register: A device located on the outside of a customer's premises which is designed to permit the reading of a water meter contained within the premises. (Remote registers are being replaced by ERTs.)

RPU: Rochester Public Utilities.

Service AssuredSM: RPU's underground service repair insurance program offered to qualifying electric and/or water customers.

Stop Valve: A device designed to control the flow of water within a water service or the water distribution system of a building, unit or customer application served.

Tapping Sleeve and Valve: A device designed to connect a water service sized 4" or larger to a water main without removing the water main from service.

Water Main: A pipe, or system of pipes and fittings, used to distribute water from water supply wells to the water service of any customer. Water mains are owned by the City of Rochester and maintained by RPU.

Water Meter: A device designed and used to measure the quantity of water supplied to a customer.

Water Service: The pipe, fittings and devices needed to convey water from a water main (typically underground in a street) to the water distribution system of the building, unit or customer application served (to the water meter). (See Exhibits A, B, C, D and E).

Utility Board: The Rochester Public Utilities Board created by the Home Rule Charter of the City of Rochester, Chapter XV (Utility Board) with authority to operate the municipal water utility owned by the City of Rochester.