

# Dexter Development Company, Inc.

## System Administrative and Operating Rules:

### Water Policy

(Revised: 16 May 2020)

**Applicability:** The following rules are applicable to all residents/customers receiving water from Dexter Development Company Inc. System (referred to as “Dexter”). These administrative and operating rules have been developed to satisfy Federal, State, County and all applicable regulations, provide standardization of service, inform residents/customers of their rights and limitations. Also to identify fees, rates and charges, identify prohibited activities, and most of all, to ensure a safe, reliable source of water and distribution, is provided by Dexter.

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#### **Definitions:**

**Note:** Unless otherwise defined, terms used in these rules have the same definitions as those contained in WAC 246-290-010 of the Washington State Drinking Water Regulations.

**Association.** The entity owning the Dexter water system as represented by the Dexter Water Association Board of Directors.

**Auxiliary Water Supply.** Any water supply to the premises other than the approved Dexter potable water supply and distribution system.

**Backflow Prevention Assembly-Approved.** An assembly that has been listed by the Washington State Department of Health, Drinking Water Program, and so shown on their current listing of approved assemblies.

**Board.** Members of the Dexter Water Association Board, designated representatives or assignees, and also include Dexter Water Distribution System operations personnel that take direction from the Board..

**Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).** The amount of water the average residential home uses in a year; usually stated as a monthly average in metered systems. The term “unit”, “use” and “user” in this definition are synonymous.

**Membership Certificates.** Per Pacific County’s Property Title Assessment document.

**Premises.** A parcel of land and any structures, buildings or improvements.

**Service Charge.** The monthly service charge, often referred to as a “Base Rate”, is incurred by each resident/customer regardless of the amount of water used.

**Water Service.** Dexter property’s access to water system, via property water meter, whether water system is connected or not connected, whether water is used or not used.

**Water Service Area.** That defined area within which the Dexter Water System will supply water service.

**Water System.** All parts of the Dexter water system that supply water to residents/customers including wells, pumps, components and equipment, storage facilities, piping and all appurtenances, structures, treatment facilities, necessary vehicles and equipment and anything required to meet current regulations and standards of operation.

## **Operating Rules**

**1. Purpose.** These operating rules set uniform requirements and guidelines which apply to the Dexter water system, including all supply, storage or distribution facilities and all piping, equipment, appurtenances and back-flow assemblies.

**2. Administration.** Except as otherwise noted, the Dexter Association Board, or their designee, shall administer, implement and enforce the provisions of these operating rules. Appeals of administrative decisions may be made to the Board as noted in Section 11 (b).

**3. Authority.** The Revised Code of Washington and the Washington Administrative Code, most notably WAC 246-290 (Group A Water Systems) allow enforcement and implementation of these rules to provide reliable water service and ensure delivery of safe drinking water.

#### **4. Duty to Serve -- Connection Allowed**

(a) Properties within the designated Dexter Water Distribution System service area, holding association membership, which are not delinquent for payments or assessments of any kind, and having granted reasonable easements, if appropriate, for operations and maintenance of piping and appurtenances in areas deemed the responsibility of the Association, may connect to the water system with appropriate government permits and authorization of the Dexter Association Board.

(b) Connections are premised on one connection per parcel. Should parcels be sub-divided, the property owner may make application for additional connections; however, additional connections may be approved only if excess water capacity to serve exists. "Excess water capacity to serve" means the total number of hookups allowed to the Dexter Water System is greater than the number of parcels which have membership certificates. The Board will consider water rights, future plans, the impact of the applicant's project to the community, and the costs of the project before approving additional hook-ups.

(c) **Properties outside** the Dexter Water Distribution System service area may be connected if excess water system capacity exists, as allowed by the appropriate governmental agencies and the Dexter Board approves the connection.

(d) Appeals to Board decisions may be made in accordance with section 11.

**5. Application for Water Connection -- Procedures.** In the case of new construction, initial application for a building permit is made through Pacific County. Upon verification of a properly executed building permit for new construction, confirmation that all fees, assessments and charges have been paid by the applicant, and that stipulations of Paragraph 4 (above) are satisfied, the Board will authorize the connection to the Dexter Water System. The applicant is to provide all documentation enabling the Board to authorize the connection.

(a) Customers experiencing financial hardship may ask the Board to negotiate a payment schedule, satisfactory to the Board, for repayment of monies due.

(b) Commercial or industrial users will also submit as-built plans, at no charge, to the Board.

(c) An "Availability of Water Service" letter may be requested from the Board, such a letter shall indicate that water service would be available if certain conditions are met. This is an interim procedure, typically shown to financial institutions, that in and by itself, does not authorize service. The applicant must realize there may be an associated administrative cost to process this request.

**6. Service Connections, General Requirements, Responsibilities.** A pre-construction meeting, on-site, with the constructor and appropriate agent of the Board is required for new construction. Placement of lines, construction schedules, inspection criteria and construction standards shall be satisfactorily addressed with the project applicant.

**(a)** Except as provided otherwise, no premises shall be connected to the Dexter Water Distribution System unless there is an adjacent water main.

**(b)** For new construction, the Dexter Board may require individual buildings on any premises to be separately metered.

**(c)** Construction costs of service connections including pipe, labor and fittings, shall be paid by the applicant. Note, a fee associated with the pre-construction service connection on-site meeting as well as other inspections and testing of this connection will apply unless waived by the Board.

**(d)** As a condition of service, all service lines from the water main to the building(s) shall be inspected by a representative of the Board to ensure compliance with existing construction specifications and materials. No part of the water piping, valves, or water meter shall be covered or concealed until it has been tested, inspected and accepted.

**(e)** Unless otherwise approved by the Board, service lines shall run at 90 degrees to the water main with location of the water meter immediately adjacent to the property line either on private property or within the road right of way. Appropriate utility easements for access shall be granted to the Board for those appurtenances under the responsibility of the Board for operations and maintenance.

**(f)** The ownership of all service connections in rights-of-way and utility easements, up to and including water meters, shut-off valves and water meter boxes, shall be vested solely with the Board and the person responsible for the construction of such connections shall relinquish, as a condition of service, all interest in such ownership. All water meters shall be maintained by authorized personnel only. Meters may be removed and replaced as necessary to test or repair. Water meters shall be set properly as per Board recommendations, and of a type established under construction standards, and normally located within the street right-of way at the property line. If located on private property an easement shall be granted the Dexter Water Association.

**(g)** The ownership of the water system beyond the meter, including backflow assembly, shall be vested in the consumer and the operation, maintenance, repair, expansion, and renewal of the system shall be the consumer's responsibility. Property owners/customers shall maintain individual service lines in such a manner as to prevent water loss or contamination hazards. Should the consumer fail to properly maintain their water system (service lines, etc.), Dexter will shut off water to the property until the property owner makes satisfactory repairs; reconnection fees may apply.

**(h)** Violation of the procedures required by these operating rules shall be cause for immediate discontinuance of water service by the Dexter Water System as determined by the discretion of the Board.

## 7. Service Line Construction

(a) Minimum cover for water lines shall be 18 inches generally (ground surface to water line), between the water main meter and the building.

(b) All connections shall be made to the meter stub-out assigned at the time the permit is issued.

(c) All service lines shall be minimum of (3/4) three-quarters of an inch inside diameter of pipe.

(d) All new connections shall have a meter. No service line connection may be made to the meter until that meter has been approved by the Board.

(e) The service line contractor or other person doing the work shall prevent any damage to the meter and Dexter Water System, and shall so conduct trenching operations to prevent the possibility of damage from occurring. Digging under the Dexter Water System is prohibited without Board approval (in writing). Any damage (any and all) to Dexter Water System and/or meter, shall be the sole responsibility of that lot's homeowner to pay for the cost of repair.

(f) The bottom of the trench for service lines must be smooth and free of large rocks which may injure the pipe. Where unsuitable bedding is found, as determined by the Board, the water service line trench shall be over-excavated and suitable bedding installed as follows:

(1) **Soft Foundation:** Over-excavate as directed by the Board and install two and one-half inch maximum rock, sand or gravel.

(2) **Hard Foundation:** Over-excavate a minimum of two inches and install a bedding of three-quarter inch maximum size rock, sand or gravel.

(g) The person doing the work shall carefully remove the plug from the meter stub and shall prevent the entrance of any foreign material into the Dexter Water System. The type of joint to be used to connect to the stub will be described by the Board. Appropriate bedding, as described above, will be hand tamped in a damp condition, around the stub and connection so as to prevent any pressure on the stub. Joints shall be installed in strict compliance with the manufacture's recommendation.

(h) Backfill of the trench shall be done in a manner to prevent damage to the stub, fittings and pipe.

(i) Parallel water and sewer lines shall be laid at least (10) ten feet apart horizontally. Whenever sewer and water lines must cross, they will be laid at as close to 90 degrees as possible and the sewer line shall be located 18 inches below the water line.

(j) The following pipe materials may be used between the meter and house connection: Polyethylene (PE) plastic pipe complying with AWWA C90 1, ASTM specification D-2239 or

equivalent, minimum 160 psi working pressure, iron pipe size and shall be NSF certified for use with potable water systems. All compression fittings shall have a stainless steel insert, be of commonly accepted manufacturer and NSF certified. No “barbed” connections are allowed.

(k) All service lines shall be tested for leakage in the presence of a representative of the Board before backfill. Services shall be tested by first flushing the line, then, by capping the end or ensuring all water taps are closed, checking fittings for leaks using system pressure while ensuring the meter is not turning.

**8. Service Connections--Wholesale Consumers--Requirements.** The Board may authorize wholesale water service, to a community or number of individual users, to be furnished through a common meter, upon finding that service through individual meters is not practical.

(a) Where such service is provided through a common meter, the costs of installation, including the meter, shall be at the expense of the applicant(s).

(b) Where water service is supplied through a common meter, an association, or other entity or person, who is acceptable to the Board, shall be responsible for the rates and charges set forth by the Board

**9. Rates, Charges and Fees** The Board will annually provide a Dexter Rate/Fee Chart. Definitions of these Charges and Fees follow:

(a) **Connection Fees.** The water connection fee for modification and/or new services is as established annually by the Board.

(b) **Backflow Assembly Administration Fee.** Those premises with backflow assemblies shall be assessed an annual fee to recover administrative costs associated with notification of required testing and maintenance of records.

(c) **Reconnection Charge.** A charge shall be made to reconnect water service during the normal workday, if water service was disconnected because of nonpayment. An additional charge will be made to reconnect water service if connection is conducted after normal workday hours.

(d) **Service Charge.** There is an annual water service charge, regardless of the amount and type of water use. Additionally, the State or other regulating agencies may require Dexter to collect a water commodity rate based upon the amount of water used by an individual property.

**10. Payment for Water Services – Responsibility — Due Date -- Nonpayment Penalties - Administrative penalties – Liens and Foreclosures:** The owner of the premises which is provided with a Water Service (See definition pg. 2) shall be responsible for all water charges, fees and penalties accrued until the Board is notified in writing by the that owner, or new owner, that a change of ownership has occurred.

(a) As per Board policy, unless an alternate form of payment has been authorized by the Board.

(b) Bills will become delinquent 30 days after the due date. An additional penalty may be imposed on delinquent accounts (see Dexter Annual Fee Chart). A notification of delinquency will be posted on your property (if applicable) stating water may be shut off after three (3) additional business days unless remedy has been made with the Board.

(c) Those that cause willful destruction or vandalism of any property of the Dexter Water System, shall pay all costs to correct damage or replace equipment damaged as a result of such actions and will be assigned in addition to all other penalties, charges and fees assigned or outstanding. Theft of water and destruction of property are criminal offenses under County and State Laws.

(d) Customers experiencing financial hardship may ask the Board to negotiate a payment schedule, satisfactory to the Board, for repayment of past due charges, penalties and fees.

(e) Checks returned due to insufficient funds may incur a process fee, a fee established annually by the Board.

(f) The Dexter Board may cause a lien to be filed against the property for which service was provided, for unpaid charges, fees and/or penalties that become more than sixty (60) days delinquent, these fees may include interest and penalty charges.

(g) The Dexter Board may cause an additional lien to be filed against the property for which service was provided for unpaid charges, fees and/or penalties that become more than thirty (30) days after service receipt and delinquent following the initial lien. Secondary liens may include fees, interest and penalty charges.

(h) The Dexter Board may cause foreclosure procedures to be initiated against the same property for which service receipt was provided, for unpaid charges, fees and/or penalties thirty (30) days after service when two liens have been filed on the same property and payment or other lien resolution has not been achieved.

## **11. Notice of Violation - Hearings - Right to Appeal - Emergency Action**

(a) **Notice of Violation.** Whenever the Board determines there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of any of these operating rules has occurred, the Board shall give notice to such alleged violation to the person in question. Such notice shall (a) be in writing, (b) include a statement of the reason for its issuance, (c) allow a reasonable time for the performance of any act it requires, (d) be served upon the owner, lessee, or property agent as the case requires, provided that such order is deemed to have been properly served upon such individual when sent by registered mail to their last known address, and (e) contains an outline of remedial action which, if taken, will effect compliance with the provisions of these operating rules.

**(b) Hearings and Right to Appeal:** A person to whom a penalty or other administrative action has been issued or directed may request a review hearing to the Board by submitting a written notice of such request within ten calendar days of the date of penalty or administrative action. The Board shall establish a hearing date and give written notice of the hearing to the appellant at least ten calendar days before such hearing. Such notice shall include the date, time and location and shall be served by registered or certified mail.

**(c) Emergency Requiring Immediate Action:** Whenever the Board finds that an emergency exists which requires immediate action to protect the public health and welfare, the Board may, without notice or hearing, issue an order reciting the existence of such emergency and requiring that action be taken as necessary to meet the emergency and protect the public health, including the termination of water service.

**12. Water Conservation Plan:** The Dexter Water Association has the responsibility to develop and implement a water conservation plan under several Washington State rules but principally under RCW 70.119A.180 (*Water Use Efficiency Requirements*) and WAC 246-290-Part 8 (*Group A Public Water Systems, Water Use Efficiency*).

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has adopted the administrative rules required by RCW 70.119A.180. WAC 246-290-810 allows water system planning documents submitted during the first year of implementation of the Water Use Efficiency Rules to describe existing levels of water use efficiency while implementing the new requirements.

**(a) Existing levels of water use efficiency:** Dexter community property lots are fairly small as compared to surrounding municipalities and part-time residents make up the majority of the Dexter population. These factors, combined with a seaside, cool climate, temper seasonal water use during traditional peak water use time periods. Though properties are metered, water charges will continue to be based upon Dexter Water System source water meter readings. Dexter continually monitors for system leakage and initiates prompt repairs. The recommendation to limit unnecessary water use has been presented officially at the annual general association board meeting. The Board has outlined a Water Conservation Plan as shown below:

### **(b) Water Conservation Plan Objectives**

The objectives of this conservation plan are to describe the rules and procedures to ensure water use efficiency. In doing so, the plan will:

- Protect public health
- Satisfy regulatory requirements
- Save operating and maintenance costs
- Educate our customers on the value of our water
- Ensure our water is not wasted



### (c) Required Elements of the Water Conservation Plan

Achieving water use efficiency requires 3 plan components described as general conservation planning, meeting water distribution leakage standards and reporting. This plan is also a required component of the Dexter Water Association overall water system planning.

#### (1) General Conservation Planning

**(aa) Legal Authority:** In addition to the legal authority implied in the Washington State Revised Codes and Washington Department of Health’s Administrative Codes, the Dexter Water Association Board will establish operating rules to meet the new requirements.

**(bb) Conservation Goals:** The board recognizes that water is a valuable commodity and the wise and efficient use of water is a goal that is in the best interests of our customers. Dexter reviews the goals of the Water Conservation Plan, at a minimum, every 6 years. The following goals apply:

- **Review the rate structure:** Upon establishment of water usage, Dexter may establish water over-use standards.
- **Conduct water use analysis:** The Board will review production data at all routine meetings. Service meter readings, flushing water volumes, other water such as fire department use, and service meter readings will be compared to establish water loss.
- **Educate customers:** The Board will include information on this program and encourage conservation at the annual meeting and periodically will provide this information to all Dexter water system users.
- **Water Use Reduction:** Board will review existing source meter readings to determine where maximum use occurs and the peaking factor against “average” use; assessing information to effect best methods to conserve water.
- **Implementation Schedule:** Once our goals are set, Dexter will develop a schedule to implement the goals.

**(cc) Review and modification of Operating Rules:** Dexter is developing operating rules that encourage the efficient use of water and allow for curtailment of water use which may be reviewed and modified by the Board. A draft proposal is shown below.

**Water Use Restrictions:** Water reduction or curtailment may become mandatory upon a finding by Dexter that conservation measure should be implemented. Depending on the expected severity of the problem it is possible that stage two might be implemented immediately. Requests for public cooperation will be made through direct “mailings”, website postings or other means as

appropriate. The following new rules are under consideration.

### **Stage One (voluntary)**

Request voluntary conservation and compliance with the following restrictions:

- Minimum use of water requested
- No washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, patios, or other paved areas.
- No refilling of swimming pools with water furnished by the water system.
- No washing of cars, other motor vehicles, trailers, or boats.
- No water to be used for dust control.
- No flushing of mains, except to alleviate specific complaints.
- Commercial and industrial users to conserve water as much as possible.
- If, after the initiation of Stage One, weather conditions, expected trends in demand, or other factors indicate that the threat of a shortage will continue, the additional provisions of Stage Two will be implemented.

### **Stage Two (mandatory)**

Stage One restrictions become mandatory and the following restrictions may be added:

- External water use may be prohibited or be restricted to times (Example: odd or even days, morning or evening hours) as determined by Dexter.
- Watering of any lawn, garden, trees, or other plants may be prohibited, except from a hand-held container.
- No use of water from a fire hydrant except for fighting fires.
- Commercial / industrial users to implement water conservation plans and reduce usage as directed by Dexter.

## **(2) Distribution Leakage**

**(aa.) Leak Standard:** The unaccounted water standard is 8% of water produced. This is water that has been pumped from the Dexter water well that has not been metered to customers. It is calculated by comparing the volume of water pumped from our well to the water that has been sold plus water having been used to flush the system and used by authorized personnel such as filling fire trucks. The difference is “unaccounted” water which usually is caused because of leaks, un-authorized use and theft, or inaccurate service meters. To meet and exceed this standard, Dexter will:

- New construction will be required to install meters.
- Source meters will be checked for proper installation and will be calibrated as necessary.
- Customers will be notified of known or suspected leaks on private property.
- Once data has been obtained and analyzed, if the 8% standard has been exceeded, Dexter will begin a leak detection effort and repair the leaks.

### **(3) Reporting**

**(aa.) Annual Reports:** Dexter will collect data and report to DOH the following, as requested:

- Monthly total source production.
- The annual Average Daily Demand (ADD) which is derived by dividing the annual production water by 365 days.
- Unaccounted water by percent and volume.
- The annual use by residential and non-residential customers.
- Progress made in achieving the goals that have been set

**13. Damage to Water System -- Unlawful Acts.** Violations of provisions in this Section shall be cause for charges as described in Section 10, immediate discontinuance of water service and may lead to action in a civil or criminal court.

**(a)** It is prohibited by any person to willfully or recklessly disturb, break, deface or damage any fire hydrant, water meter, valve, water pipe or any appurtenances, together with the buildings, grounds and improvements thereon or in any manner interfere with the proper operation of the water system.

**(b)** It is unlawful for any person who has a water connection to add any water connections or let water off the premises for which connection has been made or supply water for any purpose whatsoever to any other premises.

**(c)** It is unlawful for any person to prevent, by any means, the direct and unannounced access for the purposes of repair, reading, and inspection of any water meter, fire hydrant or any part of the Dexter water system.

**(d)** It is unlawful for any un-authorized person to open or tamper with in any way, fire hydrants.

**14. Access to Premises for Inspection--Procedures.** As a condition of service, owners of premises serviced by the Dexter Water System, agree to allow entry by the Board or designee, upon request and at a reasonable time, to discuss possible hazards to public health, and inspect or perform any duty to ensure compliance with provisions of these operating rules.

**(a)** If the premises are occupied, the Board shall first contact the current resident or owner if the current resident is unavailable, and request entry.

**(b)** If the premises are unoccupied, the Board shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the

owner or other persons having control of the premises and request entry.

(c) If entry is refused, the Board shall have every remedy provided by law to secure entry and, in the interim, may terminate water service.

**15. Interruption of Service--Notification Procedures.** Reasonable attempts to notify all premises affected by interruptions of water service shall be made and such interruptions shall be kept to a minimum.

(a) Water service may be interrupted without notification to make emergency repairs, to protect the public health, or for safety considerations.

(b) Interruptions for routine maintenance or repairs, line extensions or service connections shall be scheduled to provide a minimum of one working day's notice to all affected premises and at such time to minimize inconvenience to customers.

(c) If a water billing is at least thirty days delinquent, notice of interruption of water service shall be mailed to the owner and posted at the premises. Seven days after notification by registered mail, water service shall be discontinued.

**16. Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention.**

**(a) Definitions.**

**ACRONYMS:**

<b><u>AG</u></b>	Air Gap
<b><u>AVB</u></b>	Air Vacuum Breaker
<b><u>DCVA</u></b>	Double Check-Valve Assembly
<b><u>PVB</u></b>	Pressure Vacuum Breaker
<b><u>RPBA</u></b>	Reduced Pressure Zone Backflow Assembly
<b><u>Board</u></b>	Tribal Water and Sewer Program

- (1) **Air Gap (AG).** "AG" is a physical separation sufficient to prevent backflow between the free-flowing discharge end of the potable water system and any other surface. "AG" is physically defined as a distance from the overflow rim of a receiving vessel to the discharge pipe of at least twice the diameter of the discharge pipe, but never less than one inch.
- (2) **Approved.** Accepted by the Board as meeting all applicable specifications cited by program references, and current industry standards and practices.
- (3) **Atmosphere Vacuum Breaker (AVB).** "AVB" is a device that only prevents back-siphonage by creating an atmospheric vent when there is negative pressure in the water

distribution system.

- (4) **Auxiliary Water Supply.** Any water supply to the premises other than the water system's approved public potable water supply.
- (5) **Backflow.** The flow of water, mixtures, substances, or gases into the distribution system of the potable water supply from any source other than the original water source.
- (6) **Back Pressure.** Any increase in pressure above supply pressure, at a given point in the water distribution system (caused by pump, elevation of piping, heat expansion, and/or air pressure) which would cause or tend to cause backflow.
- (7) **Backflow Prevention Assembly-Approved.** An assembly that has been listed by the Washington State Department of Health, Drinking Water Program, and so shown on their current listing of approved assemblies.
- (8) **Back Siphonage.** The flow of water, mixtures, substances, or gases into the potable water distribution system resulting from a partial vacuum (reduced pressure) within the system itself.
- (9) **Contaminant.** A substance that will impair the quality of water to a degree that it will create a health hazard to the public leading to poisoning, the spread of disease or violation of water quality standards.
- (10) **Cross-Connection.** An actual or potential physical arrangement connecting a public water system, directly or indirectly, with anything other than another potable water system, and capable of contaminating the public water system.
- (11) **Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA).** An assembly with two independently acting approved check valves, including tightly closing shut-off valves at each end of the assembly and fitted with properly located test cocks. This assembly may only be used to protect against non-health hazards and must be purchased as a complete assembly.
- (12) **Water Board.** Shall mean the managerial, clerical or operational personnel concerned with the day-to-day direction or operation of the Dexter Water System.
- (13) **Owner.** Any person who has legal title to, or license to operate a property which is served by the water system.
- (14) **Premises.** A parcel of land and any structures, buildings or improvements thereon.
- (15) **Premises Isolation.** The practice of protecting the potable water supply by installing appropriate approved backflow assemblies at or near the point water enters the premises. This type of protection does not provide protection to personnel on the

premises.

- (16) **Pressure Vacuum Breaker Assembly (PVB).** An approved assembly consisting of a spring loaded check valve loaded to the closed position with an independently operating air inlet valve loaded to the open position, and installed as a unit between two shut off valves with suitable test cocks. Unit must be used for non-health hazards and only protects against back siphonage.
- (17) **Reduced Pressure Backflow Assembly (RPBA).** An approved assembly consisting of two independently operating check-valves with an automatically operating pressure differential relief valve installed between the two. Unit shall be purchased as a complete assembly with two shut off valves and suitable test cocks. This assembly may be used to protect a potable water source against health hazards.
- (18) **Water System.** All parts of a system that supplies water to customers including wells, pumps, components and equipment, storage facilities, piping and all appurtenances, structures, treatment facilities, necessary vehicles and equipment and anything required to meet current regulations and standards of operation.

**(b) Purpose and references.** This program is adopted by Resolution of the Board and provides requirements to prevent actual or potential cross-connections, and defines the degree of protection necessary when such cross-connections cannot be eliminated. The following references are the basis for this program:

- (1) **Washington Administrative Code 246-290-490:** Establishes requirement for cross-connection control program for Group A water systems and allows disconnection of service.
- (2) **Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 70.54:** Establishes failure to furnish pure water as a criminal misdemeanor.
- (3) **International Plumbing Code:** Describes water distribution systems and cross-connection control provisions.

**(c) General Rules.** No cross-connections or potential cross-connections shall be created, used or maintained within the Dexter Water System unless protected by an approved backflow assembly commensurate with the hazard.

(1) The Dexter Water System, under direction of the Board, is the water purveyor and has legal rights to protect the public health. Water service shall be terminated immediately, if the Board determines at any time a threat exists to the public health.

(aa) **As a condition of water service,** and after reasonable notice, owners shall allow all properties to be inspected for potential cross-connections and shall follow the

requirements of this program if a cross-connection or potential cross-connection is found.

**(bb)** Approved backflow assemblies, if required, shall be installed, at the expense of the owner, at the service connection (premises isolation) or, in limited cases, within the premises as determined by the Board.

**(cc)** A Reduced Pressure Zone Backflow Assembly (RPBA) shall be installed at the service connection to the premises, at the expense of the owner, in an approved installation, if the owner wishes to preclude inspections.

**(2)** The most common sources of cross-connections in residential settings are on-site wells, water troughs, swimming pools, ponds, fountains, and lawn irrigation systems.

**(aa)** Leaving a hose pressurized or using a hose bib to provide water to trailers/campers or to fill any kind of tank, also allows for potential contamination. These types of activities must be isolated from the potable water system, either by air-gap (ensuring the end of the hose is not submerged in any tank or vessel), or approved backflow assembly.

**(bb)** All irrigation and lawn sprinkler systems shall have, as a minimum, Air Vacuum Breaker (AVB) protection. Increased protection may be required for unusual or complex systems.

**(cc) On-Site Wells:** Costs to properly abandon wells will be borne by the property owner.

**(i)** On-site wells constructed under permit stating they must be abandoned when water service is available, shall be abandoned as specified in the permit.

**(ii)** Wells that are identified by the County or the Board as being a health hazard due to previous sampling history, improper setback from septic drain-fields or other obvious health risks will be abandoned.

**(iii)** On-site wells that meet current standards, are deemed useable, and the owner does not wish to abandon, will be allowed. If the owner wishes to maintain a connection to the Dexter Water System, the premises will be isolated by an approved backflow assembly (RPBA), enclosed in an approved vault or housing to allow discharge to daylight and preventing freezing, at the owners expense. Additional expenses to maintain records of the assembly will be charged as stated in the rate schedule.

**(3)** The Board shall ensure that plans for all new construction are reviewed, and cross-connection hazard inspections are performed prior to water system connection, and will inform the owner of required or recommended corrections for the prevention of cross-connections. The homeowner or business owner shall pay inspection costs, which are included in the connection fee.

(4) The Board will develop an information flyer, which will provide information on cross connections. This will be given to new customers and will be included in the annual Consumer Confidence Report mailing.

(5) The Board will utilize a Cross Connection Control Specialist (CCS) to implement this program and provide technical assistance, as necessary. The CCS will coordinate with Local Administrative Authority (ies) (LAA), such as building or fire code officials, as necessary; to ensure water system policy and rules compliments the Uniform Plumbing Code, and other local requirements. The LAA will be notified *prior* to disconnecting water service to a customer's premises for failure to perform "corrective action" for hazards inside property buildings, except in the event of an emergency.

(6) Backflow assemblies will be inspected and tested annually in accordance with current practice by a certified Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT). Records indicating the location, type, serial number, and hazard protected, and all required Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) inspection data will be maintained.

(7) Should a backflow incident occur, the Board will take immediate action to prevent further hazard to public health, and will notify the community, local authorities as appropriate, and the CCS, immediately.

(8) The Board will re-evaluate potential cross-connection hazards and conduct a system assessment from time to time, but not less than every two years, and when change of use of water occurs.