

General Information

Water Districts

Johnston County Public Utilities

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Water Districts are established by the Johnston County Board of Commissioners in response to local citizens' requests for an alternative to water supplied by individual and private community well systems. This action follows meetings with community leaders and residents and a public hearing held by the Johnston County Board of Commissioners.

Rural water districts may obtain loan and possibly grant funds from U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD, formerly called Farmer's Home Administration) for water supply projects if a majority of residents agree to purchase water from the system. Participation makes the development of a water service system economically feasible for all local residents. The cost of the system to local residents is dependent on the location and distribution of customers within the Water District. There is no guarantee of funding from the federal government for these projects.

Participation in a Water District is entirely optional. Assuming that a majority of residents agree to participate in the Water District, water service could possibly be available 3-4 years after the district is established.

SIGN- UP FEES

During the Canvassing Phase of district formation, residents can purchase a service tap for the incentive rate of \$150 per tap. After the canvassing period deadline, a date set by the Board of Commissioners, the tap fee increases to \$600 per tap. When construction of the water district is substantially complete, the tap fee increases to the standard Johnston County rate, currently \$1,355 per tap (includes \$50 deposit). **Tap fees are non-refundable unless a water line is not installed within the right-of-way of the road adjacent to the property.**

The tap fees of \$150 and \$600 are for a residential, ¾" service tap. There are additional costs for larger taps based on the bid prices from the district's construction contractor. During the canvassing period, residents can sign up for \$150 and request a larger tap. They will be billed later according to the difference between the bid price for the ¾" tap and the bid price for the upsized tap.

Landowners with more than one property or residence can purchase more than one service tap. For location purposes, they should provide separate addresses for each or a Tax Parcel Identification number for each property (located on property tax statements).

We encourage residents to sign up during the canvassing phase so that we can begin applying for available federal funds. Service taps are far less costly to install during construction than after construction is completed.

MOBILE HOME PARKS

A tap fee must be collected for each mobile home site in the park to apply for service.

INITIAL SERVICE AREA

A signed agreement and payment of the tap fee do not guarantee that you will receive water service to your residence or business. The roads along which water lines will be constructed are determined by hydraulic and economic analyses based on the number and location of landowners who contract to purchase water. Only residents and businesses on these roads will have water service available to them initially.

If several landowners in an area agree to purchase water, the probability is greater that water will be provided to that area. Pipeline extensions are likely during construction if funds are available and if additional landowners purchase service taps. An average of 20 taps per mile is typically required for pipeline extensions.

Any road within the water district boundaries is eligible for water service. Utility easements may be required for private streets prior to pipeline construction.

Landowners who purchase taps on road segments where a pipeline is not constructed will have the option of receiving a refund or leaving the fee with the District for possible service in the future.

LANDOWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Assuming there are enough sign-ups on a road segment to justify water line installation, the water district will provide a water service tap and water meter for each connection at the edge of the public road right-of-way. **It will be the resident's responsibility to provide and pay for piping from the residence or business to the water meter.** Local plumbers may be contacted for pricing of extending the service line from the meter to the house or business plumbing system. A plumbing permit will be required from the Johnston County Inspections Department. You can contact the Inspections Department (Land Use Center, 309 E. Market Street, 919-989-5060) for State Plumbing Code requirements.

PLUMBING PERMIT & DEPOSIT POLICY

After waterline construction is complete for your property, you will receive notification by mail that the system is ready for use. At this time you will make application with Johnston County Public Utilities which currently requires a \$50 deposit for all new water utility accounts. The deposit is refunded after 12 months of prompt bill payment. We will waive the \$50 deposit if you provide a letter of credit from another utility company (e.g. CP&L or Progress Energy) explaining your exemplary payment history over the past 12 months.

Once you establish your utility account, you can apply to the Johnston County Inspections Department for a permit for plumbing your service line from the service tap to your residence.

MONTHLY CHARGES

The base monthly service fee for all water districts is \$15.00 per month for ¾" and 1" service taps. **The base monthly service fee is higher for 1.5" and 2" taps (see County Water and Sewer Service Policies for current rate schedule).** If you have a ¾" or 1" service tap, your monthly bill will consist of the following charges:

$$\text{Base service fee of } \$15.00 + \$2.95 \text{ per 1,000 gallons of water used} = \text{Total Bill}$$

Water usage will vary and will be determined by a monthly meter reading. *The usage fee is administered by the Johnston County Board of Commissioners and is subject to change.* **If you purchase a service tap and elect to continue using your private well in lieu of connecting the tap to your plumbing system, you will receive a bill and will be obligated to pay the monthly base service fee of \$15.00 per month.** Billing will not begin until the pipeline has been constructed and tested. You will be notified by mail when the system is ready for use. You will receive the first bill approximately one month later.

EASEMENTS

The majority of water pipelines will be installed in the road rights-of-way. Easements across private properties will be minimal. In the few cases where pipelines are required outside the road rights-of-way, all efforts will be made to follow property lines for pipeline routes. The majority of situations where easements are required involve crossing of streams outside and around the ends of road culverts and bridges along private roads (roads not maintained by the N.C. Department of Transportation).

If your property does not front the State road right-of way, you will be required to provide the water district with a recorded copy of a utility easement giving you permission to install your service line across another landowner's property. Existing property deeds may already include a utility easement; if not, it is the landowner's responsibility to acquire the easement, record it at the Johnston County Register of Deeds, and provide a copy to the water district office. Such an easement protects your access to the water meter and allows you to maintain the service line.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Fire hydrants placed throughout the District could result in lower homeowners insurance premiums for residents. You may wish to contact your insurance agent for further details. Hydrants are typically spaced an average of approximately 2500 feet apart. Spacing is typically closer in more densely populated areas of the District. **Due to funding limits, the District cannot install fire hydrants in the vicinity of all houses and businesses.**

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied from Johnston County's surface water treatment plant in Wilson's Mills and/or is purchased from the Town of Smithfield. The finished water distributed from the County and Town plants meet all standards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. It is continuously tested at the plants to ensure that high quality is achieved. In addition, samples from extreme ends of the District are tested periodically to ensure quality throughout the system.

USE OF PRIVATE WELL

Continued use of your private well is encouraged. You must completely disconnect the well from the residence or structure to comply with State regulations, but ask a licensed plumber how to retain spigots for outdoor use.