

MULTI DWELLING WATER METER POLICY

Purpose

To effectively monitor water consumption by individual residents and commercial rental spaces in multi-dwelling properties, New Prague Utilities (NPU) mandates the installation of individual water meters in all such units. This policy facilitates precise billing, accurate sewer charge calculations, and aids in leak detection.

Purchase of Meters

All individual and irrigation water meters must be purchased as part of the building permit process at rates specified in the official City of New Prague Fee Schedule, available on the City's website at www.ci.new-prague.mn.us.

Deposit Requirements

Owners or builders of multi-dwelling or commercial rental spaces must provide NPU with the addresses of these units and a deposit for the building and irrigation services. Each individual dwelling unit requires a deposit when applying for utility services. Failure to meet the deposit requirements will delay service activation. The deposit earns interest at a rate established by MN Statutes Section 325E.02 (b). After 24 consecutive months without penalties, the deposit plus interest will be credited to the account. If the service is terminated, the deposit and accrued interest will be applied to any outstanding balances owed to NPU or the City of New Prague. Any remaining amount will be refunded within 45 days. Deposits are non-transferable and only payable to the original applicant.

Meter Accessibility

Customers and facility owners must ensure that water meters are accessible for reading and maintenance.

Meter Testing

If a property owner believes a bill is excessive, they can request a meter reread. If still dissatisfied, the owner can request a meter test by a certified company, with a deposit covering the test cost. If the meter is found to be inaccurate by more than five percent in favor of the Utility, the deposit will be refunded, a new meter installed, and the bill adjusted accordingly. The adjustment will not cover more than one service period prior to the request date. If the meter is accurate, the deposit is forfeited.

Landlord and Tenant Responsibilities

NPU considers the individual who completes the "Application for Utility Service" and assumes payment

responsibility as the customer. Services continue until the customer requests discontinuation or fails to adhere to service regulations. Upon service discontinuation, if no new arrangement is made, the service will transfer to the landlord's name. Landlords are responsible for unpaid sewer, water, and refuse bills, which will be assessed according to the "Collection of Delinquent Accounts" in NPU service policy.

Ownership of Service Lines and Meters

All water meters even though they are purchased by the facility owner are the property of New Prague Utilities.

Water Service Lines

Water connections and lines from the City's water mains are considered private and belong to the property owner, who is responsible for their maintenance as outlined in the City's code of ordinances.

Sewer Service Lines

Sewer connections and lines from the City's sewer mains are considered private and belong to the property owner, who is responsible for their maintenance as outlined in the City's code of ordinances.

Right of Entry/Access

NPU has the right to enter private property, including buildings and dwellings, for inspecting and repairing meters, reading utility meters or systems, and connecting or disconnecting service.