

Iredell Water Corporation

Irrigation Meter Policy

Irrigation Meter Requirement

All new in-ground irrigation systems installed after approval of this Policy, that will be supplied water from the Iredell Water Corporation or Wayside Estates water systems shall be independently connected to the system and water consumption shall be measured through a separate irrigation meter.

Background on Policy

In 2008 the General Assembly of North Carolina passed House Bill 2499.

“AN ACT TO IMPROVE DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN NORTH CAROLINA, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.”

SECTION 9.

"§ 143-355.4. Water system efficiency.

- (a) Local government water systems and large community water systems shall require separate meters for new in-ground irrigation systems that are connected to their systems.

This bill required Iredell Water Corporation to implement this Policy beginning July 1st, 2009.

Methods of Connection

An irrigation service line may be installed by a direct tap into the main (dedicated tap) or by a split line off the non-irrigation (domestic) service line at a point between the main and the non-irrigation meter (split tap). Either method of connection shall be performed by Iredell Water Corporation only.

Customers (members) will be required to pay for all fees before any taps are performed. Customer will also be required to pay the current monthly minimum and rate for any water used or are subject to have both irrigation and domestic water supplies disconnected for non-payment.

Technical and Other Requirements

An irrigation service line, the irrigation meter and all related appurtenances shall be installed in accordance with the same regulations, policies and procedures that apply to non-irrigation meters, with exception that all irrigation meters shall have an approved above ground Reduced Pressure Zone backflow preventer installed on the line after the meter and before any yard hydrants, control valves, tees, etc. This backflow device will be installed, maintained, and tested yearly at the customer's expense per NC DENR Public Water Supply Guidelines for Cross Connection Control in Water Distribution Systems.

All new in-ground irrigations systems shall have installed, and must maintain and operate programmable controllers that adjust irrigation frequency and intensity. Also any new in-ground irrigation system shall have installed, and must maintain and operate, a rain sensor device or switch that will override the irrigation cycle of the sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred. Both of these requirements will conserve water, save the customer money, reduce wear on the system, and reduce damage to the health of the landscaping by avoiding unnecessary irrigation cycles.

This Policy was approved at the September 1st, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors.