

## SECTION 4: RATES AND SERVICE FEES

Unless specifically defined in this Tariff, all fees, rates and charges as herein stated shall be non-refundable.

### 4.1 Service Investigation Fee

The Corporation shall conduct a service investigation for each service application submitted at the Corporation office. An initial determination shall be made by the Corporation, without charge, as to whether the service request is Standard or Non-Standard. An investigation shall then be conducted and the results reported under the following terms:

- 4.1.1 All Standard Service requests shall be investigated without charge and all applicable costs for providing service shall be quoted in writing to the Applicant within ten (10) working days of application.
- 4.1.2 All Non-Standard Service requests shall be subject to a fee, appropriate to each project, of sufficient amount to cover all administrative, legal, and engineering fees associated with an investigation of the Corporation's ability to deliver service to the Applicant. The fee will be determined by all cost required in order for the Corporation to deliver:
  - 4.1.2.1 cost estimates of the project,
  - 4.1.2.2 detailed plans and specifications as per final plat,
  - 4.1.2.3 bid proposals,
  - 4.1.2.4 a Non-Standard Service Contract to the Applicant, and
  - 4.1.2.5 to provide other services as required by the Corporation for such investigation. A Non-Standard Service Contract shall be presented to the Applicant within a suitable amount of time as determined by the complexity of the project. (See Section 6.)

### 4.2 Membership Fee

At the time the application for service is approved, a Membership Fee must be paid for each service requested before service shall be provided or reserved for the Applicant by the Corporation. This fee is partially refundable(see 5.7)

- 4.2.1 The Membership Fee for water service is \$100.00 for each service unit.
- 4.2.2 Membership fee for oversized or Master Metered Accounts shall be based on multiples of meter size equivalence or actual connections served.

### 4.3 Easement Fee

When the Corporation determines that private right-of-way easements and/or facilities sites are necessary to provide service to the Applicant, the Applicant shall be required to make good faith efforts to secure easements in behalf of the Corporation and/or pay all costs incurred by the Corporation in validating, clearing, and retaining such right-of-way in addition to tap fees otherwise required pursuant to the provisions of this Tariff. The costs may include all legal fees and expenses necessary to attempt to secure such right-of-way and/or facilities sites in behalf of the Applicant.

### 4.4 Installation Fee

The Corporation shall charge an installation fee for service as follows:

- 4.4.1** Standard Service shall include all current labor, materials, engineering, legal, customer service inspection, and administrative costs necessary to provide individual metered water service thru a 5/8" X 3/4" meter. The cost of Standard Service is \$625.00 consisting of the following

4.4.1.1	Materials	\$800.00
4.4.1.2	Labor	\$222.50
4.4.1.3	Administrative	\$ 65.00

- 4.4.2** Non-Standard Service shall include any and all construction labor and materials, inspection, administration, legal, and engineering fees, as determined by the Corporation under the rules of Section 6 of this Tariff. Non-Standard Service would also include all costs of any pipeline relocations as per Section 5.3.4 of this Tariff or other system improvements.

- 4.4.3** Reset/Re-service fee (see 5.4.2)

4.4.3.1 A meter/property for which the Equity Buy-In Fee was paid in full or is not applicable will be charged the lesser of:

- 4.4.3.1.1 ½ of the Equity Buy-In Fee; OR  
 4.4.3.1.2 \$20.00/month for each month out of service.

4.4.3.2 A meter/property for which the equity buy in fee was not paid in full will not be considered a Reset/Re-service and will be charged the greater of:

- 4.4.3.2.1 the remaining balance of the Equity Buy-In Fee; OR  
 4.4.3.2.2 \$20.00/month for each month out of service up to ½ of the Equity Buy- In Fee.

**4.5 Equity Buy-In Fee**

4.5.1 Each Applicant shall be required to achieve parity with the contributions to the construction of the Corporation’s facilities and capacity that have been made previously by existing members. The Equity Buy-In Fee will be applied to all Standard and Non-Standard Service installations. It will not be applied to a Reset/Re-service. The base fee is \$2,032.50. The fee is graduated based on the size of the meter.

4.5.2 The actual fee is determined by multiplying the base fee by the AWWA equivalent units associated with a particular size of meter as follows:

Meter Size	AWWA Equivalent Units
5/8" X 3/4"	1
3/4"	1.5
1"	2.5
1.5"	5
2"	8
Etc.	Etc.

4.5.3 The Equity Buy-In Fee may be paid in installments. The number of installments will not exceed 24. The installments may be paid by a renter with an alternative billing arrangement with the permission of the land owner. Installment plans are non-transferable. Any remaining balance must be paid before the membership is transferred, or the transferee must enter into a separate installment plan. Until the Equity Buy-In Fee is paid in full, a meter/property is not eligible for service as a Reset/Re-service should service be stopped and restarted.(See 4.4.3.2)"

**4.6 Rates**

**4.6.1** Service Availability or Minimum charge. This is the monthly charge for metered water service which is based on demand.

Meter Size	Charge
5/8" X 3/4"	\$40.00
1"	\$57.50
1.5"	\$70.00
2"	\$107.50

**4.6.2** Gallonage charge for users \$0.00 per thousand for 2,000 gals or less  
 \$15.00 per thousand for 2,001 - 20,000 gals  
 \$16.50 per thousand for all over 20,000 gals

**4.6.3** Customer Notice Provisions. The Corporation shall give written notice of monthly rate changes by mail or hand delivery to all consumers at least 30 days prior to the effective date of the new rate. The notice shall contain the old rates, new rates,

effective date of the new rate, date of Board authorization, and the name and phone number of the Corporation's contact person designated to address inquiries about the rate change.

**4.6.4 Dry Tap** (see definition, 1.9)      \$20.00/month

#### **4.7 Late Payment Fee**

**4.7.1** The Corporation shall charge a \$2.50 late fee. This fee will be applied to any payment received after 4pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, except when the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, in which case the deadline will be extended to 4pm on the next business day.

**4.7.2** Any extensions beyond the date established as the service disconnection date are subject to a \$10.00 processing fee at the discretion of the Corporation.

**4.7.3** If any unauthorized balance is carried over to the next month, 5 percent of that balance will be charged to the account. Any account carrying over an unauthorized balance which is not paid within 90 days is subject to disconnection.

#### **4.8 Service Charges**

**4.8.1** Reconnect Fee – After water service has been discontinued for non-payment or for violation of any of the Corporations Rules and Regulations, in order to restore service the member must pay all charges due on the account, including: service availability charges, gallonage charges, penalties, service fees, late fees, disconnection fees, returned check fees, tampering fees, and any outstanding balance if on a deferred payment plan. Normally, reconnections will only be performed during normal business hours. However, the Corporation may re-connect a meter during non-business hours if requested by a member at the discretion of the Corporation. There will be an additional charge of \$100.00. In order to restore service. The member must agree to pay all charges due on the account by noon on the next business day.

**4.8.2** Service Trip Fee – The Corporation shall charge a trip fee of \$25.00 for any service call or trip to the Member's tap as a result of a request by the Member or resident (unless the service call is in response to damage of the Corporation's or another Member's facilities)

**4.8.3** Disconnection Fee - A \$25.00 fee for disconnection will be charged to members requesting disconnection only or membership liquidation. Normally, disconnections will only be performed during normal business hours. The Corporation may disconnect a meter during non-business hours if requested by a member at the discretion of the Corporation. For non-emergency, non-business hours disconnections at the request of the member, there will be an additional charge of \$100.00. (see also 5.20)

**4.8.3.1** Should the corporation initiate the disconnection due to non-payment or rule

violations, the member will be charged a \$50.00 fee.

**4.8.3.2** The disconnection fee will be assessed against any delinquent account appearing on the disconnect list. (Except Dry Taps) An account is automatically added to the disconnect list if not paid by 4pm on the 25th, except when the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday in which case the deadline will be extended to 4pm on the next business day (unless arrangements have been made prior to 4pm on the 25th to receive a payment extension).

**4.8.3.3** If a member stops the employee at the member's meter before the meter has been locked or removed and agrees to pay the bill the applicable disconnection fee will still be due. All charges due the corporation must be paid at the office by noon the next day or employees will return to the location and discontinue service.

#### **4.9 Returned Check Fee**

The Corporation shall charge a \$30.00 returned check fee on all checks returned to the Corporation by a Financial Institute for any reason.

#### **4.10 Tampering/Equipment Damage Fee**

If the Corporation's facilities or equipment have been damaged by tampering, by-passing, installing unauthorized taps, reconnecting service without authority, or other service diversion, a fee of \$65.00 plus the actual costs for all labor, material, and equipment necessary for repair, replacement, and other Corporation actions shall be charged. This fee shall be charged and paid before service is re-established. All components of this fee will be itemized, and a statement shall be provided to the Member. If the Corporation's facilities or equipment have been damaged due to negligence or unauthorized use of the Corporation's equipment, right-of-way, or meter shut-off valve, or due to other acts for which the Corporation incurs losses or damages, the Member shall be liable for all labor and material charges incurred as a result of said acts or negligence. Any charges resulting from damage will be charged to the Member's account (See paragraph 5.28)

#### **4.11 Assessments**

If at the end of the fiscal year, or in the event of emergency repairs, the Board of Directors determines the total amount derived from the collection of water or wastewater charges to be insufficient for the payment of all costs incident to the operation of the Corporation's system during the year in which such charges are collected, the Board shall make and levy an assessment against each Member of the Corporation as the Board may determine or as may be required by Rural Development, so that the sum of such assessments and the amount collected from water and other charges is sufficient to fully pay all costs of the operation,

maintenance, replacement and repayment on indebtedness for the year's operations. (Article XVIII of Bylaws, Section 1.)

#### **4.12 Meter Test Fee**

The corporation shall test a Member's meter upon written request of the Member. A meter testing fee of \$100.00 will be charged to the account if the meter is found to be under registering, or within AWWA standards. (See 5.26 and 5.27)

**4.13 Recorded Deed Deposit** If the recorded deed is not available in a timely manner, applicant may enter into a Recorded Deed Delivery Agreement at the discretion of the Corporation. A fully refundable \$75.00 deposit is required as a consideration for entering into the agreement.

**4.14 Delinquent Dry Tap Fee.** A fee of \$5.00 will be assessed on any "Dry Tap" not paid by the 22nd of the month, except when the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, in which case the deadline will be extended to 4pm on the next business day.

**4.15 Customer Service Inspection Fee.** If the inspection is contracted by Central Bowie County WSC, the applicant/member will be charged a fee equal to the fee charged by the contractor.

**4.16 Water Sample Fee.** In the event that new facilities must be constructed in order to provide water service, one or more water samples must be taken before the facilities can be placed into service. The applicant/member will be charged a fee equal to the fee charged by the Laboratory.

**4.17 Easement Filing Fee.** When an easement(s) is(are) required to provide service, the applicant/member will be charged a fee equal to the fee charged by the County Clerk for recording the document(s) in the official county records.

**4.18 Locate Fee:** When other underground utilities have to be located through the Texas 811 system the applicant/member will be charged a fee of \$20.00.

**4.19 Permit Fee(administrative):** When a state or county permit is required in order to provide service, the applicant/member will be charged a fee of \$30.00.

**4.20 Permit Fee(engineering):** In the event that outside engineering/surveying is required in order to obtain service, the applicant/member will be charged a fee equal to the fee charged by the engineer/surveyor.

**4.21 Customer History Fee:** Should a customer request information and or documents requiring research a fee of \$30.00 which includes the first hour of research. Additional hours will be billed at \$20.00 per hour. Copies are \$2.00 per page.