

Policy Title:		Deduct and Irrigation-Only Meter Policy	
	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Category	Billing
		Administrative Policy #	____-FIN-Deduct Meter Policy
		Revision #	N/A
		Review Frequency	One year from date implemented.
Administrative Division	Billing	Reviewed By	Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Billing Manager, Meter Operations Manager
BOWC Approval		Last Reviewed/Update Date	
Implementation Date		Resolution #	

1. AUTHORITY

- 1.1. The City of Detroit is expressly authorized to operate a water and sewer system and to bill for services rendered under numerous laws, ordinances, and charter provisions (e.g., Michigan Constitution, Article VII, Section 24; MCL 117.4a (4)(j); MCL 117.4b(2); MCL 117.4e; MCL 117.4f; MCL 117.5e; MCL 117.35; Chapter 35, Section 7-1501, et seq of the 1997 Detroit Home Rule Charter, and Chapter 56 of the Detroit City Code).
- 1.2. Under Michigan Act 178 of 1939, *Municipal Water Liens* (MCL 123.161, *et seq.*) “the Water Lien Act”) and Chapter 56, *Utilities*, of the Detroit City Code (“City Code”), Detroit Water and Sewerage (“DWSD”) provides water and sewerage service to customers and under certain conditions, has a lien that becomes effective immediately upon the distribution of water or provision of water and sewerage system service on the premises or property supplied. Further, water and sewerage service may be discontinued for nonpayment of charges and/or civil collection action may be filed.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. To set forth policies and procedures for all non-residential Customers who want to (a) install a Deduct or Irrigation-Only Meter; and/or (b) maintain a separate irrigation service line used solely for irrigation or other outdoor, non-sewer discharging purposes.

3. PURPOSE

- 3.1. Many Customers produce bottled drinking products or utilize water for other commercial uses or choose to irrigate lawns and gardens thoroughly and routinely. Detroit’s current sewage billing practice applies the sewage rate to every gallon of potable water that passes through the property’s water meter. This creates a perceived or real inequity for non-domestic water users as it does not provide consideration for water that primarily is absorbed by the processes or vegetation such as grass and landscaping, rather than entering the sewage disposal system.

- 3.2. This will serve as a policy to address water consumption that is not entering Detroit's combined sewer system and eliminates or reduces sewage costs associated with such usage. Similarly, customers who maintain a separate irrigation meter and service line used solely for lawn or landscape irrigation shall be treated consistently under this policy, as such usage does not contribute flow to the sewerage system.

4. DEFINITIONS

“Applicant” and “Account Owner” mean a Property Owner who wants to install a Deduct Meter for non-domestic water usage.

“Backflow Prevention Device” means a device which prevents the domestic primary water service and the public water supply from contamination or pollution due to backflow. Backflow occurs where there is a loss of system pressure.

“Deduct Meter” means a meter requested by a Property Owner who wishes to separate water usage into (a) domestic use and (b) non-domestic water use. Customers may do so with the installation of a second (deduct) meter downstream of an existing or proposed domestic meter.

“Deduct Meter Service Account” means the DWSD billing arrangement associated with a Deduct Meter. Consumption recorded on the Deduct Meter is consolidated and billed under the corresponding domestic Primary Water Meter Account unless otherwise required by DWSD. A separate account is established only for Irrigation-Only Meters.

“Domestic Primary Water Meter” means a device installed on the water service line connected to the DWSD water supply system. This device measures water consumption.

“Domestic Water Use” means water used for indoor purposes such as drinking, food preparation, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and flushing toilets.

“EnQuesta” refers to the customer information system utilized by DWSD.

“Irrigation-Only Meter” means a DWSD meter connected to a dedicated service line that supplies water solely for irrigation, landscaping, or other outdoor purposes, and that is not hydraulically connected to any domestic plumbing system or sewer fixture; it measures water consumption that does not enter the DWSD sewer system and is billed at the applicable water rate only.

“Irrigation-Only Service Account” means a DWSD account associated with a dedicated meter and service line used solely for irrigation, landscaping, or other outdoor purposes, and not connected to a Domestic Primary Water Meter Account, plumbing system, or sanitary system.

“Meter Interface Unit (MIU)” means a device which records and transmits the water usage to the DWSD.

“Non-Domestic Water Use” means water used to produce goods; or to irrigate lawns and gardens or other agricultural purpose.

“Owner” means the person that holds legal title to a property.

“Parcel” means a plot of land identified by the City of Detroit Assessor with a unique identification number or "parcel number."

“Property” means a parcel or group of parcels treated as one unit for purposes of obtaining water and sewerage service.

“Sewerage” means a combination of the water-carried wastes from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, and storm waters as may be present.

5. SCOPE

- 5.1. This policy applies to non-residential Customers who either (a) seek a Deduct Meter for non-domestic water usage; or (b) maintain a separately-metered irrigation service line used solely for irrigation or other outdoor purposes. DWSD Residential Customers receive the benefit of Average Winter Consumption for sewer charges which eliminate any sewer charges associated with summer irrigation usage.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1. Applicants and Customers

6.1.1. Abides by the DWSD Terms and Conditions for Deduct Meters and this Policy.

6.1.2. Provides the appropriate metering equipment at the Customer’s cost.

Customers maintaining Irrigation-Only Service Accounts must annually certify that the account serves irrigation or outdoor uses only and is in compliance with the City of Detroit Cross Connection Ordinance. A Cross Connection is an arrangement of piping which could allow undesirable water, chemicals or bacteria to enter the potable water system as a result of backflow due to a back pressure or back siphoning situation.

6.2. DWSD

6.2.1. Reviews this policy after one (1) year.

7. POLICY

7.1. Applying for Deduct or Irrigation-Only Meter Service Account

7.1.1. All Customers may apply for a Deduct Meter Service Account.

7.1.2. Applicant must obtain a Permit from DWSD Permits Division to install a Deduct Meter and to configure billing for the Deduct Meter.

7.1.3. Applicant must pay a permit fee in order to apply for installation of a Deduct Meter or for the establishment of an Irrigation-Only Service Account.

- 7.1.4. If Applicant has an outstanding balance on any account in its name, the Applicant must pay the balance in full, or enter into a payment plan, prior to establishing a Deduct Meter Service Account.
- 7.1.5. For existing Irrigation-Only Meters where no new installation is required, DWSD may establish the account based on verification by DWSD Meter Operations Division that the service line is dedicated exclusively to irrigation use.

7.2. Requirements to Set Deduct or Irrigation-Only Meter

- 7.2.1. Property must have Automatic Meter Reading Technology (AMR) installed on primary and secondary meters in order to establish a Deduct Meter Service Account. Location of deduct meter must be suitable for having AMR meter cellular signal.
- 7.2.2. Property Owner must have the proper plumbing, available conduit raceway, grounding and spacing requirements pursuant to DWSD specifications in order to install a Deduct Meter.
- 7.2.3. Property Owner must have a backflow prevention device to prevent potential cross connection/contamination of domestic water supply and submit an annual backflow prevention device certification test report to the City of Detroit Buildings Safety Engineering and Environmental Department, Plumbing Inspection Division.
- 7.2.4. DWSD and Property Owner to agree and review applicable level of detail drawings that demonstrate where the water is used in the process. Process flow diagrams, site drainage locations with access for inspection are typically required.
- 7.2.5. Records on maintenance activities that estimate the use of water not used in the process e.g., Cleaning/washing equipment.
- 7.2.6. On-site visit may be required to validate drawings provided and check field conditions.
- 7.2.7. Property Owner is responsible for making necessary plumbing repairs, installation, and/or retrofit to support installation of meter(s), and to obtain any required plumbing permit from the City of Detroit's Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department.

7.3. Use Restrictions

- 7.3.1. Property Owner must adhere to mandatory water use restrictions if DWSD declares a water emergency or issues a boil water alert.

7.4. Charges for Deduct and Irrigation-Only Meter Services

- 7.4.1. Customer is charged as follows:
 - a. A monthly meter service charge as determined by DWSD.
 - b. For Deduct Meters, consumption is billed under the corresponding Primary Water Meter Account, with separate billing applying only to Irrigation-Only Service Accounts.
 - c. Domestic water usage rate for each centum cubic feet (CCF) of water flowing through the Deduct Meter.
 - d. Customer does not incur a monthly sewer fee or per-CCF sewer charges on the Deduct Meter Account or Irrigation-Only Service Account.
- 7.4.2. DWSD may revoke permit if Customer or household occupants use non-domestic

meter connection for domestic water.

7.4.2.1. DWSD may assess penalties and back bill sewer charges for improper non-domestic water usage.

7.4.3. DWSD may interrupt service for the Primary Domestic Water Meter Account and/or the Deduct Meter Account if either account is in arrears.

7.4.4. For Irrigation-Only Service Accounts, DWSD reserves the right to inspect or verify that the irrigation system is not connected to any fixture or process that discharges to the DWSD sewer system. Improper use or connection may result in retroactive sewer billing and penalties.

7.5 Reasonable and Necessary Accommodations

7.5.1. Management may take reasonable and necessary actions to accomplish the intent of this policy.

8. PROCEDURE

8.1 Application for Service

8.1.1 Applicant completes Deduct Meter Account or Irrigation-Only Account Application and agrees to Terms of Service. (See attached form.)

8.1.2 Applicant submits application form to DWSD Permits Division with applicable and/or required documents described in the Policy and pays permit fee.

8.1.3 DWSD Permits Division confirms Applicant is the Property Owner and has a Primary Water Meter Account.

8.1.4 DWSD Permits Division verifies whether Applicant's account(s) is in good standing.

8.1.4.1 If the Applicant is past due on any DWSD account(s), the Permits Division informs Applicant.

8.1.4.2 Applicant pays account(s) in full, enters into payment plan, or withdraws Application.

8.1.5 If Property ownership and payment history are confirmed, the Permits Division enters a work order to create or update the Deduct Meter configuration under the Primary Water Meter Account.

8.1.6 DWSD Finance Division-Billing Team creates separate account for Irrigation-Only Meters based on the permit form issued by the Permit Division.

8.2 Meter Installation

8.2.1 DWSD Meter Operations Division contacts Applicant to schedule a meter installation appointment.

8.2.1.1 DWSD Meter Operations Division creates a work order for a meter installation and assigns a Field Service Technician to install the Deduct Meter.

8.2.2 DWSD's Field Service Technician visits Property to install Deduct Meter or notifies Property Owner of private plumbing repairs, installation, and/or retrofit that must be done prior to meter installation.

8.2.2.1 After Property Owner completes private plumbing repairs, installation, and/or retrofit the Property Owner contacts DWSD to schedule a meter installation appointment. DWSD's Field Technician returns to the Property

to complete meter installation.

- 8.2.2.2 Field Technician updates the Deduct Meter Account with the newly installed Deduct Meter's identification number and completes the work order.

8.3 **Billing Account**

- 8.3.1 DWSD Finance Division-Billing Division receives completed Deduct Meter installation work order and integrates the recorded consumption into the billing for the associated Primary Water Meter Account, or, in the case of Irrigation-Only Meters, begins billing on the separate Irrigation-Only Service Account, in accordance with this Policy.
- 8.4.1 DWSD bills the Account Holder for the costs of the Deduct Meter, charged to the Deduct Meter Service Account.