

# Louisa County Water Authority Service Policies

Updated July 1, 2023

***Louisa County Water Authority will provide water and sewer services within designated service areas; where infrastructure is available and service is economically feasible.***

I. Connection Fees:

A. Connection Fees:

A Connection Fee is a specified one-time fee paid for the right to make a specific size connection to the water system or a connection to the sewer system. A Connection Fee is valid for one year from payment, is transferable with the property and is non-refundable. If one year has passed since the payment of the connection fee, and the property has not been connected to the Louisa County Water Authority system, then before connecting to the system, a property owner will be required to pay to the Authority the difference between the current prevailing rate and the rate initially paid. The Connection Fee reserves a portion of the capacity of the water or sewer systems.

1. Single Family Dwelling (per dwelling):

WATER	SEWER
\$5,250.00	\$6,750.00

2. The schedule of Connection Fees for Industrial and Commercial customers is as follows:\*

Meter Size	Maximum GPM	Gallons Per Month	WATER	SEWER
3/4" or 5/8"	20	4,000 / 16,000	\$5,250.00	\$6,750.00
1"	50	16,000 / 32,000	\$11,813.00	\$15,188.00
1 1/2"	100	32,000 / 72,000	\$21,263.00	\$27,338.00
2"	160	72,000 / 116,000	\$30,618.00	\$39,366.00
3"	450	116,000 / 204,000	\$77,502.00	\$99,645.00
4"	1,000	204,000 / 348,000	\$155,004.00	\$199,290.00
6"	2,000	348,000 / 540,000	\$279,007.00	\$358,723.00

Louisa County Water Authority will negotiate and set rates for all meters over 6".

\*Estimated monthly consumption must be agreed to by the Louisa County Water Authority and is subject to adjustment based on actual use. Connection Fees are to be determined by gallons per month requested regardless of the meter size.

Up-sizing of meters to actual use: When it is determined, through an average annual look back period, that a commercial or industrial user is using beyond their purchased monthly capacity (prior twelve month average usage greater than the higher capacity and at least nine months over that capacity); a letter will be sent to the customer offering an opportunity to purchase a higher level of capacity less any previously paid Connection Fees. The customer also has the option to reduce consumption to their current purchased monthly capacity. The reduction to the original purchased capacity must be completed within three months or the up-sized meter Connection fees will be due.

Reduction of meter size to actual use: If a commercial or industrial customer pays a Connection Fee for a capacity range and over time, due to conservation efforts or a decline in business activities, falls below the purchased capacity for an average annual look back period capacity (prior twelve month average

usage less than the lower capacity and at least nine months under that capacity); a cost saving opportunity exists for a reduction in capacity range and meter size. The cost reduction is applied in the monthly billing at a smaller meter size, but no refunds of Connection Fees will be given under any circumstances. If capacity levels return to a higher capacity range the monthly billing will be adjusted accordingly.

Irrigation Water Meter Policy: Customers desiring an irrigation system supplied by public water have two options. 1) Run the irrigation system off the main house meter, thereby incurring sewage charges, or 2) install a separate meter, eliminating sewage charges, yet incurring additional connection charges.

The option of installing a separate meter, owned and maintained by LCWA, allows our staff to insure they are in proper working order. Under sizing issues are eliminated because flow demands are used to determine proper sizing, without respect to indoor demand. Separate meters more accurately reflect the demand being placed on the water supply, and the required connection fees more appropriately recover the costs LCWA incurs by allowing irrigation systems to come on-line. Lastly, separate meters allow for greater ease of monitoring consumption, and provide opportunity for placing limitations or restrictions on the use of irrigation water and potentially for adjusting the charges for such usage.

Existing irrigation systems with a 5/8- or 3/4-inch meter are not, at this time, required to install a separate tap and meter, however, irrigation usage is subject to review. If upon review it is determined that the increased peak demand placed on a 5/8- or 3/4-inch commercial meter exceeds the normal operating limits of the main meter, then the customer will have to upgrade to a 1" main meter or install a separate irrigation meter. Customers will be subject to the incremental cost increase associated with upgrading to a 1" meter or all fees associated with installing a second meter.

All systems currently running irrigation through the main house meter, consequently paying sewage charges may continue to do so, provided the main meter is not under sized. It is recommended that if homeowners desire to avoid sewage charges, a separate tap and meter be used.

B. Hook-up Charges:

All water and sewer hook-up charges are billed at actual cost of labor, meters, meter boxes or manholes as required, yokes, expanders, valves, corporation stops and all appurtenant items required for a complete water and/or sewer hoop-up. The hook-up fee will consist of actual expenses and may vary according to conditions found at the site. An estimate of hook-up charges will be provided upon request.

C. A deposit is required upon application for service on each account in the amount of \$150.00. The deposit is refunded without interest upon termination of service and payment in full of all outstanding charges.

D. An account establishment charge is required upon application for service in the amount of \$10.00.

II. Water & Sewer monthly user rates and associated fees:

A. Residential water rate schedule:

	WATER	SEWER
First 3,000 gallons	\$23.13	\$34.23
All usage over 3,000	\$7.71/1,000	\$11.41/1,000

B. Commercial & Industrial rate schedule of minimum charges for meter size per billing period:

Meter Size	Gallons	WATER	SEWER
3/4" or 5/8"	4,000 gallons	\$30.84	\$45.64

1"	16,000 gallons	\$123.36	\$182.56
1 ½"	32,000 gallons	\$246.72	\$365.12
2"	72,000 gallons	\$555.12	\$821.52
3"	116,000 gallons	\$894.36	\$1,323.56
4"	204,000 gallons	\$1,572.84	\$2,327.64
6"	348,000 gallons	\$2,683.08	\$3,970.68
8"	540,000 gallons	\$4,163.40	\$6,161.40

C. A late fee of 5% will be assessed to any past-due balance.

D. In 1992, the General Assembly authorized the Virginia Department of Health to charge an annual waterworks operations fee to assist in the administering of the Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water programs, among which is the Safe Drinking Water Act. The waterworks operations fee is charged to community waterworks and is permitted to be passed along to the customer. Each year the fee can vary but is not to exceed \$3.00 according to VA Code 12VAC5-600-50.

### III. Consecutive Waterworks:

A. A Consecutive Waterworks, as defined by the Virginia Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water means *a waterworks that has no water production or source facility on its own and that obtains all of its water from another permitted waterworks or receives some or all of its finished water from one or more wholesale waterworks. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive waterworks.*

1. Customers in the consecutive water works category purchasing **less than 4,250,000 gallons per month** will be charged at the current prevailing rate per thousand gallons of water.

2. Customers in the consecutive water works category purchasing **more than 4,250,000 gallons of water per month** will receive a 22.5% bulk user discount off the current prevailing retail water rate per thousand gallons of water. *(Currently this equates to \$5.99/1,000 gallons, for a minimum of 4,250,000 gallons per month to qualify for the discounted rate. The monthly minimum bill would be \$25,457.50.)*

B. The schedule of Connection Fees for Consecutive Waterworks within Louisa County is as follows:\*

Meter Size	Maximum GPM	Gallons Per Month	WATER	Connection Type
3/4" or 5/8"	20	-0- / 3,000	\$1,835.00	Residential
3/4" or 5/8"	20	4,000 / 16,000	\$1,835.00	Commercial
1"	50	16,000 / 32,000	\$4,129.00	Commercial
1 ½"	100	32,000 / 72,000	\$7,432.00	Commercial
2"	160	72,000 / 116,000	\$10,702.00	Commercial
3"	450	116,000 / 204,000	\$27,089.00	Commercial
4"	1,000	204,000 / 348,000	\$54,177.00	Commercial
6"	2,000	348,000 / 540,000	\$97,519.00	Commercial

Louisa County Water Authority will negotiate and set rates for all meters over 6".

C. Consecutive Waterworks outside of Louisa County (to be defined).

### IV. Billing Policy

A. Monthly water and sewer bills are calculated from the meter readings.

- B. All bills are due and payable upon receipt.
- C. A fee of \$20.00 will be applied for the termination of service due to non-payment.
- D. If service is terminated due to non-payment, a reconnection charge of \$20.00 will be applied. All past-due balances and the reconnection fee must be paid to have the service reconnected.
- E. If a reconnection of service is requested after regular business hours, on weekends or holidays, a reconnection fee of \$50.00 will be applied. All past-due balances and the after-hours reconnection fee must be paid to have service reconnected.
- F. If a payment is returned for insufficient funds, the past-due balance and all associated bank charges will be required upon notification to prevent the service from being disconnected.
- G. An administrative fee in the amount of \$6.00/month will be added to all bills to cover costs of meter reading, bill creation and processing.

V. Unauthorized Connections

- A. The connection of any water supply to a Louisa County Water Authority owned or operated systems is strictly prohibited and will be fully prosecuted.

VI. Use of Service

- A. Any new service connection or applicant is expected to commence within thirty (30) days from the date such service is made available. Billing will commence at the end of the thirty (30) day period in accordance with prescribed rates, terms, and conditions.

VII. Fire Sprinkler Systems

- A. Louisa County Water Authority allows its metered water system customers to connect fire suppression lines to the Authority's water distribution system. These lines will not be metered, but the customer is expected to report all fire suppression waterline usage, for testing or other purposes, to Louisa County Water Authority promptly.

VIII. Water Sales from Fire Hydrants (Bulk Water):

- A. Non-fire service related withdrawals from fire hydrants require a permit and will be billed at the following rates:

0-100,000 gallons	\$8.00/1,000
100,000 – 500,000 gallons	\$12.10/1,000
Over 500,000 gallons	\$17.60/1,000

IX. Septage and portable toilet waste discharge:

- A. Septage and portable toilet waste haulers discharge (dump) fees are .10¢/gallon or \$100.00/1,000.
- B. The septage and portable toilet charge for Louisa County Public Schools or Louisa County Government by Louisa County Water Authority for the discharge (dump) fees and the haul fees total .18¢/gallon or \$180.00/1,000.

X. Cross Connection and Control Program:

A. When a commercial or industrial customer receives notification that certification of their backflow preventer is due and they do not respond with the appropriate certification, their service will be discontinued. Once service is discontinued, the service will not be reconnected until all certifications are completed and a reconnect fee is paid.

XI. Smoke Testing Sewer Lines:

A. Every two years the Authority performs smoke testing on the sewer mains to determine areas of Inflow and Infiltration. If a customer has a broken clean-out in need of repair, the Authority provides notification of the needed repair and a repair-by date. Authority maintenance staff can make the repair for a fee of \$100.00, or the customer can make the repair and provide proof of the repair. If the customer does not make the repair in the time allotted, the Authority maintenance staff will make the repair and the customer will receive a bill in the amount of \$100.00.

XII. Grease Trap Program:

A. When a commercial or industrial customer receives notification that certification that their Grease Trap has been pumped out or maintenance conducted and they do not respond with the appropriate certification, their service will be discontinued. Once service is discontinued, the service will not be reconnected until all certifications are completed and a reconnect fee is paid.

XIII. Equipment Deposit:

A. A \$100 deposit is charged for equipment provided to contractors by Louisa County Water Authority for use during construction projects in Louisa County. Once the equipment is returned to Louisa County Water Authority, the deposit is refunded.