



# Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

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June 17, 2014

DAVID V HARPER  
WEST SALINE WATER USERS ASSN  
P O BOX 29  
NEW EDINBURGH, AR 71660

RE: ~~Water Meter~~ Installation and Sewage Disposal Approval Documentation  
Arkansas Department of Health's Rules and Regulations  
Pertaining to Public Water Systems

Sir/Madam:

A longstanding requirement contained in the Arkansas Department of Health's Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Public Water Systems (Regulations) concerns obtaining documentation of approval of sewage disposal and plumbing inspection prior to providing water service to a new building or residence. Section IV. F. "Plumbing Inspection and Sewage Disposal Required" of the Regulations requires that prior to a public water system providing service to a new building or residence, the customer must provide documentation to the water system that sewage disposal system has been approved and that a plumbing inspection has been performed and found to be in compliance.

Recently, there have been cases where water systems provided customers with water service even though sewage disposal had not been approved and no documentation provided to the water system. In some of these cases, the property in question was not suitable for sewage disposal and the property owner was left without the ability to obtain a sanitary sewage disposal system. This can result in significant economic loss to those who get "the cart before the horse".

Public water systems can assist their customers in keeping "the horse before the cart" by requiring customers to show documentation of sewage system approval and plumbing inspection prior to providing water service. The requirement to do so is contained in the Regulations and failure to comply with the regulations will result in the water system being cited for a violation.

The Arkansas Department of Health values the positive working relationship that it has with public water systems and is appreciative of the efforts that water systems make in complying with this requirement and assisting customers in making sure they have necessary approvals.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 501-661-2171.

Sincerely,

J. Terry Paul, R.S.  
Chief, Environmental Health Branch  
Arkansas Department of Health

Cc: Jeff Stone, Director, Engineering Section, Arkansas Department of Health