

SOUTHEAST MORRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last Revised: January 20, 2025

What is a new water service?

New water service includes applications for properties that are currently serviced by SMCMUA but are being demolished, renovated, reconstructed or otherwise modified, regardless of whether or not the existing service is being reused.

What is the SMCMUA process for applying for new water service?

The design engineer should forward the plans, along with the appropriate 'Development Information Form' to the SMCMUA Engineering Department for review and approval. Prior to construction, all supporting documentation ('Service Sizing Certification', 'Requested Domestic Demand', etc) shall be accurate and finalized. SMCMUA will calculate the required fees for the project (tapping fee, connection fee, etc.).

The owner/developer will obtain all construction permits. The owner/developer is responsible for excavating to the water main. SMCMUA will perform the physical connection via a wet tap. Connection by any party without SMCMUA permission is a criminal act and shall be reported to the local Police Department. SMCMUA levies hefty fines for water theft.

For services 2-inch and smaller where no fire line is required, SMCMUA will provide and install the materials from the corporation stop to the curb stop. The Contractor must provide the saddles for 1-1/2-inch to 2-inch services. The Contractor shall provide the materials and perform the installation of the service after the curb stop.

For commercial services, SMCMUA shall install the wet taps to the main. SMCMUA shall provide a corporation stop where required. The contractor shall provide all other materials, including furnishing and installing the tapping sleeve and valve. If SMCMUA determines that a cut-in tee is required, SMCMUA will obtain the shut-down for the Contractor to perform the work. SMCMUA may provide gate valves for the Contractor to install on the main line.

See 'What Meter Should I Install' for meter installation information. Water will not be turned on until all work has been accepted and all fees are paid.

What is the procedure for pressure and bacteriological testing new mains?

SMCMUA shall be contacted 48 hours prior to all testing. SMCMUA will operate all valves on public mains. The Contractor is responsible for operating valves on private mains.

1. The main shall be charged and an initial chlorine residual test obtained.
2. 24 hours later a second chlorine test shall be obtained to ensure the residuals are still acceptable.
3. If acceptable, the main shall be flushed, recharged and total coliform/Ecoli and heterotrophic plate count (HPC) tests obtained.
4. After acceptable results are obtained, the main can be charged for pressure testing at 200 psi. The main must be properly backfilled prior to pressure testing.

All water quality testing shall be performed by an NJDEP Certified Laboratory. If necessary, contact the SMCMUA engineering department for a list of Certified Laboratories.

The results of bacteriological testing and pressure testing shall be submitted to SMCMUA.

Who performs construction inspection and testing observation?

For projects involving a private water main extension that will remain a private water main, a licensed PE must verify that the main was constructed per the approved plan and has passed pressure and bacteria testing.

For projects involving a private water main extension that will be turned over to SMCMUA, a licensed PE must verify that the main was constructed per the approved plan. SMCMUA will perform bacteria testing and observe pressure testing.

How do I request a hydrant flow test?

See the 'Hydrant Flow Test Request' form at www.smcmua.com under the 'Engineering' tab for hydrant flow test requests. All public hydrants can only be operated by SMCMUA. SMCMUA does not operate or maintain hydrants located on private property and does not perform flow tests on private hydrants.

How do I request a demolition letter?

See the 'Demolition Letter Request' form at www.smcmua.com under the 'Engineering' tab for Demolition Letter requests.

Can you tell me the size and location of the water main that services my property?

Send an email with the address and block and lot of your property to engineering@smcmua.com. We will email you a copy of our mains in the area.

There are two mains at my property. Can I tap into the larger main instead of the smaller main?

Larger mains are transmission mains. All new customers must connect to the smaller distribution mains. For renovation projects, existing services must be removed from transmission mains and installed on distribution mains.

Can I reuse the existing service tap to my proposed development?

SMCMUA permits applicants to reuse existing services for new development provided the applicant verifies that the service is not galvanized and/or does not contain lead and is sized appropriately. Otherwise, the developer must decommission abandoned service connections at the main and remove the associated curb box / meter pit to two feet below finished grade. The developer should coordinate demolition requests with requests for temporary water prior to abandoning existing services.

Can SMCMUA size my services for me?

The sizing of the general service and fire lines are the responsibility of the applicant and the design engineer. The designer must prepare hydraulic analysis calculations to determine if the flow and pressure requirements for the new development are available from the existing water supply line. A licensed engineer or plumber shall provide certification that the lines have been sized in accordance with all applicable standards. The template for a certification letter is found under the 'Engineering' tab at www.smcmua.org.

Will two separate taps to the main line be required for the domestic service and fire service?

Two separate taps shall be required.

Can I connect my general service line to my fire service line?

There shall be no interconnection between the general service and the fire service and no connection of the general service to the fire service.

Can I connect my irrigation line to my domestic service?

For single and two-family homes, the irrigation connection may be tapped off the domestic line after the domestic meter. The homeowner is responsible for understanding their sanitary sewer charges as they relate to the water bill.

For larger residential and commercial accounts the irrigation service shall be tapped directly to the water main in the street. The applicant shall provide and install an above ground meter enclosure that is large enough to store the meter when it is removed from the system during irrigation service winterizing.

Is SMCMUA responsible for maintaining my water service?

For public water mains, services sized up to 2-inches: SMCMUA owns and maintains the service from the main to the curb box. The service from the curb box to the building is owned and maintained by the property owner.

For private water mains, the property owner owns and maintains all services.

I have a proposed mixed-use development. Is each tenant required to have a separate meter?

The property shall have one master meter. The property owner can sub-metered if desired.

What meter should I install?

SMCMUA purchases and installs meters up to and including 2-inch diameter. For SMCMUA meter installation, the plumbing must be prepared for install prior to requesting the meter set.

Larger meters shall be installed by the applicant's licensed plumber. The applicant is responsible for purchasing larger meters directly from the vendor. SMCMUA will provide the applicant with the make and model of the required meter. SMCMUA will inspect the meter and install an automatic reader prior to turning on the water.

What is the meter spread for my size and type meter?

Meter spread information can be found under the 'Engineering' tab at www.smcmua.org.

Mach meters shall be provided for dedicated domestic service lines.

Is metering of a dedicated fire line required?

A 3/4-inch meter is required on the low flow bypass (detector check) of the backflow device (see Fire Line Backflow Device information).

Must I install a meter pit?

Meters for single family homes shall be installed in a meter pit, paid for by the applicant, near the water service point of entry to the property. See the Single-Family Home Schematic.

A hot box will be required for developments where the length of service run is excessive. See schematics for more information.

Must I provide a backflow preventer?**Fire Line Backflow Device**

- Unless otherwise approved by the code official, a Watts 909RPDA or approved equal reduced pressure detector assembly backflow preventer shall be required for the fire line.
- Notify SMCMUA when the backflow device has been installed. SMCMUA shall replace the bypass meter that comes with the device with the SMCMUA required meter.
- The device shall be tested by a certified backflow tester and the results shall be sent to SMCMUA.

Domestic Service Backflow Device

- A backflow preventer shall be required after any master meter.
- The device shall be tested by a certified backflow tester and the results shall be sent to SMCMUA.

What if I need a pump to achieve my required fire flow?

The 'Fire Line Pump Info' form must be submitted. SMCMUA does not provide guidance on, or review, fire pump calculations other than to determine the effect of the required demand on the surrounding system.

Can I use fittings that contain lead?

All fittings and materials must be 'lead free' and meet the most current standards.

How close can I construct my structures to your water main?

All structures, including footings must be a minimum of 10 feet from the water main. All design and construction conflicts with the water system infrastructure need to be discussed with the SMCMUA Engineering Department.

How do I obtain temporary water for construction?

There are two different applications for temporary water:

- 1) Request for Hydrant Use (Filling of Water Truck): Hydrant Location: 19 Saddle Road, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927. Hydrant available March 15 through November 15 (weather permitting).
- 2) Temporary Construction Water Request form: SMCMUA will contact you regarding temporary construction water upon receipt of the complete request form.

All applications are found under the 'Engineering' tab at www.smcmua.org. Please see the pertinent application for further details.

Do I need a permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water?

The SMCMUA has an NJDEP Master Permit. All permit applications shall be submitted to SMCMUA for tracking, however, developer submittal to NJDEP is not required. Please see NJAC 7:10 and <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/pa10det.pdf> for further information.