



KEMPNER WATER SUPPLY CORP.
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February 10, 2020

RE: TCEQ Rules regarding Backflow Prevention

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rule, 30 TAC Chapter 344, requires that a Reduced Pressure Zone backflow prevention assembly (RPZ), be installed on all potential sources of contamination where there is an on-site sewage facility (OSSF). This means if you have an aerobic or septic system along with an irrigation system, swimming pool, well(s) (whether active or inactive), convenience store, gas station, or RV park; you must have an RPZ properly installed and tested by a person holding a Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPAT) license. Since all the above scenarios are connected to the public water system, there is potential for contamination to backflow into the water system. TCEQ considers a property that has an OSSF to be a health hazard. TCEQ rule 30 TAC, Chapter 290.44 h, states no water connection from any public drinking water supply system shall be allowed on any residence or establishment where an actual or potential contamination hazard exists unless the public water supply system is protected from contamination. Both commercial and residential lawn sprinkler systems have recessed sprinkler heads which can become inundated with water. Water from the lawn can be frequently exposed to fertilizers, chemicals and animal feces. These contaminants can be siphoned through leaking valves back into the public water system. An RPZ on the irrigation feed line will protect the public water system and will prevent back siphonage of these contaminants into the household and water supply.

An RPZ must be inspected upon installation with a copy of the inspection report provided to Kempner Water Supply Corporation (KWSC) within 10 days of completion. The RPZ must also be inspected on an annual basis and the inspection report is to be provided to KWSC every year. If KWSC has not received an inspection report from a licensed plumber within 10 days of the due date, we will perform the inspection and send you a bill for \$75.00. The inspection must be done by a person holding a Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPAT) license. You can contact KWSC at (512)932-3701 or (254)547-9430 or the local TCEQ office at (254)751-0335 for additional information on how to comply with this law and for more information about their requirements for annual testing.

KWSC is required to comply with the TCEQ rules and is also required to survey the water system to identify the customers that have one of the above scenarios and an OSSF in order to follow the TCEQ requirements.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Enclosed with this letter is the required inspection form. Please give this form to the company or individual that installed your system and/or ask your installer to provide you with a copy of the installation report they should have completed, and the annual inspection reports they should have been performing. Please respond by April 1, 2020. If you do not have any of the concerns listed above, please inform KWSC that you do not have one. If you do, water service can be disconnected if the reports are not received.

Delores Coberley, General Manager
Kempner Water Supply Corporation