



News Advisory

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MAWSS Proposes Policy Changes to Better Protect Water Supply

Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) is seeking input from the public on policy changes to its Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention Program designed to provide better protection of the water supply. The policy requires businesses, industry and irrigation meter customers to have backflow prevention devices installed, if not already present, and tested annually at the customer's expense.

A Cross-Connection and Backflow Prevention Program ensures that water delivered to the customer through the meter remains on the customer's side of the meter. Changes in pressure on the public and private sides of the meter can create circumstances where water delivered to the customer through the meter can flow backwards into the public distribution system, possibly introducing contaminants. A common example is when a hose attachment is used to spray herbicides or pesticides. A drop in water pressure, occurring from an open hydrant or water main repair, could suck the poison back into the hose.

Backflow prevention assemblies do a good job of protecting the water supply, but they must be tested and maintained regularly to make sure they are in proper working order. Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Programs are required by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

The public has 30 days to comment on the proposed policy before it goes back to the MAWSS Board for approval. A full copy can be found under the public policy section of www.mawss.com and <http://bit.ly/2mcpskw>.