

## Policy (O&A) 2.10 Illegal Water Service Connection

Definition: The inspector – a duly appointed agent of the Hagensborg Waterworks District

From time to time the District learns of an illegal hookup to the District's water distribution system. This is very concerning. In addition to allowing the community member to steal from the public water system, it is a major health and safety issue. Without proper inspection of the installation, the district has no idea if the standards demanded of the District in Bylaw, and of the National Building Code of Canada have been met. The potential for leaks through cross connection is always present, with foreign debris entering the public water system.

Often these homes or businesses are sold with the new owner having no idea that another property, home, or business is illegally connected to their own. When water is to be turned off, either for non-payment of tolls and taxes or a mechanical issue, it impacts more than just one service connection resulting in complaints and further administrative time investigating.

There are two long standing Bylaws that are impacted by Illegal Water Service hookups. Both bylaws were registered with the provincial government in November of 1980.

1. Installation Standards Control Bylaw 69 outlines the requirements for pipes and fittings connected to a public water system. Bylaw 69.9 states, *"All plumbing installations shall be inspected by the District whose written final approval is necessary before connection to the District's system is made."*

The Bylaw provides for a fine of \$200 and/or imprisonment for 30 days.

2. Water Distribution Regulation Bylaw 71 S.13 states, *"No person to whose premises water is supplied shall make, or permit to be made, any additional connection to his service of either temporary or permanent nature, for the purpose of supplying water to another building, or house trailer on his, or any other property without permission of the Trustees."*

This Bylaw authorizes the trustees to have the water supply turned off until the default is remedied. It also provides for a fine of \$200 and/or imprisonment for 30 days, plus \$200 per day for each day the offence is continued.

### **Policy Resolution:**

As the practice of illegal hookup is a financial, health and safety issue, pursuant to established Bylaw the trustee's hereby resolve:

1. All water connections to the public water system must be site specific, servicing one lot only.
2. Any lot may have more than one service connection, but one service connection will not serve more than one lot.
3. All water connections must be compliant to standards established in Bylaw and the National Building Code of Canada. Where one document's standards surpass the other, the one with the highest standard will apply.

4. Upon learning of an illegal connection to the public water system, the District will immediately within 5 working days:
  - a. Contact the owner of the property(s) involved, notifying them of the discovery and arrange an inspection by a duly appointed representative of the District within 14 working days. The purpose of the inspection is to determine if the standards under bylaw and building code have been met, and to establish a fair value for the water service being supplied.
  - b. The inspection will be of the original connection and, if proven to exist, the secondary inspection.
  - c. If it is deemed necessary, the inspector will ask that the system be uncovered in whole or in part, in order to confirm compliance to standards set in Bylaw and the National Building Code of Canada. This may require digging up the water line and/or removing wall coverings.
  - d. Cost of the re-covering of the inspected portion shall be borne by the owner of the property.
5. If it is determined that the secondary hookup is to a separate property,
  - a. the inspector will order the property owners to remove the connection within 10 working days, and have the removal inspected before covering it in.
    - i. The two property owners will both apply separately to have the removal inspected on their own properties.
  - b. The second property may apply for water service directly from the public water system. All current bylaws will apply to this new connection.
6. All cost to remove and/or replace and/or re-cover service hookups will be borne by the owner of the property(s)
7. If inspection is denied, or the owner of the property(s) in any way impedes the inspection, causing a delay of more than 14 working days, the water service will be discontinued to the impacted property until an inspection can be undertaken.
8. Charges for water service can and may be backdated to the date the illegal service was connected to the public water system. Charges will be at the current rate as of the date of discovery.
9. Charges will be the responsibility of the current owner of the property providing the illegal connection.

Date Adopted: 10.07.16