

ATTENTION

Rural Members

You may have **potentially hazardous conditions** on your drinking water system that you are probably totally unaware of. The two most prevalent risks for contamination are drinking water lines that service livestock watering troughs and drinking water lines interconnected to private water wells. Both of these can be violations under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rules and regulations. Twin Creek WSC is mandated by TCEQ to have Members make corrections and upgrade their system with approved methods to prevent possible contamination. If Twin Creek WSC fails to enforce these rules, we are subject to fines being levied against us by TCEQ.

- 1.) Drinking water lines servicing livestock water troughs: TCEQ rules allow only two approved methods of installation for drinking water lines to livestock water troughs. The first method for manual watering is to provide an air gap that is a minimum of 1" or 2x the diameter of the supply pipe above the top of the watering trough. The second method is for automatic float devices. TCEQ rules state that automatic float devices must have a "PVB" back-flow preventer installed on the supply line. Only a licensed plumber or a certified back-flow installer can do the installation. Only a certified back-flow tester can test the "PVB" for verification that it is working properly. The tester must have a current calibration on the testing equipment, prepare a written report on the TCEQ approved form, and give the original report to Twin Creek WSC. Each year on or before the anniversary date of the installation, the "PVB" must be again tested and a report submitted to Twin Creek WSC. The concern for contamination is, if the main distribution system loses pressure for any number of reasons, a vacuum may form and draw water back into your home and/or past our meter into the main distribution lines that could potentially affect your neighbors. We know that a "perfect storm" would have to align for this to happen, but since it is possible, TCEQ requires it in order to assure you and/or others that your drinking water is safe to consume.
- 2.) Drinking water lines interconnected to private water wells: TCEQ calls this scenario a "cross-connection". Because the private well water could be drawn past our meter into the main distribution lines if a vacuum is created by a pressure drop or when the well pump pressure is greater than the system pressure allowing private well water to be pumped into the main, TCEQ requires that an approved back-flow preventer be installed between our meter as well as before the interconnection with private well water and/or your home. TCEQ considers private water wells to be of untested quality and therefore prohibits well water from intermingling with the Twin Creek WSC water that is tested on a regular basis. Again, this requirement is for your and others' assurance of safe drinking water.

Please contact our office for guidance if you have either of the above conditions on your site. We will, free of charge, do a site investigation and make recommendations as to the most economical method to meet the TCEQ rules and which will protect you or others from possible contamination causing potential health issues.

We are here to help you!

Twin Creek WSC Staff