



October 26, 2007

Re: Backflow Prevention Devices

Dear Customer:

Beginning in January 2008, Sarasota County Utilities customers who are required to install backflow preventer devices will automatically be enrolled in the Optional Testing Program, a new service for customers who may have been inconvenienced in their efforts to comply with the Backflow Prevention Program. That program was initiated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and is required of all public drinking water providers.

The new Optional Testing Program will be managed by Sarasota County Utilities, using licensed contractors under a competitive bid for their services. All service fees will be applied in small, equal monthly charges to your water bill, as noted in the attached Exhibit F. If your backflow preventer needs repair or replacement, Sarasota County Utilities staff (*not a contractor*) will contact you to explain the problem and your options. You may then use your contractor of choice, **OR** a Sarasota County-provided contractor as a more affordable option.

All customers **NOT** participating in the Optional Testing Program have a **MAXIMUM of 45 days** beginning Nov. 1, 2007, to provide Sarasota County with acceptable backflow preventer test results. Non-compliance of the testing requirement will result in automatic enrollment in the Optional Testing Program. A licensed contractor will test your backflow prevention assembly, and the county will apply charges to your next utility bill.

You do not need to respond to this notice or take any action to participate in the new program. If you **DO NOT** wish to participate, please provide a current copy of your backflow test results along with the attached form to Sarasota County Utilities C/O Douglas Bailey, 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240.

You do not need to be home to receive service from the Optional Testing Program. A technician will attempt to contact you before the test, since the water will be turned off for a short time during the testing process. After the test is complete, a tag with an identifying number and year tested will be applied to your backflow prevention assembly. The number on the tag will identify your test history, should you have any questions about the results or activity.

Thank you for helping Sarasota County maintain the quality of our drinking water. If you have any questions about the cross-connection control program or the new Optional Testing Program please call 861-5000 and ask for the cross-connection program office.

Sincerely,

Ralph G. Ward
Cross-Connection Control Program Administrator