

Connecting to the Water System Information Sheet

Homeowner's Responsibilities

Residents in your neighborhood will be able to connect to a public water system or will be in the near future. There is no requirement to connect to the water system. Recent studies have shown that private wells have high levels of nitrate contamination from poorly functioning, aging septic systems. Studies also show wells testing positive for coliform, water with fluoride and uranium levels above the maximum contaminant level, and evidence of leaded gasoline pollution. All of these contaminants affect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

In order to connect to and use the water system you will need to do the following:

Establish an account with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority)

Before connecting to the water system, homeowners must establish an account with the Water Authority (see information on the back page). The Water Authority charges a fee, called the Utility Expansion Charge (UEC) which is the connection charge that pays for the infrastructure that provides water. There is also a meter-set charge for connecting a meter to your home.

Connect your house to the utility

Work to install the water line between the meter and the house (called the "yard line") may be done by a licensed plumber or you may do it yourself (see the "Do-It-Yourself" section on the back page). If any work needs to be done within the Bernalillo County right-of-way, a permit from the Bernalillo County Public Works Division will be required. To determine whether your house is in County right-of-way, see links to the following maps:

West Carnuel Map:

http://ims.bernco.gov/website/DownloadMaps/RoadInventoryMapBook/IndividualMaps/Map_102.pdf

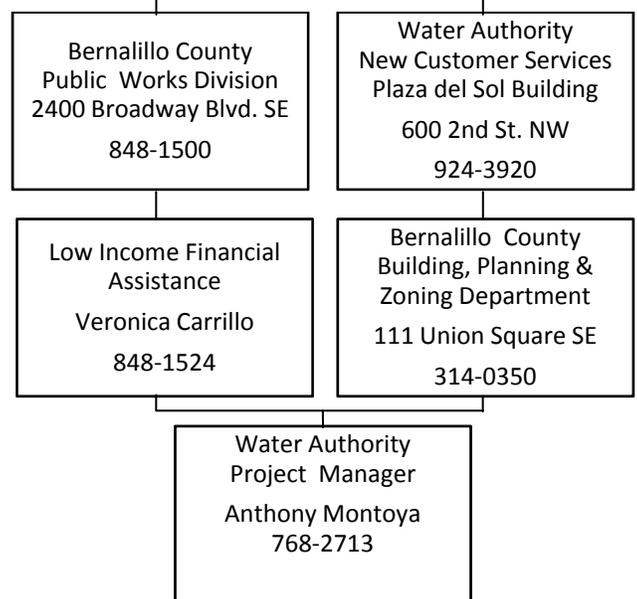
East Carnuel Map:

http://ims.bernco.gov/website/DownloadMaps/RoadInventoryMapBook/IndividualMaps/Map_103.pdf

Obtain a permit and inspection from Bernalillo County Building, Planning and Zoning Depart.

You or your plumber must go to Bernalillo County Building, Planning and Zoning Department to complete an application for connection and pay the \$30.50 permit fee for water. When the plumber is ready to make the connection to the water meter, the Bernalillo County Building, Planning and Zoning Department must come and inspect the plumbing work. The plumber might handle this inspection; however, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that it is completed. Please see "Plumber's Responsibilities" on the back page for more information

General Contacts



Plumbers Responsibilities

The plumber must obtain a plumbing permit from the Bernalillo County Building, Planning and Zoning Department; and he/she should provide you with a copy of the permit.

The plumber will need to call for the plumbing inspections. Two or more inspections may be required to determine correct installation, and to ensure that the well line has been disconnected to the house. No connection between the well and the public water system is allowed.

If not already done, a thermal expansion device must be installed within your piping system per the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC).

The plumber should provide you with a copy of all approval tags. If you have questions regarding what the Contractor is required to perform, contact the Bernalillo County Building, Planning and Zoning Department.

Do-It-Yourself Homeowner's Permit

A homeowner can install the "yard line" by following these steps:

- Establish an account with the Water Authority.
- Take and pass the Homeowner's Plumbing Test held at Bernalillo County Building, Planning and Zoning Department on Mondays at 8:00am. The cost to take the water test is \$10.00.
- Apply for a plumbing permit at the Bernalillo County Building, Planning and Zoning Department; perform the associated work; and call for the appropriate inspections.

Establishing a Water Account

Before connecting to the water system, homeowners are required to establish an account with the Water Authority. The following information is necessary when applying for service:

- property tax notice
- property address and legal description
- applicant must be the legal property owner

Utility Expansion Charge (UEC)

The Utility Expansion Charge for a home to connect to water is set by the Water Authority and varies depending on the size of the meter. The UEC's are subject to change. Currently, the UEC for a standard residential connection is \$2,692. In addition, the meter-set charge is \$295.

Application for a water account must be made at the utility office, located at the Plaza Del Sol Building, 600 2nd St. NW, ground floor, north entrance. If you have questions on establishing a water account or the UEC fees, please contact the Water Authority New Customer Services at 924-3920.

Utility Loan Program

Rather than paying the full UEC fees at the time you apply for service, the Water Authority offers a loan program to applicants. It includes a down payment and monthly payments at 7% interest over 10 years. The minimum down payment for a standard residential connection is \$130.

Financial Assistance Available

The Bernalillo County Public Works Division can provide financial assistance through the PIPE Program (Partners in Improvement and Protection of the Environment). The PIPE Program is funded through the Environmental Services Gross Receipts Tax and is available to all homeowners who reside within the County and meet the financial need and property value criteria. See attached flyer of PIPE program. Call Veronica Carrillo at 848-1524 for more information.