



## Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Northwest District  
160 W. Government Street, Suite 308  
Pensacola, Florida 32502-5740

Rick Scott  
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera  
Lt. Governor

Ryan E. Matthews  
Interim Secretary

May 12, 2017

Claude Wiley, President  
Farm Hill Utilities  
120 Madrid Road  
Cantonment, Florida 32533  
fhuwater@panhandle.rr.com

Dear Mr. Wiley:

This regards the Farm Hill Utilities public water system (PWS ID No. 1170259).

As you know, Rule 62-555.360, Florida Administrative Code, requires all community water systems (CWSs) to establish and implement a routine cross-connection control program to detect and control cross-connections and prevent backflow of contaminants into the water system. This program shall include a written plan that is developed using recommended practices of the American Water Works Association set forth in Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control.

Effective May 5, 2014, the Department revised Rule 62-555.360, Cross-Connection Control for Public Water Systems. The purpose of the revision was to significantly reduce the overall regulatory burden of cross-connection control requirements on CWSs and their residential customers by: (1) allowing a dual check device to be used as backflow protection at or for residential service connections from CWSs to premises where there is any type of auxiliary (includes private and irrigation wells) or reclaimed water system; and (2) allowing biennial instead of annual testing of backflow preventer assemblies required at or for residential service connections from CWSs. The revised rule includes the minimum components that each CWS must include in its written cross-connection control plan and, for each category of customer, the minimum backflow protection that must be provided at or for the service connection from the CWS to the customer.

CWSs are not prohibited from requiring more stringent backflow protective measures at or for the service connection. It is our understanding that Farm Hill Utilities has revised their cross-connection control plan to require a double check valve assembly for those

Claude Wiley, President  
Farm Hill Utilities  
Page 2

residential customers with any type of auxiliary or reclaimed water system. Although Rule 62-555.360, F.A.C., states the minimum backflow protection requirement for

residential customers with any type of auxiliary water system is a dual check device, the Department does not object to Farm Hill Utilities requiring a double check valve assembly at or for the service connection. The Department has noted that some community water systems prefer backflow protection assemblies, such as the double check valve assembly, at or for the service connection since they can be tested in-line. The dual check device cannot be tested in-line and therefore must be removed and retrofitted or replaced every 5 to 10 years. For residential customers, backflow prevention assemblies, including the double check valve assembly, must be tested biennially (every other year).

If you have any questions, please call John Pope at (850) 595-0633, or email [john.pope@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:john.pope@dep.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,



Emile D. Hamilton  
District Director

EDH/jp