



## Filing Receipt

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**Control Number - 53075**

**ItemNumber - 820**

**WATER UTILITY TARIFF  
FOR**

Romark Utility Company  
(Utility Name)

108 S. Washington  
(Business Address)

Livingston, Texas 77351  
(City, State, Zip Code)

(936) 327-8262  
(Area Code/Telephone)

This tariff is effective for utility operations under the following Certificate(s) of Convenience and Necessity:

10116

This tariff is effective in the following county:

Polk

This tariff is effective in the following cities or unincorporated towns (if any):

None

This tariff is effective in the following subdivisions or systems:

Oak Terrace Estates: PWS# 1870055

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SECTION 1.0 -- RATE SCHEDULE

Section 1.01 - Rates

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Monthly Minimum Charge</u>	<u>Gallonage Charge</u>
5/8" or 3/4"	<u>\$43.50</u> (Includes 0 gallons)	<u>\$3.00</u> per 1000 gallons
1"	<u>\$87.00</u>	

FORM OF PAYMENT: The utility will accept the following form(s) of payment:

Cash\_\_\_\_, Check\_\_\_\_, Money Order\_\_\_\_, Credit Card\_\_\_\_, Other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

THE UTILITY MAY REQUIRE EXACT CHANGE FOR PAYMENTS AND MAY REFUSE TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS MADE USING MORE THAN \$1.00 IN SMALL COINS. A WRITTEN RECEIPT WILL BE GIVEN FOR CASH PAYMENTS.

REGULATORY ASSESSMENT ..... 1.0%

TCEQ RULES REQUIRE THE UTILITY TO COLLECT A FEE OF ONE PERCENT OF THE RETAIL MONTHLY BILL.

Section 1.02 - Miscellaneous Fees

TAP FEE ..... \$450.00

TAP FEE COVERS THE UTILITY'S COSTS FOR MATERIALS AND LABOR TO INSTALL A STANDARD RESIDENTIAL 5/8" or 3/4" METER. AN ADDITIONAL FEE TO COVER UNIQUE COSTS IS PERMITTED IF LISTED ON THIS TARIFF.

TAP FEE (Unique costs) ..... Actual Cost

FOR EXAMPLE, A ROAD BORE FOR CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE OF SUBDIVISIONS OR RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

TAP FEE (Large meter) ..... Actual Cost

TAP FEE IS THE UTILITY'S ACTUAL COST FOR MATERIALS AND LABOR FOR METER SIZE INSTALLED.

METER RELOCATION FEE ..... Actual Relocation Cost, Not to Exceed Tap Fee

THIS FEE MAY BE CHARGED IF A CUSTOMER REQUESTS THAT AN EXISTING METER BE RELOCATED.

METER TEST FEE ..... \$25.00

THIS FEE WHICH SHOULD REFLECT THE UTILITY'S COST MAY BE CHARGED IF A CUSTOMER REQUESTS A SECOND METER TEST WITHIN A TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND THE TEST INDICATES THAT THE METER IS RECORDING ACCURATELY. THE FEE MAY NOT EXCEED \$25.

TRANSFER FEE ..... \$50.00

THE TRANSFER FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR CHANGING AN ACCOUNT NAME AT THE SAME SERVICE LOCATION WHEN THE SERVICE IS NOT DISCONNECTED

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APPROVED TARIFF BY *[Signature]*

SECTION 1.0 -- RATE SCHEDULE (Continued)

RECONNECTION FEE

THE RECONNECT FEE MUST BE PAID BEFORE SERVICE CAN BE RESTORED TO A CUSTOMER WHO HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS (OR OTHER REASONS LISTED UNDER SECTION 2.0 OF THIS TARIFF):

- a) Non payment of bill (Maximum \$25.00) ..... \$25.00
- b) Customer's request that service be disconnected ..... \$50.00

LATE CHARGE (EITHER \$5.00 OR 10% OF THE BILL) ..... 10%  
 TCEQ RULES ALLOW A ONE-TIME PENALTY TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT BILLS. A LATE CHARGE MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO ANY BALANCE TO WHICH THE PENALTY WAS APPLIED IN A PREVIOUS BILLING.

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE ..... \$25.00  
 RETURNED CHECK CHARGES MUST BE BASED ON THE UTILITY'S DOCUMENTABLE COST.

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT RESIDENTIAL (Maximum \$50) ..... \$50.00

COMMERCIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL DEPOSIT ..... 1/6TH OF ESTIMATED ANNUAL BILL

GOVERNMENTAL TESTING, INSPECTION AND COSTS SURCHARGE ..... N/A  
 WHEN AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY TCEQ AND AFTER NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS, THE UTILITY MAY INCREASE RATES TO RECOVER INCREASED COSTS FOR INSPECTION FEES AND WATER TESTING. [30 TAC 291.21(K)(2)]

LINE EXTENSION AND CONSTRUCTION CHARGES:  
 REFER TO SECTION 3.0--EXTENSION POLICY FOR TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND CHARGES WHEN NEW CONSTRUCTION IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SERVICE.

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SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES

The utility will have the most current Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Rules, Chapter 291, Water Utility Regulation, available at its office for reference purposes. The Rules and this tariff shall be available for public inspection and reproduction at a reasonable cost. The latest Rules or Commission approved changes to the Rules supersede any rules or requirements in this tariff.

Section 2.01 - Application for Water Service

All applications for service will be made on the utility's standard application or contract form (attached in the Appendix to this tariff), will be signed by the applicant, any required fees (deposits, reconnect, tap, extension fees, etc. as applicable) will be paid and easements, if required, will be granted before service is provided by the utility. A separate application or contract will be made for each service location.

Section 2.02 - Refusal of Service

The utility may decline to serve an applicant until the applicant has complied with the regulations of the regulatory agencies (state and municipal regulations) and for the reasons outlined in the TCEQ Rules. In the event that the utility refuses to serve an applicant, the utility will inform the applicant in writing of the basis of its refusal. The utility is also required to inform the applicant that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.03 - Fees and Charges & Easements Required Before Service Can Be Connected

(A) Customer Deposits

If a residential applicant cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility, the applicant may be required to pay a deposit as provided for in Section 1.02 - Miscellaneous Fees of this tariff. The utility will keep records of the deposit and credit interest in accordance with TCEQ Rules.

Residential applicants 65 years of age or older may not be required to pay deposits unless the applicant has an outstanding account balance with the utility or another water or sewer utility which accrued within the last two years.

Nonresidential applicants who cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility may be required to make a deposit that does not exceed an amount equivalent to one-sixth of the estimated annual billings.

Refund of deposit - If service is not connected, or after disconnection of service, the utility will promptly refund the customer's deposit plus accrued interest or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bills for service furnished. The utility may refund the deposit at any time prior to termination of utility service but must refund the deposit plus interest for any customer who has paid 18 consecutive billings without being delinquent.

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SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

(B) Tap or Reconnect Fees

A new customer requesting service at a location where service has not previously been provided must pay a tap fee as provided in Section 1. A customer requesting service where service has previously been provided must pay a reconnect fee as provided in Section 1. Any applicant or existing customer required to pay for any costs not specifically set forth in the rate schedule pages of this tariff shall be given a written explanation of such costs prior to request for payment and/or commencement of construction. If the applicant or existing customer does not believe that these costs are reasonable or necessary, the applicant or existing customer shall be informed of their right to appeal such costs to the TCEQ or such other regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the utility's rates in that portion of the utility's service area in which the applicant's or existing customer's property(ies) is located.

Fees in addition to the regular tap fee may be charged if listed specifically in Section 1 to cover unique costs not normally incurred as permitted by 30 T. A. C. 291.86(a)(1)(C). For example, a road bore for customers outside a subdivision or residential area could be considered a unique cost.

(C) Easement Requirement

Where recorded public utility easements on the service applicant's property do not exist or public road right-of-way easements are not available to access the applicant's property, the Utility may require the applicant to provide it with a permanent recorded public utility easement on and across the applicant's real property sufficient to provide service to that applicant. Such easement(s) shall not be used for the construction of production, storage, transmission or pressure facilities unless they are needed for adequate service to that applicant.

Section 2.04 - Utility Response to Applications for Service

After the applicant has met all the requirements, conditions and regulations for service, the utility will install tap, meter and utility cut-off valve and/or take all necessary actions to initiate service. The utility will serve each qualified applicant for service within 5 working days unless line extensions or new facilities are required. If construction is required to fill the order and if it cannot be completed within 30 days, the utility will provide the applicant with a written explanation of the construction required and an expected date of service.

Except for good cause where service has previously been provided, service will be reconnected within one working day after the applicant has met the requirements for reconnection.

Section 2.05 - Customer Responsibility

The customer will be responsible for furnishing and laying the necessary customer service pipe from the meter location to the place of consumption. Customers will not be allowed to use the utility's cutoff valve on the utility's side of the meter. Existing customers may install cutoff valves on their side of the meter and are encouraged to do so. All new customers may be required to install and maintain a cutoff valve on their side of the meter.

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SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

No direct connection between a public water supply system and any potential source of contamination or between a public water supply system and a private water source (ex. private well) will be allowed. A customer shall not connect, or allow any other person or party to connect, onto any water lines on his premises.

Section 2.06 - Customer Service Inspections

Applicants for new service connections or facilities which have undergone extensive plumbing modifications are required to furnish the utility a completed customer service inspection certificate. The inspection certificate shall certify that the establishment is in compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems, Section 290.46(j). The Utility is not required to perform these inspections for the applicant/customer, but will assist the applicant/customer in locating and obtaining the services of a certified inspector.

Section 2.07 - Back Flow Prevention Devices

No water connection shall be allowed to any residence or establishment where an actual or potential contamination hazard exists unless the public water facilities are protected from contamination by either an approved air gap, backflow prevention assembly, or other approved device. The type of device or backflow prevention assembly required shall be determined by the specific potential hazard identified in §290.47(i) Appendix I, Assessment of Hazards and Selection of Assemblies of the TCEQ Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems.

The use of a backflow prevention assembly at the service connection shall be considered as additional backflow protection and shall not negate the use of backflow protection on internal hazards as outlined and enforced by local plumbing codes. When a customer service inspection certificate indicates that an adequate internal cross-connection control program is in effect, backflow protection at the water service entrance or meter is not required.

At any residence or establishment where it has been determined by a customer service inspection, that there is no actual or potential contamination hazard, as referenced in Section 290.47(i) Appendix I, Assessment of Hazards and Selection of Assemblies of the TCEQ Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems, then a backflow prevention assembly or device is not required. Outside hose bibs do require, at a minimum, the installation and maintenance of a working atmospheric vacuum breaker.

All backflow prevention assemblies or devices shall be tested upon installation by a TCEQ certified backflow prevention assembly tester and certified to be operating within specifications. Backflow prevention assemblies which are installed to provide protection against health hazards must also be tested and certified to be operating within specifications at least annually by a certified backflow prevention assembly tester.

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SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

If the utility determines that a backflow prevention assembly or device is required, the utility will provide the customer or applicant with a list of TCEQ certified backflow prevention assembly testers. The customer will be responsible for the cost of installation and testing, if any, of backflow prevention assembly or device. The customer should contact several qualified installers to compare prices before installation. The customer must pay for any required maintenance and annual testing and must furnish a copy of the test results demonstrating that the assembly is functioning properly to the utility within 30 days after the anniversary date of the installation unless a different date is agreed upon.

Section 2.08 - Access to Customer's Premises

The utility will have the right of access to the customer's premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of installing, testing, inspecting or repairing water mains or other equipment used in connection with its provision of water service, or for the purpose of removing its property and disconnecting lines, and for all other purposes necessary to the operation of the utility system including inspecting the customer's plumbing for code, plumbing or tariff violations. The customer shall allow the utility and its personnel access to the customer's property to conduct any water quality tests or inspections required by law. Unless necessary to respond to equipment failure, leak or other condition creating an immediate threat to public health and safety or the continued provision of adequate utility service to others, such entry upon the customer's property shall be during normal business hours and the utility personnel will attempt to notify the customer that they will be working on the customer's property. The customer may require any utility representative, employee, contractor, or agent seeking to make such entry identify themselves, their affiliation with the utility, and the purpose of their entry.

All customers or service applicants shall provide access to meters and utility cutoff valves at all times reasonably necessary to conduct ordinary utility business and after normal business hours as needed to protect and preserve the integrity of the public drinking water supply.

Section 2.09 - Meter Requirements, Readings, and Testing

One meter is required for each residential, commercial, or industrial connection. All water sold by the utility will be billed based on meter measurements. The utility will provide, install, own and maintain meters to measure amounts of water consumed by its customers.

Meters will be read at monthly intervals and as nearly as possible on the corresponding day of each monthly meter reading period unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

Meter tests. The utility will, upon the request of a customer, and, if the customer so desires, in his or her presence or in that of his or her authorized representative, make without charge a test of the accuracy of the customer's meter. If the customer asks to observe the test, the test will be made during the utility's normal working hours at a time convenient to the customer. Whenever possible,

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SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

the test will be made on the customer's premises, but may, at the utility's discretion, be made at the utility's testing facility. If within a period of two years the customer requests a new test, the utility will make the test, but if the meter is found to be within the accuracy standards established by the American Water Works Association, the utility will charge the customer a fee which reflects the cost to test the meter up to a maximum \$25 for a residential customer. Following the completion of any requested test, the utility will promptly advise the customer of the date of removal of the meter, the date of the test, the result of the test, and who made the test.

Section 2.10 - Billing

(A) Regular Billing

Bills from the utility will be mailed monthly unless otherwise authorized by the Commission. The due date of bills for utility service will be at least sixteen (16) days from the date of issuance. The postmark on the bill or, if there is no postmark on the bill, the recorded date of mailing by the utility will constitute proof of the date of issuance. Payment for utility service is delinquent if full payment, including late fees and the regulatory assessment, is not received at the utility or the utility's authorized payment agency by 5:00 p.m. on the due date. If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, the due date for payment purposes will be the next workday after the due date.

(B) Late Fees

A late penalty of either \$5.00 or 10.0% will be charged on bills received after the due date. The penalty on delinquent bills will not be applied to any balance to which the penalty was applied in a previous billing. The utility must maintain a record of the date of mailing to charge the late penalty.

(C) Information on Bill

Each bill will provide all information required by the TCEQ Rules. For each of the systems it operates, the utility will maintain and note on the monthly bill a local or toll-free telephone number (or numbers) to which customers can direct questions about their utility service.

(D) Prorated Bills - If service is interrupted or seriously impaired for 24 consecutive hours or more, the utility will prorate the monthly base bill in proportion to the time service was not available to reflect this loss of service.

Section 2.11- Payments

All payments for utility service shall be delivered or mailed to the utility's business office. If the business office fails to receive payment prior to the time of noticed disconnection for non-payment of a delinquent account, service will be terminated as scheduled. Utility service crews shall not be allowed to collect payments on customer accounts in the field.

Payment of an account by any means that has been dishonored and returned by the payor or payee's bank, shall be deemed to be delinquent. All returned payments must be redeemed with cash or valid

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SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

money order. If a customer has two returned payments within a twelve month period, the customer shall be required to pay a deposit if one has not already been paid.

Section 2.12 - Service Disconnection

(A) With Notice

Utility service may be disconnected if the bill has not been paid in full by the date listed on the termination notice. The termination date must be at least 10 days after the notice is mailed or hand delivered.

The utility is encouraged to offer a deferred payment plan to a customer who cannot pay an outstanding bill in full and is willing to pay the balance in reasonable installments. However, a customer's utility service may be disconnected if a bill has not been paid or a deferred payment agreement entered into within 26 days from the date of issuance of a bill and if proper notice of termination has been given.

Notice of termination must be a separate mailing or hand delivery in accordance with the TCEQ Rules.

(B) Without Notice

Utility service may also be disconnected without notice for reasons as described in the TCEQ Rules.

Section 2.13 - Reconnection of Service

Utility personnel must be available during normal business hours to accept payments on the day service is disconnected and the following day unless service was disconnected at the customer's request or due to a hazardous condition.

Service will be reconnected within 36 hours after the past due bill, reconnect fees and any other outstanding charges are paid or the conditions which caused service to be disconnected are corrected.

Section 2.14 - Service Interruptions

The utility will make all reasonable efforts to prevent interruptions of service. If interruptions occur, the utility will re-establish service within the shortest possible time. Except for momentary interruptions due to automatic equipment operations, the utility will keep a complete record of all interruptions, both emergency and scheduled and will notify the Commission in writing of any service interruptions affecting the entire system or any major division of the system lasting more than four hours. The notice will explain the cause of the interruptions.

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SECTION 2.0 -- SERVICE RULES AND POLICIES (Continued)

Section 2.15 - Quality of Service

The utility will plan, furnish, and maintain production, treatment, storage, transmission, and distribution facilities of sufficient size and capacity to provide a continuous and adequate supply of water for all reasonable consumer uses. Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, the utility will maintain facilities as described in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems.

Section 2.16 - Customer Complaints and Disputes

If a customer or applicant for service lodges a complaint, the utility will promptly make a suitable investigation and advise the complainant of the results. Service will not be disconnected pending completion of the investigation. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the utility's response, the utility must advise the complainant that he has recourse through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality complaint process. Pending resolution of a complaint, the commission may require continuation or restoration of service.

The utility will maintain a record of all complaints which shows the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint and the adjustment or disposition thereof, for a period of two years after the final settlement of the complaint.

In the event of a dispute between a customer and a utility regarding any bill for utility service, the utility will conduct an investigation and report the results to the customer. If the dispute is not resolved, the utility will inform the customer that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.17 - Customer Liability

Customer shall be liable for any damage or injury to utility-owned property shown to be caused by the customer.

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SECTION 3.0 -- EXTENSION POLICY

Section 3.01 - Standard Extension Requirements

LINE EXTENSION AND CONSTRUCTION CHARGES: NO CONTRIBUTION IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION MAY BE REQUIRED OF ANY CUSTOMER EXCEPT AS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS APPROVED EXTENSION POLICY.

The Utility is not required to extend service to any applicant outside of its certified service area and will only do so under terms and conditions mutually agreeable to the Utility and the applicant, in compliance with TCEQ rules and policies, and upon extension of the Utility's certified service area boundaries by the TCEQ.

The applicant for service will be given an itemized statement of the costs, options such as rebates to the customer, sharing of construction costs between the utility and the customer, or sharing of costs between the customer and other applicants prior to beginning construction.

The Utility is not required to extend service to any applicant outside of its certificated service area and will only do so under terms and conditions mutually agreeable to the Utility and the applicant, in compliance with TCEQ rules and policies, and upon extension of the Utility's certificated service area boundaries by the TCEQ.

Section 3.02 - Costs Utilities and Service Applicants Shall Bear

Within its certified area, the utility will pay the cost of the first 200 feet of any water main or distribution line necessary to extend service to an individual residential customer within a platted subdivision.

However, if the residential customer requesting service purchased the property after the developer was notified in writing of the need to provide facilities to the utility, the utility may charge for the first 200 feet. The utility must also be able to document that the developer of the subdivision refused to provide facilities compatible with the utility's facilities in accordance with the utility's approved extension policy after receiving a written request from the utility.

Residential customers will be charged the equivalent of the costs of extending service to their property from the nearest transmission or distribution line even if that line does not have adequate capacity to serve the customer. However, if the customer places unique, non-standard service demands upon the system, the customer may be charged the additional cost of extending service to and throughout their property, including the cost of all necessary transmission and storage facilities necessary to meet the service demands anticipated to be created by that property.

Unless an exception is granted by the TCEQ's Executive Director, the residential service applicant shall not be required to pay for costs of main extensions greater than 2" in diameter for water distribution and pressure wastewater collection lines and 6" in diameter for gravity wastewater lines.

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SECTION 3.0 -- EXTENSION POLICY (Continued)

Exceptions may be granted by the TCEQ Executive Director if

- adequate service cannot be provided to the applicant using the maximum line sizes listed due to distance or elevation, in which case, it shall be the utility's burden to justify that a larger diameter pipe is required for adequate service;
- or larger minimum line sizes are required under subdivision platting requirements or building codes of municipalities within whose corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction the point of use is located; or the residential service applicant is located outside the CCN service area.

If an exception is granted, the Utility shall establish a proportional cost plan for the specific extension or a rebate plan which may be limited to seven years to return the portion of the applicant's costs for oversizing as new customers are added to ensure that future applicants for service on the line pay at least as much as the initial service applicant.

For purposes of determining the costs that service applicants shall pay, commercial customers with service demands greater than residential customer demands in the certified area, industrial, and wholesale customers shall be treated as developers. A service applicant requesting a one inch meter for a lawn sprinkler system to service a residential lot is not considered nonstandard service.

If an applicant requires service other than the standard service provided by the utility, such applicant will be required to pay all expenses incurred by the utility in excess of the expenses that would be incurred in providing the standard service and connection beyond 200 feet and throughout his property including the cost of all necessary transmission facilities.

The utility will bear the full cost of any over-sizing of water mains necessary to serve other customers in the immediate area. The individual residential customer shall not be charged for any additional production, storage, or treatment facilities. Contributions in aid of construction may not be required of individual residential customers for production, storage, treatment or transmission facilities unless otherwise approved by the Commission under this specific extension policy.

Section 3.03 - Contributions in Aid of Construction

Developers may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction in amounts sufficient to furnish the development with all facilities necessary to provide for reasonable local demand requirements and to comply with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality minimum design criteria for facilities used in the production, transmission, pumping, or treatment of water or Texas Commission on Environmental Quality minimum requirements. For purposes of this subsection, a developer is one who subdivides or requests more than two meters on a piece of property. Commercial, industrial, and wholesale customers will be treated as developers.

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SECTION 3.0 -- EXTENSION POLICY (Continued)

Any applicant who places unique or non-standard service demands on the system may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction for the actual costs of any additional facilities required to maintain compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality minimum design criteria for water production, treatment, pumping, storage and transmission.

Any service extension to a subdivision (recorded or unrecorded) may be subject to the provisions and restrictions of 30 TAC 291.86(d). When a developer wishes to extend the system to prepare to service multiple new connections, the charge shall be the cost of such extension, plus a pro-rata charge for facilities which must be committed to such extension compliant with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality minimum design criteria. As provided by 30 T.A.C. 291.85(e)(3), for purposes of this section, commercial, industrial, and wholesale customers shall be treated as developers.

A utility may only charge a developer standby fees for unrecovered costs of facilities committed to a developer's property under the following circumstances:

- Under a contract and only in accordance with the terms of the contract; or
- if service is not being provided to a lot or lots within two years after installation of facilities necessary to provide service to the lots has been completed and if the standby fees are included on the utility's approved tariff after a rate change application has been filed. The fees cannot be billed to the developer or collected until the standby fees have been approved by the commission or executive director.
- for purposes of this section, a manufactured housing rental community can only be charged standby fees under a contract or if the utility installs the facilities necessary to provide individually metered service to each of the rental lots or spaces in the community.

Section 3.04 - Appealing Connection Costs

The imposition of additional extension costs or charges as provided by Sections 3.0 - Extension Policy of this tariff shall be subject to appeal as provided in this tariff, TCEQ rules, or the rules of such other regulatory authority as may have jurisdiction over the utility's rates and services. Any applicant required to pay for any costs not specifically set forth in the rate schedule pages of this tariff shall be given a written explanation of such costs prior to payment and/or commencement of construction. If the applicant does not believe that these costs are reasonable or necessary, the applicant shall be informed of the right to appeal such costs to the TCEQ or such other regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the utility's rates in that portion of the utility's service area in which the applicant's property(ies) is located.

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SECTION 3.0 -- EXTENSION POLICY (Continued)

Section 3.05 - Applying for Service

The Utility will provide a written service application form to the applicant for each request for service received by the Utility's business offices. A separate application shall be required for each potential service location if more than one service connection is desired by any individual applicant. Service application forms will be available at the Utility's business office during normal weekday business hours. Service applications will be sent by prepaid first class United States mail to the address provided by the applicant upon request. Completed applications should be returned by hand delivery in case there are questions which might delay fulfilling the service request. Completed service applications may be submitted by mail if hand delivery is not possible.

Where a new tap or service connection is required, the service applicant shall be required to submit a written service application and request that a tap be made. A diagram, map, plat, or written metes and bounds description of precisely where the applicant desires each tap or service connection is to be made and, if necessary, where the meter is to be installed, along the applicant's property line may also be required with the tap request. The actual point of connection and meter installation must be readily accessible to Utility personnel for inspection, servicing, and meter reading while being reasonably secure from damage by vehicles and mowers. If the Utility has more than one main adjacent to the service applicant's property, the tap or service connection will be made to the Utility's nearest service main with adequate capacity to service the applicant's full potential service demand. Beyond the initial 200 feet, the customer shall bear only the equivalent cost of extending from the nearest main. If the tap or service connection cannot be made at the applicant's desired location, it will be made at another location mutually acceptable to the applicant and the Utility. If no agreement on location can be made, the applicant may refer the matter to the TCEQ for resolution.

Section 3.06 - Qualified Service Applicant

A "qualified service applicant" is an applicant who has: (1) met all of the Utility's requirements for service contained in this tariff, TCEQ rules and/or TCEQ order, (2) has made payment or made arrangement for payment of tap fees, (3) has provided all easements and rights-of-way required to provide service to the requested location, (4) delivered an executed customer service inspection certificate to the Utility, if applicable, and (5) has executed a customer service application for each location to which service is being requested.

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SECTION 3.0 -- EXTENSION POLICY (Continued)

The Utility shall serve each qualified service applicant within its certified service area as soon as practical after receiving a completed service application. All service requests will be fulfilled within the time limits prescribed by TCEQ rules once the applicant has met all conditions precedent to achieving "qualified service applicant" status. If a service request cannot be fulfilled within the required period, the applicant shall be notified in writing of the delay, its cause and the anticipated date that service will be available. The TCEQ service dates shall not become applicable until the service applicant has met all conditions precedent to becoming a qualified service applicant as defined by TCEQ rules.

Section 3.07 - Developer Requirements

As a condition of service to a new subdivision, the Utility shall require a developer (as defined by TCEQ rule) to provide permanent recorded public utility easements as a condition of service to any location within the developer's property.

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SECTION 4.0 -- DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN  
(Utility must attach copy of TCEQ approved Drought Contingency Plan)

# DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

**Oak Terrace Estates  
Romark Utility Company  
November 2005**

## **Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In cases of extreme drought, periods of abnormally high usage, system contamination, or extended reduction in ability to supply water due to equipment failure, temporary restrictions may be instituted to limit nonessential water usage. The purpose of the Drought Contingency Plan is to encourage customer conservation in order to maintain supply, storage, or pressure or to comply with the requirements of a court, government agency or other authority.

Romark Utility Company hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the consumption of water regarding the afore mentioned situations for the purpose of maintaining integrity of domestic water usage, sanitation, and fire protection; also to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and to minimize the adverse affects of water supply shortage or any other water supply emergency.

Water restriction is not a legitimate alternative when the water system does not meet the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's capacity requirements under normal conditions, nor when the utility fails to take all immediate and necessary steps to replace or repair malfunctioning equipment.

## **Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by Romark Utility Company by means of keeping the information available at 1003 Village Brook, Livingston, Texas and by notifying customers of the existence of the Plan in local newspapers.

## **Section III: Public Education**

Romark Utility Company will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage as the circumstances require. This information will be provided by means of mailing the information at customers' request.

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#### Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service areas of Romark Utility Company are located within the Region H regional water planning areas and Romark Utility Company has provided a copy of this Plan to the Region H water planning groups.

#### Section V: Declaration

DECLARATION OF WATER RESTRICTION: When there is an acute water supply shortage to such an extent that normal use patterns can no longer be served, the utility may implement a water restriction program in the following manner.

#### Section VI: Notice Requirements

Written notice will be provided to each customer **prior to implementation or termination of each stage of the water restriction program**. Mailed notice must be given to each customer 72 hours prior to the start of water restriction. If notice is hand delivered, the utility cannot enforce the provisions of the plan for 24 hours after notice is provided. The written notice to customers will contain the following information:

- a) the date restrictions will begin,
- b) the circumstances that triggered the restrictions,
- c) the stages of response and explanation of the restrictions to be implemented, and,
- d) an explanation of the consequences for violations.

The utility must notify the TNRCC by telephone at (512) 239- 6020, or electronic mail at [watermon@tnrcc.state.tx.us](mailto:watermon@tnrcc.state.tx.us) prior to implementing the program and **must notify in writing the Public Drinking Water Section at MC - 155, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 within five (5) working days of implementation including a copy of the utility's restriction notice. The utility must file a status report of its restriction program with the TNRCC every 30 days that restriction continues.**

#### Section VII: Violations

1. First violation - The customer will be notified by written notice of their specific violation.
2. Second violation - After written notice the utility may install a flow restricting device in the line to limit the amount of water which will pass through the meter in a 24-hour period. The utility may charge the customer for the actual cost of installing and removing the flow restricting device, not to exceed \$50.00.
3. Subsequent violations - The utility may discontinue service at the meter for a period of seven (7) days, or until the end of the calendar month, whichever is LESS. The normal reconnect fee of Romark Utility Company, hereby established as \$35.00 will apply for restoration of service.

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### **Section VIII: Exemptions or Variances**

The utility may grant any customer an exemption or variance from the drought contingency plan for good cause **upon written request**. A customer who is refused an exemption or variance may appeal such action of the utility by written appeal to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. The utility will treat all customers equally concerning exemptions and variances, and shall not discriminate in granting exemptions and variances. No exemption or variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

### **Section IX: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages**

Unless there is an immediate and extreme reduction in water production, or other absolute necessity to declare an emergency or severe condition, the utility will initially declare Stage I restrictions. If, after a reasonable period of time, demand is not reduced enough to alleviate outages, reduce the risk of outages, or comply with restrictions required by a court, government agency or other authority, Stage II may be implemented with Stage III to follow if necessary.

### **Section X: Application and Definitions**

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by Romark Utility Company. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in this Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and industrial water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and nonprofit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company, or organization using water supplied by Romark Utility Company.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or for sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

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Industrial water use: the use of water in pro  
having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether  
publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and  
rights-of-way and medians.

Nonessential water use: water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health,  
safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) Irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except  
otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other  
vehicle;
- (c) Use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis  
courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire  
protection;
- (e) Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-  
type pools;
- (g) Use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where  
necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a responsible period after having been given  
notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and;
- (i) Use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than  
fire fighting.

Odd numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7,  
or 9.

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**STAGE I - MILD WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:**

TRIGGERS: Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses when ground storage tank levels drop below 80%, well capacity reaches 70%, water system pressure drops 20%, water availability drops to 80%.

Requirements for termination

Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

**STAGE I RESPONSE MEASURES**

Goal: To achieve a voluntary 10% reduction in total water use

Supply management measures

Romark Utility Company. will manage limited water supplies by discontinued flushing, and will reduce water demand by activation and use of alternative water supply where possible.

Voluntary water use restrictions

- (a) Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m..
- (b) All water operations of Romark Utility Company shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 2 of the Plan.
- (c) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for nonessential purposes.

**STAGE II - MODERATE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:**

TRIGGERS: Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain nonessential water uses when water levels drop below 70%, well capacity reaches 80%, water system pressure drops 25%, water availability drops to 70%.

Requirements for termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

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## STAGE II RESPONSE MEASURES

Goal: Achieve a 20% reduction in total water use.

### Supply management measures

Romark Utility Company will reduce or discontinue flushing of water mains, reduce or discontinue irrigation of public landscaped areas; and use an alternative source, if possible.

### Water use restrictions

Under threat of penalty for violation, the following water use restrictions shall apply to all persons:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems is limited to the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
- (c) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or "Jacuzzi" type pools is prohibited except between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m..
- (d) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a re-circulation system.
- (e) Use of water from hydrants or flush valves shall be limited to maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.
- (f) Use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt areas is prohibited except by hand-held hose and only on designated watering days between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m..
- (g) The following uses of water are defined as nonessential and are prohibited:
  1. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  2. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  3. use of water for dust control;
  4. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and

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5. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

### STAGE III- SEVERE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:

#### TRIGGERS: Requirements for initiation:

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 3 of this Plan when ground storage tank water levels drop below 60%, well capacity reaches 85%, water system pressure drops 30%, water availability drops to 60%.

#### Requirements for termination:

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

### STAGE III RESPONSE MEASURES

Goal: Achieve a 30% reduction in total water use, and daily water demand, ECT..

#### Supply Management Measures:

Romark Utility Company will limit water supplies and/or reduce water demand by: reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; use of alternative supply sources.

Water Use Restrictions: All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering hours of between 12:00 midnight and 3:00 a.m.. The use of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, drip irrigation, or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems only. The use of hose-end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.
- (b) The watering of golf course tees is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by Romark Utility Company.
- (c) The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.

### STAGE IV CRITICAL WATER SHORTAGE

#### TRIGGERS: Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 4 of this Plan when ground storage tank water levels drop below 50%, well capacity reaches 90%, water system pressure drops 35%, water availability drops to 50%.

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Requirements for termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.

**STAGE IV RESPONSE MEASURES**

Goal: Achieve a 40% reduction in total water use, daily water demand, ECT..

Supply management measures

Romark Utility Company will limit water supplies and/or reduce water demand by: reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; use of alternative supply sources.

Water use restrictions

All requirements of Stage 2 and 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering hours of between 12:00 midnight and 3:00 a.m.. The use of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, drip irrigation only. The use of permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems or hose-end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle not occurring on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station and not in the interest of immediate public health, safety, and welfare, is strictly prohibited. Further, such vehicle washing at commercial car washes and commercial service stations is prohibited.
- (c) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or "Jacuzzi" type pools is prohibited.
- (d) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a re-circulation system.
- (e) No applications for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be approved, and time limits for approval of such applications are hereby suspended for such time as this drought response stage or a higher-numbered stage shall be in effect.

**STAGE V EMERGENCY WATER SHORTAGE CONDITIONS**

TRIGGERS: Requirements for initiation

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when Romark Utility Company determines that a water supply emergency exists based upon:

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1. Major water line breaks, or pump or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service; or
2. Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).

Requirements for termination

Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

**STAGE V RESPONSE MEASURES**

Goal: Achieve a 50% reduction in total water use, daily water demand, etc.

Supply management measures

Romark Utility Company will limit water supplies and/or reduce water demand by: reduced or discontinued flushing of water mains, reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; use of alternative supply sources; use of reclaimed water for non-potable uses.

Water use restrictions

All requirements of Stage 2, 3, and 4 shall remain in effect during Stage 5 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

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*SP/SP*

## APPENDIX A -- SAMPLE SERVICE AGREEMENT

From 30 TAC Chapter 290.47(b), Appendix B

### SERVICE AGREEMENT

- I. **PURPOSE.** The NAME OF WATER SYSTEM is responsible for protecting the drinking water supply from contamination or pollution which could result from improper private water distribution system construction or configuration. The purpose of this service agreement is to notify each customer of the restrictions which are in place to provide this protection. The utility enforces these restrictions to ensure the public health and welfare. Each customer must sign this agreement before the NAME OF WATER SYSTEM will begin service. In addition, when service to an existing connection has been suspended or terminated, the water system will not re-establish service unless it has a signed copy of this agreement.
  
- II. **RESTRICTIONS.** The following unacceptable practices are prohibited by State regulations.
  - A. No direct connection between the public drinking water supply and a potential source of contamination is permitted. Potential sources of contamination shall be isolated from the public water system by an air-gap or an appropriate backflow prevention device.
  
  - B. No cross-connection between the public drinking water supply and a private water system is permitted. These potential threats to the public drinking water supply shall be eliminated at the service connection by the installation of an air-gap or a reduced pressure-zone backflow prevention device.
  
  - C. No connection which allows water to be returned to the public drinking water supply is permitted.
  
  - D. No pipe or pipe fitting which contains more than 8.0% lead may be used for the installation or repair of plumbing at any connection which provides water for human use.
  
  - E. No solder or flux which contains more than 0.2% lead can be used for the installation or repair of plumbing at any connection which provides water for human use.

APPENDIX A -- SAMPLE SERVICE AGREEMENT (Continued)

III. SERVICE AGREEMENT. The following are the terms of the service agreement between the NAME OF WATER SYSTEM (the Water System) and NAME OF CUSTOMER (the Customer).

- A. The Water System will maintain a copy of this agreement as long as the Customer and/or the premises is connected to the Water System.
- B. The Customer shall allow his property to be inspected for possible cross-connections and other potential contamination hazards. These inspections shall be conducted by the Water System or its designated agent prior to initiating new water service; when there is reason to believe that cross-connections or other potential contamination hazards exist; or after any major changes to the private water distribution facilities. The inspections shall be conducted during the Water System's normal business hours.
- C. The Water System shall notify the Customer in writing of any cross-connection or other potential contamination hazard which has been identified during the initial inspection or the periodic reinspection.
- D. The Customer shall immediately remove or adequately isolate any potential cross-connections or other potential contamination hazards on his premises.
- E. The Customer shall, at his expense, properly install, test, and maintain any backflow prevention device required by the Water System. Copies of all testing and maintenance records shall be provided to the Water System.

IV. ENFORCEMENT. If the Customer fails to comply with the terms of the Service Agreement, the Water System shall, at its option, either terminate service or properly install, test, and maintain an appropriate backflow prevention device at the service connection. Any expenses associated with the enforcement of this agreement shall be billed to the Customer.

CUSTOMER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX B -- APPLICATION FOR SERVICE  
(Utility Must Attach Blank Copy)