

NATURAL GAS SERVICE INFORMATION

**ATHENS UTILITIES BOARD
DIVISION OF GAS
ATHENS, TENNESSEE**

**APRIL 1, 2000
REVISED October 1, 2009
REVISED July 1, 2022**

**CRAIG BRYMER
SUPERINTENDENT**

NATURAL GAS SERVICE INFORMATION

1. SERVICE LINE

- 1.A. Come by our Customer Service Center in the Athens Utilities Board office, located at 100 New Englewood Road, Athens, TN. Give the clerk your name, billing and mailing address, telephone number, and pictorial I.D.
- 1.B. A work order will be generated to install the gas service line at your residence after the service line fees are received.
- 1.C. AUB will collect the following charges at the time you apply for the new gas service:
 - 1) Service line and meter set fee per AUB Schedule of Rates and Fees.
 - 2) Our natural gas system is required to comply with all Pipeline Safety Regulations as set forth in 49 CFR 1.53, Part 192.
When a service line serving only one residential customer is installed or replaced, Section 192.383 requires the Utility to install an EXCESS FLOW VALVE on the service line. An EXCESS FLOW VALVE is intended to stop the flow of gas should the flow exceed a set rate such as when the service line is broken by construction or other accidents. The cost of installation must be paid in advance in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100).
- 1.D. The meter will be located at the utility's discretion. The location will be such that the meter and connections are accessible in order that the meter may be read or changed. The customer may not encumber the meter set with plants, shrubs, fences or in any way that will inhibit the Athens Utilities Board's ability to read and maintain the meter set. The Division avoids installing a service line under paved or concrete driveways. The easiest route for service line installation will be chosen.
- 1.E. It is the responsibility of the customer to inform the Division of the presence and location of any and all known buried utilities located on the customer's property. The Division will not be held liable for damages incurred to said utilities, which are not correctly located.
- 1.F. If you wish to proceed and have natural gas installed, the Division will add you to the queue of installation. A service line will then be installed from the main to the meter set. You will then be billed for the cost of installation. The amount of your service line fee will be determined by addendum 03-05-01. From that point of connection at the meter you are then responsible for having the piping and appliances installed into your home or business. After your piping is complete and appliances have been installed you must contact the Division to arrange an inspection and to have the lock removed from the meter. In no circumstance will a contractor or homeowner be allowed to operate, unlock, or tamper with a meter. In no circumstance will a homeowner or contractor use any gas in any way except through an inspected and accepted piping/appliance system.
- 1.G. Customers who wish to have their service line or meter set moved or modified due to remodeling or some other customer convenience will be charged a relocation fee. The customer in no case will be permitted to move or modify the service line or meter set.

- 1.H. The lines and meter set are the wholly owned property of Athens Utilities Board. The customer can in no way encumber AUB's access to the lines or meter set.

2. BILLING

- 2.A. Natural gas usage is billed per therms.
- 2.B. There is a monthly availability charge, which begins to accrue immediately after the service line is installed and a meter set.
- 2.C. A statement of account per customer will be rendered monthly and shall be paid by the due date as shown on the bill. Failure to receive the bill will not release the customer from payment obligation. Bills paid on or before the due date of payment shall be payable at the net rate; thereafter, the gross rate (net amount plus five (5%) percent) shall apply. Should the due date for payment of the bill at the net rate fall on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the business date next following the final date will be held as a day of grace for payment of bill. Net rate remittance received by mail after the time limit for payment of said net rate will be accepted by the Utility if the incoming envelope bears U.S. Postal date stamp of the due date for payment of the net amount or any prior date. Night depository receipts will be accepted if received by 7.30 a.m., on the morning following the due date of the bill. All charges are subject to a penalty of five percent of the amount of charges when they are not paid by the specified due date.

3. REGULATORY AUTHORITY

- 3.A. The Division shall utilize the standards as developed by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, The United States Department of Transportation, and the International Fuel Gas Code. Information contained in this document is derived from these sources. Questions concerning regulatory/code concerns not covered in this document should be referred to the referenced governing authorities.

4. CUSTOMER SUPPLIED PIPING

- 4.A. All consumers piping must be installed by a Bonded Gas Fitter. A list of Bonded Gas Fitters is attached to this document.
- 4.B. After your piping is installed contact the Gas Division, and an inspector will be sent to inspect your fuel line, appliance venting/installation, and turn on your gas service. Your bonded gas fitter must at this time present written proof that the installation has been pressure tested, in accordance with division guidelines, prior to installing the appliances.
- 4.C. The customer owns and is responsible for the gas distribution system in his home or business. As part of the consideration for this installation, the natural gas customer does hereby release the Athens Utilities Boards Gas Division from any and all claims for damages from whatsoever cause incidental to the installation or operation of the customers piping, appliances or use of natural gas.
- 4.C. Inspections furnished by the Division are for the good use of the Gas Division only.

5. PIPE INSTALLATION

- 5.A. The Installer shall be a Bonded Gas Fitter and be qualified to adequately size the customer's piping in accordance with the International Fuel Gas Code. Piping shall be of such size and so installed as to provide a supply of gas sufficient to meet maximum demand without undue loss of pressure between the point of delivery and gas appliances/equipment. Actual appliance demand should be used to size the supply system.
- 5.B. Buried black iron must be welded and cathodically protected from corrosion. Plastic pipe (MDPE 2406-ASTM 2513) may be installed. The plastic pipe installer must have certification in natural gas plastic pipe heat fusing. Tracing wire must be buried with plastic lines. Minimum soil cover for all buried lines shall be 12 inches. No gas piping shall be placed underground closer than 12 inches from water, drainage, electrical or sewer lines. Laying or installing gas piping in the same ditch as water, sewer, electricity or drainage is prohibited. All buried piping will be left exposed for inspection prior to covering. AUB is not responsible for any maintenance of the customer's buried piping.
- 5.C. Drip legs shall be provided per manufacturer's guidelines

6. TEST OF PIPING FOR TIGHTNESS

- 6.A. Before a customer's gas piping system is placed into service, it shall be carefully tested by a Bonded Gas Fitter, to assure that it is gas tight. If repairs or additions are made following the pressure test, the affected piping shall again be tested. The piping shall be tested with air or inert gas. The pressure test is the responsibility of the installer. The installer must present written proof to the customer and the Division that the test was performed successfully.
- 6.B. Customer's gas piping shall withstand a pressure of at least 20 psig for a minimum of 120 minutes without showing a drop in pressure. A minimum 50-psi gauge is required for this test.
- 6.C. The Bonded Gas Fitter will be assessed a service charge for each inspection beyond the first inspection. The service charge will be in accordance with fees listed in the applicable AUB Rates and Fees Schedule.
- 6.D. The Bonded Gas Fitter assumes full responsibility for any and all operation, correction or damages caused by operation or testing of the customer's gas piping, before, during, and after any testing by the Division. As part of the consideration for this installation, the natural gas customer does hereby release AUB from any and all claims for damages from any causes incidental to the installation or operation of a customer's piping, appliances, equipment or use of natural gas.
- 6.E. The pressure test is for the good use of AUB only, and provides no guarantee of any kind. The bonded gas fitter must complete the form available in the Pressure Testing Policy, *Addendum 03-02-01*.

7. TURNING ON GAS

- 7.A. The contractor may turn on gas to the home after the Division has reviewed testing certification and has turned on gas at the meter set. Before turning on gas, close all openings from which gas can escape. Immediately after turning the system on, a

thorough check must be made at all joints to check for leaks using a leak detection solution.

7.B. After the pipe has been checked for leakage, it shall be purged of all air until gas is present. Never purge a system into the combustion chamber of an appliance.

7.C. Purge appliance and light pilot.

8. APPLIANCE INSTALLATION

8.A. Appliances will be installed according to manufacturer's guidelines and the International Fuel Gas Code. **VENTING**

8.B. All venting shall conform to the International Fuel Gas Code and manufacturer's guideline.

9. UNVENTED ROOM HEATERS

9.A. An unvented room heater is allowed. Installations must be in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and International Fuel Gas Code.

9.B. The division requires a carbon monoxide detector be installed in each room where an unvented appliance is installed.

10. PILOT LIGHTING SEASON

10.A. There is a charge (see AUB Schedule of Rates and Fees) to have your pilot lit in the fall and each subsequent light up afterward.