

DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY (POTABLE)

During the 1940's, the Army constructed Woodrow Wilson Military Hospital on Route 250, east of Western State Hospital. Near the end of that decade, the facility was closed and it was placed under the auspices of Augusta County. In the process, a 12" cast iron water main between the City of Staunton and the hospital was abandoned.

Since the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services was developing plans for what is now Western State Hospital, the department was able to secure the 12" line from the Route 250 entrance of what is now the Staunton Correctional Center. The Department of MHMRSAS still owns the line; however, the city has been granted privileges of connecting water lines for private customers to the line in return for line maintenance.

As this facility was developed, the 12" line was extended to the property. A reducing station was installed just north of the railroad tracks and a water distribution system throughout the complex was developed with pipes ranging in size from 4" to 12". There are approximately 12,000 linear feet of pipes installed from between 2-1/2' and 15' deep so service to a portion of the complex can be interrupted while service elsewhere is maintained.

A secondary supply of water is furnished through a 10" cast iron line, which connects to a meter and a reducing station near the rear entrance to the facility. The Augusta County Service Authority originally installed this line in 1980. However, on January 1, 1987, when the City of Staunton annexed this area, the line became the property of the city. With proper valves, meters and reducing stations, the entire facility can be served from either line.

In 1996, the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents was constructed at the front of the property overlooking Western State Hospital. A pressure reducing station was installed across from building 123, Jeffreys, to provide water to the new facility.

Arrangements have been made with the Augusta County Service Authority and the City of Staunton, and procedures have been developed to insure an adequate supply of water either from the city or county during emergency situations, e.g., broken water mains, etc.

The water distribution system is considered to be in "good" to "excellent" condition, and only one or two failures in the underground systems are experienced annually. Since this usually affects only a portion of the facility, in-house personnel effect repairs.

