

What Triggers a New Jersey DEP Physical Connection Permit

NJDEP Bureau of Water System Engineering under [N.J.A.C. 7:10-10 et seq.](#) issues Physical Connection Permits that must be obtained by all facilities with a physical connection(s) between a facility's unapproved water supply and their public community water system service connection(s). **Note that the statute N.J.S.A. 58:11-9.2 et seq. states, "No person, corporation, or municipality shall maintain, own, or operate a physical connection between an approved public potable water supply and an unapproved water supply, unless the person, corporation, or municipality first obtains a permit from the State Department (NJDEP)".** Per N.J.A.C. 7:10-1.3 "Physical connection" means a connection between a public community water system and any unapproved water supply; and, "Unapproved water supply" means any source of water which is not part of a public community water system. Accordingly, after the water leaves their main it is no longer the community water system and this resultant facility unapproved water supply degrades, stagnates within building plumbing, storage, boilers, fire service, etc. becoming a volume of questionable or unknown concentrated contaminants beyond the control of the community water system unless protected by the required backflow prevention device at each physical connection. A, "Physical Connection Permit" is required and issued for an, "Approved physical connection installation" of a, "Backflow prevention device" at a, "Physical connection" (quotes indicate regulatory definitions at: N.J.A.C. 7:10-1.3 and N.J.A.C. 7:10-10). **Backflow prevention device assemblies under NJDEP Physical Connection Permits require quarterly testing, annual internal inspection, corresponding reporting by certified professionals and annual permit renewal all via [NJDEP Online Services](#).**

Physical Connection Permit requirements of [N.J.A.C. 7:10-10.3 through 10.7](#) do not apply to physical connection installations in private residences. However, [N.J.A.C. 7:10-10.9](#) states a public community water system with a NJDEP approved cross-connection control plan may require any of its customers including private residences under conditions at [N.J.A.C. 7:10-10.2\(e\)](#) to install backflow prevention devices on the public community water system service line(s) where there are cross-connection hazards as defined at [N.J.A.C. 7:10-1.3](#) and listed in Appendix A, or if the community water system determines that the facility presents a threat to the public community water system's water quality, or the customer is not a facility with cross-connection hazards but such facility contains a substance, uses a process, or utilizes water in a manner which may contaminate a public water system. Although not all installations of the actual mechanism known as a backflow prevention device assembly may require a NJDEP Physical Connection Permit, backflow prevention device assemblies are subject to the New Jersey State Uniform Construction Code, [N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.15](#) and any other state or local requirements for a backflow prevention device to protect a community water system from contamination from cross-connections which are actual and/or potential connections per [N.J.A.C. 7:10-1.3](#).

How to Apply for New Jersey DEP Initial Physical Connection Permit (Including “New” for existing / “Modification” for permit change / “Installation” for proposed)

NJDEP Physical Connection Permitting webpage is at:

https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc_physcon.html and the following explains the initial application types as well as filing steps for the described permit situations:

- **“New”** Physical Connection Permit for existing/operating, but unpermitted device(s)
- **“Modification”** Physical Connection Permit for additional device(s) and/or type, size, model-(flow performance), location, or process change
- **“Installation”** Physical Connection Permit for proposed/uninstalled unpermitted device(s)

Initial Physical Connection (Including “New” for existing / “Modification” for permit change / “Installation” for proposed) Application **BWSE-PCI-145** <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/bwse-pci-145.pdf> with all associated documents (PDFs) including the \$150 Application Fee must be sent via email to: Michael.Bleicher@dep.nj.gov or physicalconnection@dep.nj.gov and Todd.Taylor@dep.nj.gov. Associated documents must include drawings pertaining to the facility's; layout, surrounding streets, location(s) all public community water system service connection(s) to unapproved water supply (i.e. facility), all public community water service connections meter location(s), backflow preventer device(s) schematics of sufficient detail to show the installation of **each backflow preventer device no part of which shall be submerged, or subject to freezing without thermal protection**. Schematics of the device location within the building (or hot box) that shows the device height from the floor (>12” & <60”), orientation (horizontal/vertical per manufacturer), distance and direction from unique metered community water system service connection flow meter (if none, then from curb stop/corporation stop), relief valve and **corresponding air gap and drain pipe for RPZ**. Device manufacturer specifications sheets must be included for the device(s) and hot box(es). **In addition to the emailed application form and documents, hard copy application form and documents, plus \$150 check payable to: Treasurer State of New Jersey** must be sent to the address on the BWSE-PCI-145 Form as follows:

Attn: Michael Bleicher

NJDEP, Division of Water Supply & Geoscience - Bureau of Water System Engineering

Mail Code 401-04Q,

401 East State Street

P.O. Box 420,

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Note: NJDEP Physical Connection Permits and database are set up counting each unique service connection backflow prevention device so that primary and secondary line devices, bypass devices, alarm devices, etc. all get counted/permited. Every testable non-internal plumbing device (i.e. not already protected by another upstream device) gets listed on the application, permit and our database.