

## WHAT EQUIPMENT IS CUSTOMER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Most of the equipment Southern Utilities Company (Southern) uses to provide potable water is located beneath the ground and it can be difficult for customers to determine what equipment is their responsibility and what equipment is Southern's responsibility. The following descriptions explain the facilities and equipment used to provide potable water service from the Southern's water main to your facility.

- **Service Line:** Owned, installed and maintained by Southern. The Service line extends from Southern's distribution water main to the curb stop.
- **Curb Stop:** Owned, installed and operated by Southern. The curb stop is attached to the inlet of the water meter.
- **Water Meter:** Owned, installed and maintained by Southern. The water meter is utilized to measure the customer's water usage at the customer's adjacent facility each month. Although the water meter is owned by Southern, the customer is responsible for providing a mutually agreeable location for the water meter on the customer's property line, assuring Southern's unimpeded access to the water meter at all times and protecting the water meter from damage, including damage which can be caused by freezing.
- **Meter Box:** Owned, installed and maintained by Southern. The meter box is a concrete or plastic enclosure around the water meter with a removable lid for direct access to the water meter. The customer is responsible for keeping the meter box visible and protecting the meter box from damage, including damage which can be caused by freezing.
- **Customer Private Plumbing System:** Owned, installed and maintained by the customer. The private plumbing system includes all plumbing extending from the outlet of Southern's water meter onto the customer's facility and property. NOTE: Southern is prohibited by State law from performing any task on the customer's private plumbing system.
- **Gate Valve:** Owned, installed and maintained by the customer. The gate valve is required to be installed on the customer's private plumbing system within three feet (3') from the outlet of Southern's water meter and fully enclosed.
- **Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV):** Owned, installed and maintained by the customer. This device is designed to reduce water pressure on the customer's private plumbing system should the pressure on Southern's distribution system exceed a certain threshold set by the plumbing code (typically 60 pounds per square inch). Installing a PRV may increase the useful life of the customer's private plumbing system. A licensed plumber can verify the pressure in your home and determine whether a PRV should be installed as part of the customer's private plumbing system.
- **Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPA):** Owned, installed and maintained by the customer. BPAs are installed to prevent the backflow, or back siphonage, of contaminated water into the customer's private plumbing system or Southern's public drinking water system from a potential cross-connection located within the customer's private plumbing system.