

2013 Jefferson County Sewer Rate Restructuring



Existing Rates: Under existing rates, residential sewer customers are charged \$7.40 per hundred cubic feet (CCF or 748.5 gallons) of metered water use less a 15 percent adjustment for water use that is not returned to the sewer system (e.g., irrigation). Non-residential users are charged the same rate with no adjustment. Customers that have no metered water use are charged \$2.00 per month.

Restructured Rates: The proposed rate structure will include a base charge that varies by the size of the customer's water meter. Most residential users' base charge will be \$10 per month. Sewer use rates will be graduated based on the volume of sewage discharged to the system. For the first 3 CCF, the charge will be \$4.50 per CCF; for the next 3 CCF, the rate will be \$7.00 per CCF; and 7 CCF and above will be charged \$8.00 per CCF. The 15% credit for water that does not enter the sewer system is retained; therefore, for most residential users, volume of sewage discharged is 85% of total metered water use. Non-residential customers will also be charged a base charge that varies by meter size. These customers will be charged \$7.60 per CCF for all metered water use. Rates for industrial waste contributions (which have not changed since 1991) will increase to market cost of service. The charge for septic tank haulers to dump 1,000 gallons of septage (the volume of a typical residential septic tank) into the system will increase \$30.

Non-User Fee / Clean Water Charge: There is no non-user fee or clean water charge.

Restructured Rates are Fairer

- Customers are charged (through the base charge) the costs of having sewer service available.
- High water use is charged for above average sewage volume received.

Restructured Rates Limit Impacts on Typical Residential Users

- Most customers (between 4 and 10 CCF) will have bills increase by less than \$2 per month
- Low volume users still pay less than \$21.50 per month – which is less than for BWWB water service.

Restructured Rates Reduce Past Subsidies to Selected Users

- Base charge corrects for “free riders” not charged costs to make service available.
- Restructuring begins to correct subsidy of residential users by non-residential users.
- Industrial waste & septic changes end past practice of insulation from cost increase.

Restructured Rates Consistent with Industry and Legal Standards

- **The new rates are reasonable, fair, non-discriminatory, and feasible.**
- Restructuring to include a base charge, to adopt tiered usage blocks, and to preserve the irrigation adjustment reflects industry practice.