



Pipeline

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2009

WSSC RATES TO INCREASE JULY 1

The Montgomery and Prince George's County councils voted in May to approve a \$961.7 million Fiscal 2010 Operating and Capital Budget that includes a 9 percent rate increase. The new budget reflects escalating prices for power, chemicals and fuel, as well as the replacement of 31 miles of water mains and 57 miles of sewer mains and laterals (46 miles of main and 11 miles of laterals).

The rate increase will add approximately \$4.47 per month or \$13.41 per quarter to the average residential customer's bill.

"The new budget not only allows us to keep up with the rising costs of energy and other operating expenses, but also to increase our inspection of large water mains," said Teresa D. Daniell, WSSC Interim General Manager. "We look forward to continued development of a long-term solution to meet WSSC's larger infrastructure needs and to deliver good quality water to our customers."

The new budget and rates will take effect on July 1, 2009 and are as follows:

**WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION
WATER AND SEWER RATE SCHEDULE
APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION JULY 1, 2009**

Average Daily Consumption by Customer Unit During Billing Period (Gallons Per Day)	Water Rates July 1, 2009 Rate Per 1,000 Gallons	Sewer Rates July 1, 2009 Rate Per 1,000 Gallons	Combined Water/Sewer Rates July 1, 2009 Rate Per 1,000 Gallons
0 – 49	\$2.21	\$2.96	\$5.17
50 – 99	2.48	3.44	5.92
100 – 149	2.71	4.05	6.76
150 – 199	3.04	4.66	7.70
200 – 249	3.55	5.08	8.63
250 – 299	3.85	5.49	9.34
300 – 349	4.07	5.87	9.94
350 – 399	4.25	6.14	10.39
400 – 449	4.42	6.28	10.70
450 – 499	4.53	6.49	11.02
500 – 749	4.61	6.62	11.23
750 – 999	4.73	6.76	11.49
1,000 – 3,999	4.82	7.05	11.87
4,000 – 6,999	4.93	7.21	12.14
7,000 – 8,999	4.99	7.32	12.31
9,000 & Greater	5.08	7.51	12.59

Flat Sewer Rate Charge - \$71.00 per quarter

Our 16-step, conservation-based billing structure can be difficult to understand—especially for new customers. The rate you are charged depends on your "average daily consumption" or ADC. To calculate your ADC, divide the total water usage during a billing period by the number of days.

A copy of this rate structure can also be found on the back of your bills. If you have any questions about your bill, please call our Customer Care Center at (301) 206-4001.

2008 WATER QUALITY REPORT RELEASED

Good news for Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission customers: The 2008 Water Quality Report presents evidence that once again WSSC drinking water met the standards for safety and quality as set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"In our 91st year, we can again boast proudly that we have never had a drinking water violation," said WSSC Interim General Manager Teresa D. Daniell. "We hope residents of Prince George's and Montgomery counties find the information in the Water Quality Report useful in illustrating our commitment to our mission of providing our community with safe and reliable water, which is life's most precious resource."

Story continues on back

Commissioners

- Prem P. Agarwal
- Gene W. Counihan
- Adrienne A. Mandel
- Dr. Juanita D. Miller
- Dr. Roscoe M. Moore, Jr.
- Joyce Starks

Interim General Manager
Teresa D. Daniell

14501 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD 20707

www.wsscwater.com

General Numbers:
301-206-WSSC (9772)
1-800-828-6439
TTY: 301-206-8345

To report a water or
sewer emergency:
301-206-4002

WSSC provides water
and wastewater services
to Montgomery and
Prince George's counties.

*We are entrusted by
our community to
provide safe and
reliable water, life's
most precious resource,
and return clean water
to our environment,
all in an ethically and
financially responsible
manner.*



20% post-consumer content



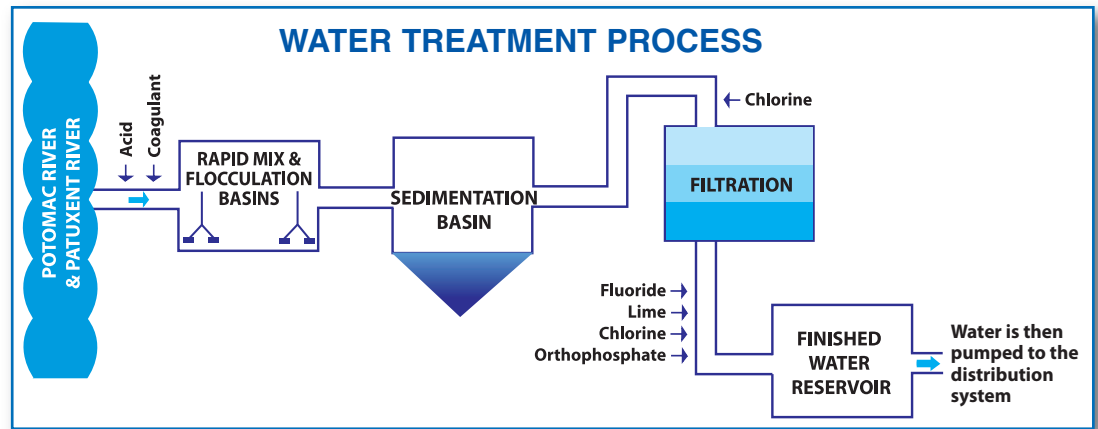
2008 Water Quality Report Released (cont'd)

The report was distributed to residents and businesses in Montgomery and Prince George's counties via the *Gazette* newspapers. A Spanish language version of the report was distributed through *El Tiempo Latino*. The report is also available in Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.

In addition to the test results, the 2008 Water Quality Report details WSSC's water sources and treatment processes. It also answers questions frequently asked by our customers and provides important contact information.

WSSC treats surface water from the Patuxent and Potomac rivers. The Potomac and Patuxent Water Filtration Plants provide an average of 175 million gallons of safe drinking water each day. Water quality is guaranteed by a series of rigorous tests which are routinely performed by our modern laboratory to detect nearly 200 substances in the water leaving our treatment plants. Further, WSSC analyzes tap water quality at more than 100 locations in our distribution system in communities throughout Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

The complete report is available online at WSSC's home page—www.wsscwater.com. Simply click on Water Quality Report in the Water section. Residents may also call WSSC at (301) 206-8100 and request a copy.



WATER WISE LANDSCAPING

Putting the right plants in the right places can protect natural resources AND save money on your water bill.

Pay attention to your soil

Soil texture directly affects two vital requirements for plant growth: water and air. Sandy soil can't hold water and must be irrigated frequently. Clay soil is slow to absorb water, and over watering can drown plants.



Irrigate efficiently

If you have an automatic sprinkler system adjust your controller regularly to meet seasonal needs and weather conditions, and install a rain shut-off device.

If you water manually, the most efficient sprinklers put out big

drops and keep them close to the ground.

No matter which system you use, water deeply, but do not over water to develop deep roots. The best time to water is early in the morning, before 9 a.m., to reduce water loss due to evaporation.

Mulch

- Adds a decorative look to your landscape
- Reduces surface evaporation
- Improves water penetration and air movement
- Controls soil temperature fluctuations
- Improves soil structure and nutrient availability
- Provides protection against heat
- Retards weeds growth

The standard application rate is 1 cubic yard per 100 square feet.



FIRE SPRINKLERS & SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Fire sprinklers are economical, reliable and proven to be the best way to protect your family and home from the hazards of fire. Residential sprinkler systems used in conjunction with properly installed and functioning smoke alarms save lives and property. Remember, you are more than twice as likely to be injured in a fire if your home that does not have properly installed and working smoke alarms. Protecting your home and loved ones is always "money well spent." —Major Sean Eames, Office of the Fire Marshal, Prince George's County Fire/EMS

Commissioner's Corner

During these economic times, no one wants to see a price increase for an essential such as water. Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Commissioners recognize that we must raise money to repair and replace our aging infrastructure. The Fiscal 2010 budget that takes effect July 1 represents a good compromise between a rate increase to help improve our delivery system and the customers' need to hold utility costs to a manageable amount. We held the rate increase to 9 percent as opposed to 15 percent which is what is needed to more aggressively address the problem of aging water and sewer mains.

The Prince George's and Montgomery County Councils supported WSSC by adding a million dollars to the budget to expand our inspection program. In Fiscal 2008, we inspected more than six miles of the larger Pre-stressed Concrete Cylinder (PCCP) water mains and installed six miles of Acoustical Fiber Optic (AFO) monitoring. The Counties approved increased funding that will allow us to increase both the number of miles of PCCP inspected and Acoustic Fiber Optic installations in fiscal year 2010.

—Joyce Starks, *Chair*, WSSC

REGISTER FOR THE WSSC CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CNS)

For more information click on the CNS logo at www.wsscwater.com.