

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

WATER DEPARTMENT

PROPOSED GENERAL SERVICES SEWER RATES

302.0 SEWER CHARGES

Pursuant to Section 5-801 of the Home Rule Charter and Chapter 13-200 of the Philadelphia Code, and in order to continue the Water Fund on a self-sustaining basis, charges for sewer service supplied by the City of Philadelphia shall be effective July 1, 2004 as follows.

302.1 General Customers

(a) All customers discharging wastewater into the City's wastewater system shall pay sewer charges as set forth in Section 302.3 of these Regulations. In addition to the charges set forth in Section 302.3 of these Regulations, all customers discharging wastewater whose pollutant content is greater than the pollutant content of normal wastewater, as defined below in Subsection 302.1(b) of these Regulations, shall pay an additional surcharge as set forth in Section 302.6 of these Regulations

(b) Normal wastewater subject to the regular sewer charges set forth in Section 302.3 of these Regulations is that wastewater which contains 250 milligrams or less per liter of biochemical oxygen demand and 350 milligrams or less per liter of suspended solids. Wastewater subject to the regular sewer charges set forth in Section 302.3 of these Regulations and to the additional surcharge sewer charges set forth in Section 302.6 of these Regulations is that wastewater which contains either more than 250 milligrams per liter of 5-day biochemical oxygen demand or more than 350 milligrams per liter of suspended solids or both.

302.2 Charges

(a) Sewer charges shall consist of a service charge and a quantity charge.

(b) A service charge shall be billed monthly.

(c) As set forth in Section 302.3 of these Regulations, the size of the meter shall determine the service charge.

(d) In addition, there shall be a quantity charge as provided herein for sewer service in a billing cycle, either as metered or as estimated.

(e) Quantity charges shall be billed for monthly cycles as provided herein. The cycle shall be between the dates of scheduled metered readings, actual or estimated. Quantity charges imposed shall be based upon the water consumption of the property served.

302.3 Regular Sewer Charges

(a) Monthly service charges shall be determined and billed as follows.

(1) For the one (1) year period from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, the service charge for a month for the various sizes of meters shall be as follows:

<u>Size of Water Meter in Inches</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Combined</u>
5/8	R	\$ 5.23	\$ 15.53	\$ 20.76
3/4	Z	5.93	67.24	73.17
1	Q	7.70	108.51	116.21
1-1/2	P	11.57	210.71	222.28
2	X	17.34	335.32	352.66
3	O	27.11	619.32	646.43
4	W	47.26	1,035.49	1,082.75
6	N	91.40	2,066.05	2,157.45
8	V	142.51	3,299.78	3,442.29
10	E	206.79	4,746.51	4,953.30
12	T	361.60	8,834.31	9,195.91

(2) For the one (1) year period from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, the service charge for a month for the various sizes of meters shall be as follows:

<u>Size of Water Meter in Inches</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Combined</u>
5/8	R	\$ 6.97	\$16.91	\$ 23.88
3/4	Z	7.76	70.23	77.99
1	Q	9.88	112.74	122.62
1-1/2	P	14.36	217.87	232.23
2	X	21.71	347.01	368.72
3	O	31.09	635.99	667.08
4	W	54.27	1,063.25	1,117.52
6	N	104.85	2,121.60	2,226.45
8	V	163.31	3,388.66	3,551.97
10	E	237.06	4,874.28	5,111.34
12	T	413.35	9,073.30	9,486.65

(3) For the one (1) year period from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, the service charge for a month for the various sizes of meters shall be as follows:

<u>Size of Water Meter in Inches</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Combined</u>
5/8	R	\$ 7.87	\$ 17.44	\$ 25.31
3/4	Z	8.76	73.82	82.58
1	Q	11.12	118.58	129.70
1-1/2	P	16.12	229.34	245.46
2	X	24.34	365.30	389.64
3	O	34.76	669.94	704.70
4	W	60.77	1,119.95	1,180.72
6	N	117.30	2,234.83	2,352.13
8	V	182.60	3,569.64	3,752.24

10	E	265.14	5,134.53	5,399.67
12	T	461.57	9,558.55	10,020.12

(4) Effective July 1, 2007 and thereafter, the service charge for a month for the various size of meters shall be as shown below:

<u>Size of Water Meter in Inches</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Combined</u>
5/8	R	\$ 8.77	\$17.84	\$ 26.61
3/4	Z	9.81	77.47	87.28
1	Q	12.54	124.57	137.11
1-1/2	P	18.36	241.11	259.47
2	X	27.78	384.06	411.84
3	O	40.32	704.90	745.22
4	W	70.33	1,178.33	1,248.66
6	N	135.96	2,351.40	2,487.36
8	V	211.92	3,755.93	3,967.85
10	E	307.56	5,402.43	5,709.99
12	T	537.31	10,057.94	10,595.25

(b) Quantity charge

In addition to the service charge, the quantity charge portion of each sewer bill is determined by applying the quantity charge rate shown below to all water use. One thousand (1,000) cubic feet equals 7,480 gallons.

(1) For the one (1) year period from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, the quantity charge rate shall be \$14.67 per 1,000 cubic feet (Mcf).

(2) For the one (1) year period from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, the quantity charge shall be increased to \$14.91 per 1,000 cubic feet (Mcf).

(3) For the one (1) year period from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, the quantity charge shall be increased to \$15.57 per 1,000 cubic feet (Mcf).

(4) Effective July 1, 2007, and thereafter, the quantity charge shall be further increased to \$16.13 per 1,000 cubic feet (Mcf).

(c) Bills for these sewer charges shall be rendered at the same time and for the same billing cycles covered by the water bills. Provisions for payment of these sewer bills and for penalties for late payment shall be as prescribed by Regulation and The Philadelphia Code.

302.4 Estimated Usage

(a) When accurate meter readings cannot be obtained at the time of a scheduled meter reading, or where necessary for administrative purposes, the quantity of water used may be estimated for billing purposes. Estimated usage will be based upon actual meter readings from prior cycles or by such other fair and reasonable methods as shall be approved by the Water Commissioner.

(b) Where unmetered wastewater is discharged to the sewer system without adequate sewer metering, the Water Department reserves the right to bill the amount of flow based upon its engineering judgment of a reasonable estimate of unmetered usage.

(c) Where the usage is estimated because of inability to read the meter, any necessary corrections shall be made at the time of the next actual meter reading or when appropriate.

302.5 Billing

(a) Charges to be Combined: At the discretion of the Water Commissioner, each bill may combine in one amount the service charge and any quantity charges for water and sewer service, if applicable.

(b) Bills Due and payable: All bills are due and payable when rendered.

(c) Billing of Advance Service Charge: A one (1) time three (3) month advance service charge will be assessed and collected on every property when the property is initially connected to the water and/or sewer system. Thereafter, the three (3) month advance service charge will be maintained by the payment of monthly service charges as required under Section 302.3 of these Regulations. The remaining pro rata portion of the three (3) month advance service charge will be refunded to the property owner when he/she permanently disconnects service from the water and sewer system.

(d) Penalties for Late Payment:

(1) If current water or sewer bills are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date indicated on the bill, a penalty of 5% shall be imposed.

(2) Additional penalties shall be imposed and added to water or sewer bills, and their penalties, on the due date of the bill of each succeeding cycle, as follows

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| (A) Semi-annual cycles | 3 % |
| (B) Quarterly cycles | 1½ % |
| (C) Monthly cycles | 1/2 of 1% |

Except that a period of thirty (30) days shall elapse before the first additional penalty shall be imposed.

(3) If any water or sewer rent charge remains unpaid for two (2) cycles after the original date on a bill, the Department of Revenue shall serve a notice of termination upon the delinquent property owner. If the charge, with penalties thereon, is not paid within ten (10) days after such service of notice, the Department, in its discretion, may deprive the premises of water until the charge, with penalties, is paid.

(4) Penalties for late payment are set by ordinance, not by regulation, and any amendments to the current ordinance shall apply as provided therein.

(e) Balances Due: Each bill shall include any balances due for bills issued from January 1, 1989, including penalties.

(f) Changes in Meter Size: When a change in meter size is made, the charge for the new meter size shall become effective on the date of change.

(g) Unmetered or Scheduled Customers: Unmetered or scheduled customers shall be billed the same charges established for metered customers. The service charge will be determined by the size of the meter which would be installed for equivalent service at a similar property. The Revenue Department shall estimate the quantity of water used, and bill accordingly using the applicable sewer quantity charges.

302.6 Surcharge

(a) For the one (1) year period from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, the surcharge for wastewater by definition in excess of normal wastewater shall be fixed at twenty-two and one-half cents (\$0.225) per pound of pollutants received into the wastewater system in excess of 250 milligrams per liter of 5 day biochemical oxygen demand and twenty and one-half cents (\$0.205) per pound of pollutants received into the wastewater system in excess of 350 milligrams per liter of suspended solids.

(b) For the one year period from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006, the surcharge rate for biochemical oxygen demand as described in Sub-section 302.6(a) of these Regulations will be increased to twenty two and seven-tenth cents (\$.227) per pound and the rate for suspended solids, also described in Sub-section 302.6(a) of these Regulations will be increased to twenty and six-tenth cents (\$0.206) per pound.

(c) For the one year period from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, the surcharge rate for biochemical oxygen demand as described in Sub-section 302.6(b) of these Regulations will be increased to twenty-three and seven-tenth cents (\$.237) per pound and the rate for suspended solids, also described in Sub-section 302.6(b) of these Regulations will be increased to twenty-one and four-tenth cents (\$0.214) per pound.

(d) Effective July 1, 2007, and thereafter, the surcharge rate for biochemical oxygen demand as adjusted per Sub-section 302.6(c) of these Regulations shall be further increased to twenty-four and four-tenths cents (\$.244) per pound, and the rate for suspended solids will be increased to twenty-one and nine-tenths cents (\$0.219) per pound.

(e) The strength of wastes shall be determined from samples taken on the customer's property at any period or time and of such duration and in such manner as the Department may prescribe or at any place mutually agreed upon between the customer and the Department. Only with prior written approval of the Department may the results of routine sampling and analyses by the customer be used in determining the amount of the surcharge.

(f) If, in the Water Department's judgment, sampling of wastewater is neither feasible nor practical, the Department for billing purposes, may base the strength of the wastes on sampling results for similar discharge and/or values obtained from technical literature.

(g) Customers discharging wastewater subject to the surcharge shall, as prescribed by the Water Department:

(1) Install and maintain such facilities for sampling and measuring the wastewater discharged from their properties; and

(2) Maintain such records and information deemed necessary for the determination of the surcharge.

(h) Customers, as required from time to time, shall file with the Water Department responses to a questionnaire establishing or revising pertinent information on the quantity of flow and the quality of wastewater and other data deemed necessary for the determination of the surcharge.

(i) Measurements, tests and analyses of the characteristics of wastewater subject to surcharge shall be determined in accordance with the latest edition of *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, published jointly by the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

(j) The surcharge shall be applied to the total wastewater discharged less any portion excluded by the Department.

(k) Provisions for payment of sewer surcharge and penalties shall be as prescribed herein and in the Philadelphia Code.

302.7 Special Customers

The sewer charges established herein shall be applied to sewer services provided to all general customers, excepting the following groups of special customers:

(a) GROUP I

(1) Public and private schools which provide instruction up to or below the twelfth grade but not beyond that grade, and excluding service to any separate or adjoining facilities or structures not used exclusively for educational or Instructional purposes.

(2) Institutions of purely public charity, excepting universities and colleges, and excluding service to any separate or adjoining facilities or structures not used exclusively for the principal purpose of the charity.

(3) Places used for actual religious worship.

(b) GROUP II

(1) Residences of senior citizens provided that the senior citizen shall:

(a) Make application for such reduction to the Revenue Department within the first billing period of which reduction is sought; and

(b) Submit satisfactory proof that the applicant is 65 years of age or older and that he or she makes payment directly to the City for sewer services to his or her residence which is located in the City of Philadelphia; and

(c) Submit satisfactory proof to the Revenue Department that the applicant does not exceed the household income limitation of \$24,700 established by the Philadelphia Water Department. The above income limitation shall apply only to those applying for this discount subsequent to June 30, 1982.

(c) GROUP III

(1) Universities and colleges, excluding service to any separate or adjoining facilities or structures not used exclusively for educational or instructional purposes.

(d) GROUP IV

(1) Public housing properties of the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

(e) As of the effective date of this Regulation the charges to Groups I, II, and III of special customers listed above shall be seventy-five percent (75%) of the regular sewer charges as established by meter size in Section 302.3 of these Regulations, including both the service and quantity charges. Charges to Group IV shall be ninety-five percent (95%) of the regular sewer charges as established by meter size in Section 302.3 of these Regulations, including both the service and quantity charges.

(f) All of these special customers shall meter all connections and they shall be subject to all provisions of this regulation not inconsistent with Section 302.7 of these Regulations.

(g) All special customers are subject at any time to review as to these special charges by the Water Department and may be required to furnish adequate evidence supporting the continuance of such charges to the Department upon written notice to do so. Failure to furnish such evidence shall be sufficient ground for denial or termination of such special charges.

(h) Special charges may be granted subject to the Water Department's review and approval.

(i) When the special use for which the special charge is granted ceases, the special charge ceases and the regular charge(s) shall apply thereafter.

302.8 Effect of this Regulation

Except as otherwise provided herein, this regulation applies to the billing of sewer charges accruing on and after July 1, 2004.

Approved as to Form and Validity:

Kumar Kishinchand /s/
Kumar Kishinchand
Water Commissioner

Keith J. Jones /s/
Keith J. Jones
Deputy City Solicitor