

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
WATER DEPARTMENT
PROPOSED GENERAL SERVICES WATER RATES**

301.0 WATER CHARGES

Pursuant to Section 5-801 of the Home Rule Charter and Chapter 13-100 of the Philadelphia Code, and in order to continue the Water Fund on a self-sustaining basis, charges for water service supplied by the City of Philadelphia shall become effective July 1, 2004 as follows.

301.1 General Customers

Charges for the supplying of water shall be determined and billed as follows.

(a) Charges and billing in general

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

(2) A service charged shall be billed monthly.

(3) As set forth in Sub-section 301.1(b) of these Regulations, the size of the meter shall determine the service charge.

(4) In addition, there shall be a quantity charge as provided herein for water used in a billing cycle, either as metered or as estimated.

(5) Quantity charges shall be billed for monthly cycles as provided herein. The cycle shall be the period between the dates of scheduled metered readings, actual or estimated.

(b) Monthly service charges:

(1) For the one 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 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 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 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	\$ 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

(c) Quantity charges

In addition to the service charge, the quantity charge portion of each bill is determined by applying the quantity charge set forth below to all water use. Mcf = 1,000 Cubic Feet and 1,000 cubic feet = 7,480 gallons.

(1) For the one year period from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, the quantity charges shall be as follows:

Quantity Charges

<u>Monthly Water Usage</u>	<u>Charge Per Mcf</u>
First 2 Mcf (0 to 2 Mcf)	\$ 16.62
Next 98 Mcf (2.1 to 100.0 Mcf)	15.03
Next 1,900 Mcf (100.1 to 2,000 Mcf)	13.38
Over 2,000 Mcf	9.99

(Mcf = 1,000 Cubic Feet)
(1,000 cubic feet = 7,480 gallons)

(2) For the one year period from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, the quantity charge portion of each bill shall be increased to the following levels:

Quantity Charges

<u>Monthly Water Usage</u>	<u>Charge Per Mcf</u>
First 2 Mcf (0 to 2 Mcf)	\$ 18.00
Next 98 Mcf (2.1 to 100.0 Mcf)	15.90
Next 1,900 Mcf (100.1 to 2,000 Mcf)	14.15
Over 2,000 Mcf	10.57

(3) For the one year period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, the quantity charge portion of each bill shall be increased to the following levels:

Quantity Charges

<u>Monthly Water Usage</u>	<u>Charge Per Mcf</u>
First 2 Mcf (0 to 2 Mcf)	\$ 20.88
Next 98 Mcf (2.1 to 100.0 Mcf)	17.65
Next 1,900 Mcf (100.1 to 2,000 Mcf)	14.63
Over 2,000 Mcf	10.93

(4) Effective July 1, 2007, and thereafter the quantity charge portion of each bill shall be increased to the following levels:

Quantity Charges

<u>Monthly Water Usage</u>	<u>Charge Per Mcf</u>
First 2 Mcf (0 to 2 Mcf)	\$ 25.12
Next 98 Mcf (2.1 to 100.0 Mcf)	18.01
Next 1,900 Mcf (100.1 to 2,000 Mcf)	15.92
Over 2,000 Mcf	11.89

301.2 Billing

(a) 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 Sub-paragraph 301.1 (b) 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.

(b) Estimated Usage and Billing: When accurate meter reading cannot be obtained at the time of a scheduled meter reading or when 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. Where the water 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.

(c) 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.

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

(e) Penalties for Late Payments:

(1) If current water and/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 and sewer bills, and their penalties, on the due date of the bill of each succeeding cycle, as follows:

Semi-annual cycles – 3%
Quarterly cycles – 1½ %
Monthly cycles – ½ 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 bill remains unpaid for two cycles after the bill has been rendered, the Revenue Department shall serve a notice of termination upon the delinquent property owner and, 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. Penalties for late payment are set by ordinance, not by regulation, and any amendments to the current ordinance shall apply as provided therein.

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

(g) 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.

(h) 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 an equivalent service at a similar property. The Revenue Department shall estimate the quantity of water used and bill accordingly using the applicable water quantity charges.

No bill shall be rendered where a ferrule connection exists at a vacant lot and does not now provide service. However, the billing of properties hereafter torn down shall be discontinued only on issuance of a Discontinuance of Water permit. Furthermore, nothing herein shall relieve a property owner of his responsibility for maintaining a service line unless he has secured a Discontinuance of Water permit.

(i) Extraordinary Uses or Appliances: In the event that extraordinary or peculiar uses or appliances, in the opinion of the Water Commissioner, warrant a special charge not provided herein, such charges shall be as fixed by the Water Commissioner in writing.

301.3 Special Customers

The water charges established in Section 301.1 of these Regulations shall be applied 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 eligible senior citizens provided that the senior citizen shall:

(A) Make application for such reduction to the Revenue Department within the first billing period for 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 water service 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 per year 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

(2) 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 water charges as established by meter size for general customers in Section 301.1 of these Regulations including both the service and quantity charges. The charges to Group IV customers shall be ninety-five (95%) of the water charges as established by meter size for general customers in Section 301.1 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 301.3 of these Regulations.

(g) All special customers are subject at any time to review as to their 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 of the size of the meter installed.

(i) When the special use for which the special charge is granted ceases, the special charge ceases and the charges for general customers shall apply thereafter.

(j) Temporary Transitional Provisions: Some special customers whose charges are now based on meter size may find that they are in fact 'over-metered' - their metered service is too large for their actual requirements and results in excessive bills. They may apply for a downward revision in the size of their meters. After the approval of the Water Department, the revision of plumbing arrangements and the installation of smaller meter, the lower charge by meter size shall apply thereafter.

301.4 Effect of this Regulation

This regulation applies to the billing of water charges occurring 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