

CHAPTER 3 RATES AND CHARGES, ABATEMENT, BILLING AND COLLECTION

A-1. RATES AND CHARGES – 2018**

301.0 Water consumption charge

301.1 Effective January 1, 2018, charges for the supply of metered water and the conveyance of sewage shall be determined and billed monthly, as follows:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Minimum Gallons</u>	<u>Water Minimum Charge</u>	<u>Sewer Minimum Charge</u>	<u>Total Minimum Charge</u>
5/8"	0 - 1000	\$23.25	\$7.71	\$ 30.96
3/4"	0 – 2000	\$37.83	\$15.62	\$ 53.45
1"	0 – 5000	\$76.58	\$37.10	\$113.68
1 1/2"	0 – 10,000	\$149.47	\$76.62	\$226.09
2"	0 – 17,000	\$246.53	\$129.72	\$376.25
3"	0 – 40,000	\$546.96	\$295.88	\$842.83
4"	0 – 70,000	\$924.52	\$506.20	\$1,430.72
6"	0 – 175,000	\$2,181.24	\$1,213.27	\$3,394.51
8"	0 – 325,000	\$3,919.64	\$2,197.82	\$6,117.47
10" or larger	0 – 548,000	\$6,408.43	\$3,618.63	\$10,027.06

For every 1,000 gallons over the minimum, the rate will be the following:

<u>Account Classification</u>	<u>Total Combined Rate</u>	<u>Water Allocation</u>	<u>Sewer Allocation</u>
Residential Property*	\$16.33	\$9.41	\$6.92
Commercial Property	\$15.04	\$8.93	\$6.11
Industrial Property	\$13.08	\$7.51	\$5.57
Health or Education Property	\$19.85	\$12.21	\$7.64
Fire Lines	\$20.67	\$11.50	\$9.17

* Words with initial capital letters are defined in section 102.0 of these Rules and Regulations.

** New rates established and adopted by the Authority Board of Directors on 7/19/2013, amended 7/25/2014, 2/20/2015, amended 12/2/2016, amended 11/8/2017, amended 3/23/18.

A-2. RATES AND CHARGES – 2019**

301.0 Water consumption charge

301.1 Effective January 1, 2019, charges for the supply of metered water and the conveyance of sewage shall be determined and billed monthly, as follows:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Minimum Gallons</u>	<u>Water Minimum Charge</u>	<u>Sewer Minimum Charge</u>	<u>Total Minimum Charge</u>
5/8"	0 - 1000	\$25.18	\$8.08	\$33.26
3/4"	0 – 2000	\$41.15	\$16.81	\$57.97
1"	0 – 5000	\$83.67	\$40.61	\$124.28
1 1/2"	0 – 10,000	\$163.56	\$84.26	\$247.82
2"	0 – 17,000	\$269.98	\$142.97	\$412.96
3"	0 – 40,000	\$599.57	\$326.99	\$926.56
4"	0 – 70,000	\$1,013.94	\$560.12	\$1,574.06
6"	0 – 175,000	\$2,393.88	\$1,344.92	\$3,738.79
8"	0 – 325,000	\$4,303.36	\$2,438.65	\$6,742.01
10" or larger	0 – 548,000	\$7,038.22	\$4,018.62	\$11,056.84

For every 1,000 gallons over the minimum, the rate will be the following:

<u>Account Classification</u>	<u>Total Combined Rate</u>	<u>Water Allocation</u>	<u>Sewer Allocation</u>
Residential Property*	\$18.43	\$10.57	\$7.87
Commercial Property	\$16.64	\$9.83	\$6.81
Industrial Property	\$14.42	\$8.20	\$6.22
Health or Education Property	\$21.34	\$13.07	\$8.27
Fire Lines	\$15.82	\$8.75	\$7.07

* Words with initial capital letters are defined in section 102.0 of these Rules and Regulations.

** New rates established and adopted by the Authority Board of Directors on 7/19/2013, amended 7/25/2014, 2/20/2015, amended 12/2/2016, amended 11/8/2017, amended 3/23/18.

A-3. RATES AND CHARGES – 2020**

301.0 Water consumption charge

301.1 Effective January 1, 2020, charges for the supply of metered water and the conveyance of sewage shall be determined and billed monthly, as follows:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Minimum Gallons</u>	<u>Water Minimum Charge</u>	<u>Sewer Minimum Charge</u>	<u>Total Minimum Charge</u>
5/8"	0 - 1000	\$28.91	\$8.74	\$37.65
3/4"	0 – 2000	\$47.22	\$18.35	\$65.58
1"	0 – 5000	\$95.65	\$44.51	\$140.16
1 1/2"	0 – 10,000	\$187.21	\$92.57	\$279.78
2"	0 – 17,000	\$308.89	\$157.18	\$466.07
3"	0 – 40,000	\$684.49	\$359.51	\$1,044.00
4"	0 – 70,000	\$1,155.70	\$615.75	\$1,771.45
6"	0 – 175,000	\$2,720.25	\$1,477.78	\$4,198.03
8"	0 – 325,000	\$4,880.87	\$2,678.68	\$7,559.54
10" or larger	0 – 548,000	\$7,967.90	\$4,412.63	\$12,380.52

For every 1,000 gallons over the minimum, the rate will be the following:

<u>Account Classification</u>	<u>Total Combined Rate</u>	<u>Water Allocation</u>	<u>Sewer Allocation</u>
Residential Property*	\$20.76	\$12.03	\$8.73
Commercial Property	\$18.41	\$10.98	\$7.43
Industrial Property	\$15.88	\$9.07	\$6.81
Health or Education Property	\$23.00	\$14.15	\$8.85
Fire Lines	\$17.51	\$9.76	\$7.74

* Words with initial capital letters are defined in section 102.0 of these Rules and Regulations.

** New rates established and adopted by the Authority Board of Directors on 7/19/2013, amended 7/25/2014, 2/20/2015, amended 12/2/2016, amended 11/8/2017, amended 3/23/18.

301.2 Determination of a Customer's account classification shall be made by the Authority based upon the Customer's preponderance of use. Any Customer dissatisfied with the determination may appeal to the Authority within ninety (90) days of the Customer's first notice of the classification.

301.3 Water Customers whose use is not metered shall be billed monthly at the following rates:

- .1 Unmetered single family Residential Customers shall be assessed a monthly charge of \$70.35;
- .2 Unmetered multi-unit Residential Customers shall be charged a multiple of the single unit rate, depending on the number of units. For example, 2 units x \$70.35 = \$140.70; 4 units x \$70.35 = \$281.40.
- .3 Unmetered Commercial and Industrial Customers shall be assessed a monthly charge of \$140.73.

302.0 Distribution Infrastructure System Charge (DISC)

302.1 Effective January 1, 2017, the Distribution Infrastructure System Charge (DISC) has been discontinued.

303.0 Sewage treatment rates

303.1 The rates for Sewage treatment to sewerer premises within the Authority's service area are established by ALCOSAN, and are paid by the Authority to ALCOSAN. Information on ALCOSAN's rates is available on its website.

303.2 Sewage treatment charges may be reflected on Authority invoices as ALCOSAN charges, basic service and sewage treatment.

304.0 Service and equipment charges

304.0 Effective March 1, 2014, the following charges will be adjusted annually for increases in the annual Consumer Price Index for the Pittsburgh area most recently published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or any successor organization prior to such anniversary. If the change in the Consumer Price Index is 0% or is a decrease, there will be no automatic adjustment.

304.1 The Authority will apply the following miscellaneous charges and fees:

.1	Certified mailing	\$ 11.28
.2	History retrieval	\$ 15.23
.3	Final bill	\$ 20.30
.4	Administrative charge Processing of backflow device tests Business Use Properties	\$ 25.38
.5	Returned check fee	\$ 30.45
.6	Collection activity fee termination activity fee	\$ 75.13
.7	Restoration fee	\$ 25.38
.8	Same day restoration fee	\$ 45.68
.9	Late fee, back flow device tests Business Use Properties	\$ 60.90

304.2 Dye test application processing fees:

.1	Evidence of Compliance Statement	\$ 25.38
.2	Temporary Evidence of Compliance Statement	\$ 25.38
.3	Visual inspection	\$ 75.00
.4	Duplicate Evidence of Compliance Statement	\$ 25.38

304.3 Except as provided in section 509.6 of these Rules and Regulations, the fees for a Meter test will be as follows:

.1	Residential Meter (5/8 inch – 1 inch) test	\$70.04
.2	Large Meter (1-1/2 inch – 6 inch) test:	\$139.06
.3	Meters larger than 6 inches will be tested at the Authority's cost.	
.4	Fire service meters will be tested at the Authority's cost.	

304.4 Water service tap fees during normal business hours:

1 inch	\$177.63
1-½ inch	\$329.88
4 inch tap	\$1,106.35
6 inch tap	\$1,314.43
8 inch tap	\$1,349.95
10 inch tap	\$1,415.93
12 inch tap	\$1,481.90

Fees are double the listed amounts for work performed outside normal business hours.

304.5 Valve operations during normal business hours:

4 inch to 12 inch diameter Water Mains	\$1,233.23
16 inch to 24 inch diameter Water Mains	\$2,009.70
30 inch to 48 inch diameter Water Mains	\$3,283.53

Fees are double the listed amounts for work performed outside normal business hours.

305.0 Meters, hydrants, fire systems

305.0 Meters and Remote Reading Devices. New Meters and associated Remote Reading Devices are supplied and installed by the Authority. A list of charges for the Meters, the Remote Reading Devices, and their installation is available on the Authority's website, www.pgh2o.com or by calling 412.255.2443. Meters and Remote Reading Devices will be provided without any price markup, and the charge for Meters and Remote Reading Devices are subject to increase annually, as the cost of this equipment to the Authority increases. Installation costs will be adjusted annually for increases in the annual Consumer Price Index for the Pittsburgh area most recently published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or any successor organization prior to such anniversary. If the change in the Consumer Price Index is 0% or is a decrease, there will be no automatic adjustment.

305.2 Hydrants

1. No charge will be made for the use of hydrants or water to fight fires. Customers whose fire systems have been activated to fight a fire should notify the Authority to assure that the associated water use will not be billed.
2. No charge will be made for the use of hydrants under or pursuant to a contract with the Authority or the City.
3. For all other uses of hydrants including development site water use, etc.:
 - a. There is a minimum charge of \$500.00 for each day of use of the hydrant. This fee is non-refundable.
 - b. All water used through the fire system except during fires shall be metered, and the associated sized meter will be installed for the requested line size for each line used.

- i. The minimum charge for each month shall be as follows, with one-half the associated minimum charge being refunded to the customer if the assigned meter is returned to PWSA undamaged. If the meter is not returned, the full fee is retained:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Minimum monthly charge</u>
5/8 inch (or) 5/8 inch x 3/4 inch	\$ 680.00
3/4 inch	\$ 780.00
1"	\$ 960.00
Fire Hydrant Meter (2 1/2" meter)	\$1,039.50

- c. All water used through the fire system except during fires shall be charged at metered rates.

- i. The minimum charge for each month of water use shall be as follows:

<u>Line size</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Minimum monthly charge</u>
2 inch	1 inch or less	\$ 19.22
3 inch	1(1/2) to 3 inch	\$ 55.67
4 inch	4 inch	\$122.13
6 inch or greater	6 inch or greater	\$355.08

305.3 Fire systems

- .1 No charge shall be made for the use of water to fight fires. Customers whose fire systems have been activated to fight a fire should notify the Authority to assure that the associated water use will not be billed.
- .2 All water used through fire systems except during fires shall be charged at metered rates. The minimum charge for each month shall be as follows:

<u>Line Size</u>	<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Minimum Charge</u>
2 inch	1 inch or less	\$ 19.22

3 inch	1-1/2 to 3 inch	\$ 55.67
4 inch	4 inch	\$122.13
6 inch or greater	6 inch or greater	\$355.08

306.0 New Development

306.1 The Authority's Procedures Manual for Developers addresses charges and fees applicable to new Development.

B. ABATEMENT, BILLING AND PAYMENT

320.0 Abatement of charges and fees

320.1 When Premises are completely vacant, the Customer has provided the Authority with a Vacancy Affidavit, and the water supply has been shut off at the Curb Stop or Corporation Stop, no minimum charges will be assessed during the period of vacancy. Upon restoration of the water service to the Premises, or upon detection of water usage, applicable charges will be assessed.

321.0 Meter reading, estimated billing

321.1 When a Premises has been equipped with a Meter, but an accurate Meter reading cannot be obtained for reasons other than the conditions described in section 509.9 of these Rules and Regulations, the quantity of water used will 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 may be established by the Authority. Any necessary corrections shall be made in the next bill following an actual Meter reading.

321.2 An actual water meter reading must be obtained by the Authority or provided by the Customer, at least once every six (6) months, and an actual water meter reading must be obtained by the Authority, at least once per year.

321.3 If the Authority has estimated bills and if the Customer during that estimated period has consumed an amount of water in excess of normal seasonal usage because of a verified leak that could not reasonably have been detected or other unknown loss of water, the customer is not liable for more than 150% of the average of amount of water consumed for the correspond period during the previous year. This section does not apply when the Authority was unable to gain access to the water meter.

322.0 Billing and Payment, Interest, Liens

322.1 All bills are due and payable on their stated due dates.

322.2 If current water and sewer bills are not paid in full by their due dates, interest of .0083 percent per month will be applied to the outstanding balance.

322.3 Unpaid water and sewer charges are a lien on the property.

323.0 Payment arrangements

323.1 The Authority's Customer Service employees are empowered to enter into payment arrangements with Customers whose accounts are not more than 90 days in arrears. Such agreements will apportion the amount in arrears over a period of time, adding an amount to the sums billed for current service. Eligibility and the amount of the payments shall be determined by factors such as:

- .1 the Customer's payment history;
- .2 the amount and duration of the account's arrearage; and
- .3 classification of property—Residential, Commercial, Industrial, or Health or Education.

323.2 A Customer who enters into a payment arrangement and thereafter complies with the terms of that arrangement will not be subject to termination of service or collection proceedings.

324.0 NOT USED

C. COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

325.0 Collection of delinquent accounts

325.1 Any account with past due charges may be sent a reminder notice, which shall contain:

- .1 the Customer's account number;
- .2 the total amount due;
- .3 a request to pay immediately;
- .4 the address of the service location that is delinquent;
- .5 a warning that failure to pay will lead to legal steps being taken against the Customer and may result in termination of water service;
- .6 notification that unpaid water and sewer charges are a lien against the Customer's property; and
- .7 a statement that payment plans may be available and a contact telephone number and/or e-mail address for further information.

325.2 If any water and/or sewer bill becomes past due, the Authority may serve a notice of termination on the Customer, following the procedures set forth in sections 209 through 211 of these Rules and Regulations for Residential Customers and section 238 of these Rules and Regulations for Commercial Customers

325.3 Unpaid water and/or sewer bills more than ninety (90) days in arrears are referred to Jordan Tax Service, LLC for collection.

325.4 Notice of collection required by 53 P. S. § 7101, *et seq.* shall be provided to the delinquent Customer as required by that statute. Fees and costs of collection, as set forth in section 326 below, shall accrue for all collection efforts undertaken more than thirty (30) days following the date of the notice, or more than ten (10) days following any second notice required by 53 P. S. § 7101 *et seq.* If not paid by the Customer, the fees and costs of collection shall be added to and become part of the delinquent claims in the collection proceeding.

326.0 Collection Expenses and Fees

326.1 Servicing charges: effective September 12, 2008, the following servicing charges, expenses, and fees are adopted and approved as reasonable and recoverable whether or not enforcement proceedings have been initiated. These fees and charges will be payable by the delinquent Customer and added to the delinquency claim, and must be paid in full before the discharge and satisfaction of any delinquent claim.

Expense	Amount
Out-of-pocket expenses, including but not limited to the expense of title searches, investigators, and process servers	actual cost
Preparation and issuance of a no-lien letter	\$25.00
Postage expense	actual cost
Servicing expense related to collection of delinquent claims, which shall accrue on the first day of the month for the entire month or partial month. Gross collections, for the purpose of calculation, shall include the face amount of the delinquency, together with interest and lien costs for each delinquent claim collected. Lien costs are charges for the filing, satisfaction, revival, amendment, and transfer of delinquent claims. Gross collections do not include any record costs, attorney fees, or out-of-pocket expenses related to the collection of delinquent claims.	15% of gross collections

- .1 Liability for servicing expenses, out-of-pocket expenses and postage expenses authorized in this section accrue immediately upon the effective date for all delinquent claims due in 2008 and prior years originally billed more than 90 days from the effective date.
- .2 Liability for servicing expenses, out-of-pocket expenses and postage expenses authorized in this section shall accrue on the 91st day from the initial billing date for all unpaid delinquent claims for calendar years 2008 and thereafter not paid-in-full within 90 days of the initial billing for the delinquent claim.
- .3 Liability for expenses authorized by this section shall be retroactive to the date of each delinquent invoice.

326.2 Enforcement expenses: in any enforcement proceeding, the following shall constitute reasonable expenses, necessary for the initiation and prosecution of legal proceedings:

Expense	Amount
Title search	actual cost, not to exceed \$250.00
Each bring-down or update of title search in connection with entry of judgment, issuance of execution, listing for sale, or other action	\$50.00
Out-of-pocket expenses including but not limited to postage, non-Sheriff's service of process, investigation of whereabouts of interested parties	actual cost

326.3 Flat rate fees, enforcement matters: effective September 12, 2008, the following schedule of attorney fees is adopted and approved as reasonable fees for all matters described, which fees shall be awarded to the Authority, its agents, counsel, or assigns in each action initiated for the collection of delinquent accounts. The property Owner's obligation to pay the full amount of the flat fee for each phase of each action shall accrue on the initiation of any aspect of each phase. The full amount of each flat fee for each prior phase of the proceeding shall carry over and be due on a cumulative basis, together with the flat fee for each subsequent phase initiated.

Activity	Flat Fee
Preparation and filing of claim	\$150
Preparation and service of writ of <i>scire facias</i> or complaint in <i>assumpsit</i> , sheriff's direction for service, notice pursuant to Pa. R. Civ. P. 237.1, and preparation and filing of <i>praecipe</i> to settle and discontinue the action	\$450
Where there are federal judgments, federal mortgages, or other federal interests of record, notice, service, and presentation of appropriate motions	\$200
Preparation, filing, monitoring, and conclusion of amicable <i>scire facias</i> or consent judgment, including negotiation, preparation, and filing of pleading, acceptance of service, installment payment, and/or forbearance agreement and satisfaction	\$400
Entry of judgment, including preparation and filing of <i>praecipe</i> to enter judgment, notices of judgment, affidavit of non-military status, and <i>praecipe</i> to satisfy judgment	\$225
All documents necessary for execution of judgment, including preparation of <i>praecipe</i> for writ of execution, Sheriff's documents, preparation and service of notices of Sheriff's sale, garnishments, personal property sales, staying writ of execution, and attendance at one' Sheriff's sale.	\$700
Each continuance of Sheriff's sale at the request of the defendant	\$100
Judicial sales pursuant to 53 Pa. S.A. § 7281, including preparation and service of documents, court appearances, attendance at sale and proposed schedule of distribution of proceeds of sale	\$700
Preparation of installment payment agreement	\$150
Preparation, filing, and presentation of motions, other than alternative service motions, including but not limited to motions to reassess damages, motions to amend caption, motions to continue the Sheriff's sale or other execution.	\$200

326.4 Hourly rate fees, enforcement matters: Effective September 12, 2008, the following schedule of attorney fees is adopted and approved as reasonable fees for all matters described, which fees shall be awarded to the Authority, its agents, counsel, or assigns in each contested matters, and in all other matters not addressed in section 313.2 above, undertaken in connection with the collection of delinquent accounts. Hourly rate matters include, but are not limited to, any matters where any defense, objection, motion, petition, or appearance is entered at any phase of any proceeding by or on behalf of any defendant or other interested party.

Person	Hourly Fee
Senior attorney (practicing law for 10 years or more)	\$185
Junior attorney (practicing law for fewer than 10 years)	\$160
Paralegals	\$100
Law clerks	\$65

.1 All time shall be recorded and charged in units of 0.1 of an hour.

326.5 In no event shall the Authority's right to charge and collect reasonable attorney fees pursuant to sections 326.3 and 326.4 be impaired by the fact that any delinquent claim may also include an attorney commission of 5 percent for delinquent claims filed prior to December 19, 1990. Any attorney fees assessed and collected under this or any prior regulations or resolutions shall be in addition to any 5 percent commission previously included in any delinquent claim or judgment.