

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

To Our Customers:

The Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PWSA) has filed a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to increase your water and wastewater conveyance rates. This notice describes the Authority's rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take.

### **RATE REQUEST**

PWSA has requested an overall rate increase of \$27.0 million per year. If the Authority's entire request is approved, the total water and wastewater conveyance bill for a residential customer using 3,000 gallons per month would increase from \$63.62 to \$74.23 per month or by 16.7%.

PWSA's rate request is scheduled to go into effect on August 31, 2018; however, in most cases, the PUC suspends the increase for up to an additional seven (7) months.

The breakdown by water and wastewater conveyance bill component for a residential customer is provided in the tables below.

<u>Residential Monthly Bill</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Water	\$42.07	\$49.83	18.4%
Wastewater Conveyance	<u>\$21.55</u>	<u>\$ 24.40</u>	<u>13.2%</u>
Total Monthly Bill	\$63.62	\$74.23	16.7%

The total bill for a commercial customer using 13,000 gallons per month would increase from \$234.00 to \$283.12 per month or by 21.0%.

<u>Commercial Monthly Bill</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Water	\$148.02	\$187.09	26.4%
Wastewater Conveyance	<u>\$85.98</u>	<u>\$96.03</u>	<u>11.7%</u>
Total Monthly Bill	\$234.00	\$283.12	21.0%

Rates for an industrial customer using 680,000 gallons per month would increase from \$9,409.52 to \$12,064.79 per month or by 28.2%.

<u>Industrial Monthly Bill</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Water	\$5,505.62	\$7,266.88	32.0%
Wastewater Conveyance	<u>\$3,903.90</u>	<u>\$4,797.91</u>	<u>22.9%</u>
Total Monthly Bill	\$9,409.52	\$12,064.79	28.2%

Rates for a health or education customer using 50,000 gallons per month would increase from \$1,031.30 to \$1,131.73 per month or by 9.7%.

Health or Education Monthly Bill	Present	Proposed	% Increase
Water	\$649.46	\$762.62	17.4%
Wastewater Conveyance	<u>\$381.84</u>	<u>\$369.11</u>	<u>-3.3%</u>
Total Monthly Bill	\$1,031.30	\$1,131.73	9.7%

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase may affect your water and wastewater conveyance bill, contact PWSA at 412-255-2423. The rates requested by the Authority may be found in the initial Tariff Water – PA. P.U.C. No.1 and Tariff Wastewater – PA. P.U.C. No.1. You may also examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at PWSA’s office. Upon request, the Authority will send you the Statement of Reasons for these Tariffs, explaining why the rate increase has been requested.

### **PUC ROLE**

The state agency which now approves rates for PWSA is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested rate increase and can prevent existing rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Authority must prove that the requested rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request or may reduce existing rates.

The PUC may change the amount of the rate increase or decrease requested by the Authority utility for each customer class. As a result, the rate charged to you may be different than the rate requested by the Authority as shown above.

### **ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE**

There are three ways to challenge PWSA’s request to change its rates:

1. You can be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the PUC opens an investigation of the Authority’s rate increase request and if there is a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings, you have the opportunity to present your views in person to the PUC judge hearing the case and to the PWSA representatives. All testimony given “under oath” becomes part of the official rate case record. These hearings are held in the service area of the Authority.
2. You can send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested rate increase. At times there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the Authority’s service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the rate request.

3. You can file a formal complaint. If you want a hearing before a judge, you must file a formal complaint. By filing a formal complaint, you assure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the rate increase request. All complaints should be filed with the PUC before August 31, 2018. If no formal complaints are filed, the Commission may grant all, some or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Post Office Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265.

For more information, call the PUC's Bureau of Consumer Services at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so you can be notified of any public input hearings that may be scheduled in this case. You may also contact the Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA). The OCA represents the interests of consumers in cases before the PUC. You may contact the OCA with questions or requests for public input hearings at 1-800-684-6560 or by email at [consumer@paoca.org](mailto:consumer@paoca.org).

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