

Separation NOTICE

A Publication of the Department of Watershed Management

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Atlanta City Council Adopts Rate Hikes

By William Horton, Public Information Manager

ATLANTA - After months of debates, town hall meetings and several late-night work sessions, the Atlanta City Council adopted a water/sewer rate increase in January that will allow the City to continue with the design and construction of projects needed to comply with federal mandated Consent Decrees, as well as those Clean Water Atlanta projects that are high-priority because they protect public health and quality of life.

The new rate structure is based on three levels of water consumption. Water is measured in ccf or 100 Cubic feet. One ccf equals 750 gallons. Under the old fee structure the rate was \$6.20 per ccf used for a bi-monthly bill. Under the new three-tiered structure, the rate is \$6.83 per ccf for the first six ccf used; \$7.82 per ccf for the next six ccf used (7 to 12 ccf) and \$8.99 per ccf for 13 ccf and up.

The new rate structure also calls for a minimum charge of \$41.88 based on 6 ccf at 6.83 per ccf. This means for a bi-monthly bill, you will pay \$41.88, *even* if your usage is 0 or 5 ccf. Everyone with an active water service account will receive a bill for the minimum charge. The council also approved a homeland security charge of \$.15 per ccf. The surcharge will provide the funding needed to comply with the Bio-terrorist Act, which was enacted to protect local water facilities from either outside threats or terrorist acts.

The new rate structure allows ratepayers to save money when using less water. With the tiered rates, ratepayers will see an even greater savings when usage is less than 13 ccf and even more when usage is no more than six ccf.

“While this new rate structure and increase will allow the City to build for today’s and tomorrow’s needs, it will also make it possible to comply with mandated Consent Decrees previously issued by the EPA and Georgia EPD,” said Department of Watershed Commissioner Jack

New 2004 Rates		Old 2003 Rates
The cost of each CCF increases at 7-12 CCF, and increases again at 13 CCF & above		In 2003, the rate was the same at any level of usage, and there was no minimum
At this level of usage ↓	The rate per CCF is: ↓	The old rate per CCF was: ↓
Minimum charge (based on minimum level usage of 6 CCF)	\$6.83/CCF minimum charge \$40.98 (\$6.83 x 6 CCF)	\$6.20/CCF
7-12 CCF	\$7.82/CCF	
13 CCF & up	\$8.99/CCF	
Homeland Security Surcharge	\$0.15 per CCF	None

Ravan. “Mayor Franklin and City Council should be commended for their leadership in dealing with the toughest decision in recent City history.”

The City will assist ratepayers in keeping water and sewer bills affordable by offering a senior citizen low-income discount, additional funding for the Care & Conserve Program and a comprehensive water conservation education program.

Senior Citizens 65 and older with household incomes of \$25,000 and are the primary titleholder or leaseholder on the property where the bill is received may be eligible for a 30 percent discount on water and sewer services, but not the security charge. The Care & Conserve fund is a special program to help low-income ratepayers with especially high bills. The program also offers plumbing assistance to help control water usage.

Applications for the Senior Citizen discount are being accepted now at City Hall South on Trinity Avenue. To obtain a Senior Citizen Low Income Discount application via mail, contact the Bureau of Water Customer Service Division at

404-658-6500. Applications are also available at Fulton County Senior Citizen facilities, most Atlanta libraries, City recreation facilities and the Bureau of Customer Service Office at 55 Trinity Avenue on the first floor of City Hall.

You can mail your original, completed application and supporting documentation to:
City of Atlanta
Department of Watershed Management

55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 1650
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Attn: Senior Citizens Low Income Discount Program

For more information about the new water/sewer rates or the Senior Citizens Low Income discount, please call 404-658-6500. To learn more about the Care & Conserve Program, please call 404-886-1877 or the or visit the Clean Water Atlanta website at www.cleanwateratlanta.org.

Janet Ward, Media Relations Manager for the City of Atlanta, contributed to this story

For more information, questions or concerns, call the Clean Water Atlanta Helpline at 404-529-9211.

Visit us today at the Clean Water Atlanta website at

www.cleanwateratlanta.org

Pre-Construction Work Continues On Sewer Separation Projects

Pipe inspection and survey work are part of activities

By William Horton, Public Information Manager

ATLANTA – The City of Atlanta’s Department of Watershed Management is aggressively moving forward with plans to separate combined sewers in the Greensferry, McDaniel and Stockade basins as construction crews continue pipe inspection and survey work in all three basins. These consent decree projects, mandated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, are still in the design phase as consultants continue to gather and compile field data.

The data collection and surveying phase for the Stockade Sub-basin is nearly complete. Engineers are now using this information to develop the detailed design plans which will be used as the blueprint for construction. Over the next few months, field crews will be required to conduct in-home inspections to locate service laterals. This will require entry into several homes and businesses in Reynoldstown and Grant Park to complete dye testing and to verify proper connections to the sewer mains. The contractor will contact home and business owners to arrange inspection.

The Greensferry basin, which includes the Atlanta University Center (AUC) and the historic West End neighborhoods, has been divided into three areas to expedite data gathering and design. Utility location work is complete for Areas 1 and 2 and field surveys are complete for Area 1. Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) inspections of existing pipes are 80 percent complete for the entire basin. Geotechnical activities, which includes testing ground conditions, are scheduled to begin this month.

Engineers will work with University Building Superintendents to determine how the plumbing and drainage systems connect to the combined sewer. Managers of the West End Mall are also working with engineers on the separation construction plans that could



Smoke rises from a storm drain during smoke testing in the McDaniel Basin.

include the mall parking lot.

The McDaniel basin, which is home to Atlanta Area Technical School and many other old buildings, has also been divided into three project areas. Field crews are completing survey inspections and geotechnical work, CCTV and the inventory of non-residential buildings to determine if they are serviced by combined sewers.

Lance Clark, director of engineering for the Department of Watershed Management, said that despite the difficult nature of these jobs, the consultants and their subcontractors have risen to the occasion.

“Sewer separation is very unpredictable,” Clark said. “The system is very old and in some cases the locations are uncertain, thus the data gathering and field survey stage is very important and essential to the success of the project. They have completed this task without much difficulty and negative impacts. They have done a great job of locating and surveying the sewer lines while interacting with the community.”

The combined sewer, which runs parallel to Metropolitan Parkway, is in an area slated for new sidewalks. The Department of Watershed Management and the Bureau of Planning are coordinating their efforts to ensure the two projects do not compromise each other.



Field crew member prepares manhole for CCTV inspection on Peters Street.

Councilmember Clea Winslow, who represents District 4 (which includes portions of the McDaniel and Greensferry basins), said it is imperative that citizens receive timely information regarding the status of the projects.

“We will be hosting a series of meetings in the near future with residents directly affected by the sewer separation projects,” Winslow said. “It’s important to keep people informed when construction takes place and as the projects continue to move forward.”

Sewer separation involves constructing new sanitary or storm sewers within a combined sewer service area. This allows wastewater and stormwater, currently collected in the same pipe, to be collected in separate pipes. Wastewater would be carried to a treatment facility, where pollutants are removed before being discharged to the Chattahoochee River. Stormwater would be collected and discharged directly to local streams.

The final design of all three basins is slated to be completed in November and construction should begin in May 2005. Substantial completion is scheduled for September 2007.

Sewer Separation Pre-Construction Work Also Includes Geo-Technical Surveys

By William Horton, Public Information Manager



A drill rig boring underground for rock and soil samples.

ATLANTA – While data collection and surveys of the sewer separation basins is imperative to the final design of the projects, geotechnical work is also a vital component of the pre-construction phase.

Geotechnical work includes testing ground conditions for sewer separation construction by collecting soil samples by drilling or boring a six to 12-inch wide hole using truck-mounted drill rigs. Soil samples are taken, for both on-site and lab analysis to determine the soil strength or geological foundation conditions of the ground. This work also includes

testing for salinity and underground water levels.

“The construction of new sewers, which are fairly shallow, generally requires a minimum amount of geotechnical work whereas, a deep tunnel requires extensive geotechnical investigations,” said George Barnes, deputy commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management. “Boring for tunnels, which are often several hundred feet deep, may require up to a week to complete. Other types which are generally shallow can be done in a day.”

Work crews usually have four to seven workers operating the drilling equipment and gathering soil samples. The most common impact will be the sound of the

drill rigs, boring holes six to nine inches in diameter. After the drilling work is complete, the hole will be covered to enable future observation of groundwater levels.

Road closures are not usually necessary while this work takes place. However, it may be necessary to close a traffic lane or lanes to complete a specific boring in the public right of way. All work will be done during City approved working hours and the work areas will be restored after the work is completed. For more information, please call the Clean Water HelpLine at 404-529-9211 or visit the Clean Water Atlanta website at www.cleanwateratlanta.org.

Important Tidbit

Approximately 185,952 linear feet of sewer pipe in the three basins has been inspected to date. This is equivalent to 35 miles or 616 football fields.