

PERKASIE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Fall and Winter
2014-2015

Newsletter

Produced as a service to our Perkasio Borough, East Rockhill Township, West Rockhill Township and Hilltown Township customers



Customer Alert

TO AVOID LATE PENALTIES CUSTOMERS SHOULD BEGIN MAKING/MAILING PAYMENTS TO OUR NEW ADDRESS
Remember to contact your bank if you pay your bill online through your bank

New Address – Same Phone/Fax Numbers



Perkasie Regional Authority
150 Ridge Road
Sellersville, PA 18960
215-257-3654 Fax 215-257-5590
www.perkasieauthority.org

***** Follow us on Facebook & Twitter! *****

**In an Emergency, we
can be contacted
24 hours a day!**

Meetings Schedule

Perkasie Regional Authority meets at 150 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Monday and 3rd Tuesday of each month

Please visit our website at www.perkasieauthority.org for a list of all meeting dates

Meetings are open to the public for questions or concerns.

Email

info@perkasieauthority.org

New Regional Authority Building Open House

The building was constructed and planned to serve our present and future customers both operationally as well as administratively well into this century. The Authority Board and Staff are very proud of the new facility and we hope that all of our customers are as well



Pictured (left to right) is Steven Pizzollo, Perkasio Boro Council, James Purcell, Perkasio Boro Council, FloAnn Frei, Perkasio Boro Council, Matthew Aigeldinger, Perkasio Boro Council, Barbara Krantz, Perkasio Boro Council, Fred Diseroad, PRA Project Manager, Jim Nietupski, East Rockhill Twp Council, James Ryder, Perkasio Boro Council, Lawrence Gular, PRA Board, Robert Wasson, PRA Board, Tom Horn, PRA Board, Ben Rainear, PRA Board, Nick Fretz, PRA Manager, David Watt, PRA Board, Joe McKernan, PRA Architect and Pete Andersen, PRA Engineer



PRA Announcements



Congratulations to Gary J. Winton, Executive Director who will be retiring from Perkasio Regional Authority after 22 years at the end of 2014.

Mr. Winton has been the chief administrative officer of the Authority and represented the system owner in the day to day operations of the Authority; acted at the direction of the Board Members of the Authority, and performed duties requiring supervision and direction of certified operators to take such action so that the water and wastewater system is in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and permits.

Mr. Winton has been a valued member of this Authority for 22 years and his service to the Authority has been outstanding and he will be truly missed.

2015 Water and Sewer Rates

Since the beginning of this century, the Authority has increased rates nine (9) times. In calendar year 2015, the average residential bill based on 60,000 gallons of water treated and approximately 90% of that water treated as sewage will rise to \$1,129.00. This equates the cost of producing, treating and distributing the water at \$8.13 per thousand gallons and \$10.68 per thousand gallons to collect, transport, treat and dispose of the sewage. This is an increase of \$34.80 per year \$0.29 per thousand gallons for water and \$0.29 per thousand gallons for sewer.

Out of the average cost of \$1,129.00 per year, \$541.81 goes to ensure that PRA continues to comply with its bond debt covenants and with its strategy to maintain and invest in its infrastructure to maintain the sustainability of the Authority. PRA must remain proactive about maintaining its 60.7 miles of water lines, 36.3 miles of sewer lines and water production facilities and continue to meet its obligations at the regional sewer plant.

You will notice the rate restructure that was changed at the beginning of 2013 has remained. Over the last several years, water use has been declining thereby reducing revenues. In order to make sure we can meet our legal requirements to our bond holders, minimum rates were adjusted to reflect the cost of our annual bond payments. The balance of our budget is paid for by operating revenues. Therefore, the inclining block rates were adjusted from six (6) to two (2) blocks and those rates have been established at \$10.55 per thousand combined cost for water and sewer for the first fifteen (15) thousand and then increasing to \$16.50 for all usage over fifteen (15) thousand.

The Board Members understand that rate increases are never favorable and all measures are taken to ensure that rate increases are kept as low as possible. In 2015 two expenses were the driving factor in the rate increases. First is the fact that Penridge Wastewater Treatment Authority (PwTA) increased their cost to us by 13% to fund a new electrical substation. This caused our rates to treat sewer at PwTA to increase about 13%. Second is the increase costs to operate the water and sewer systems. While this cost includes the debt service on the new building, the increase could not be avoided. The Authority anticipates that the sale of the 5th Street facility will reduce a portion of that debt service.

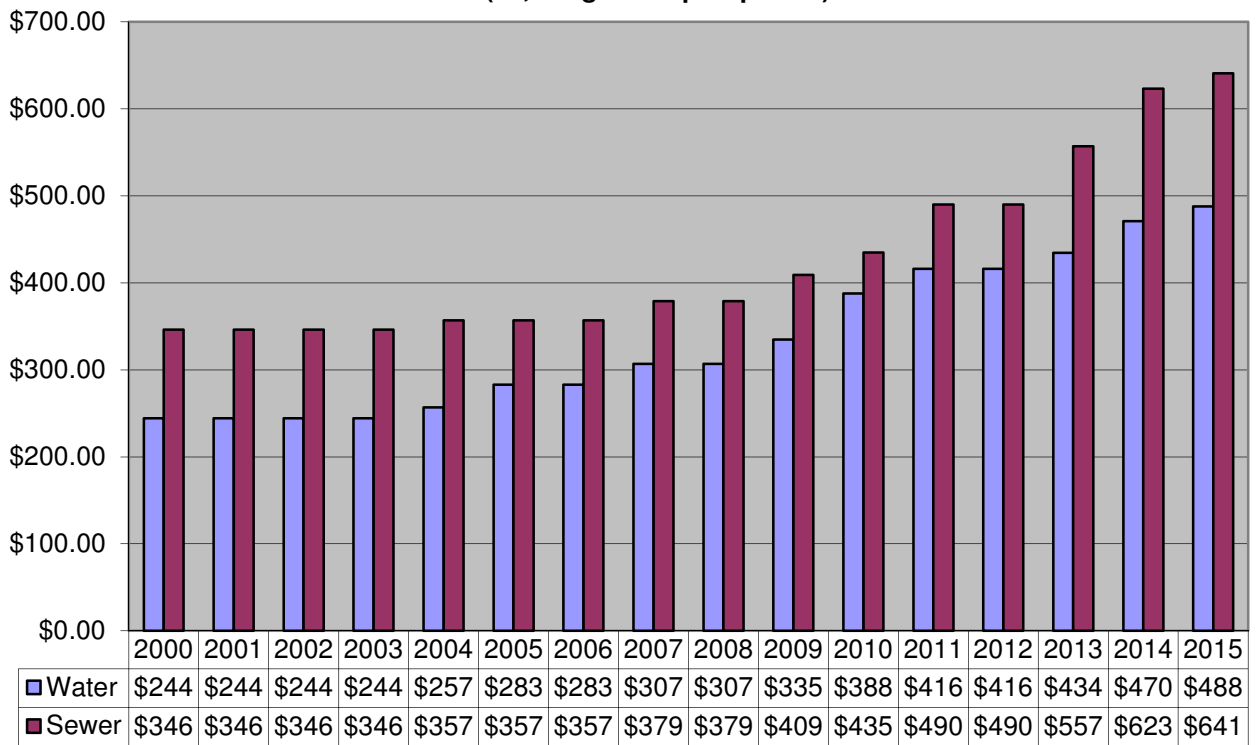
The average quarterly bill will be roughly \$285.00. We realize this may be difficult for some of our customers to pay in one lump sum, therefore if you would contact our office we would be happy to make monthly payment arrangements for you.

We work hard to provide our customers dependable, high quality water and wastewater services that protect public health and safety while keeping our rates reasonable. If we put off necessary maintenance in our system, it will cost more in the long run.

For additional information on the new water and sewer rates, please contact the office or visit our website at www.perkasieauthority.org.

2015 Water and Sewer Rates (Continued)

**Average Yearly Bill Based on 60,000 Gallons of Usage per Year
(15,000 gallons per quarter)**



2015 System Flushing Beginning in May

The Authority's Annual System Flushing Maintenance Project begins in May and is projected to be completed in approximately two (2) weeks and all work takes place **during nighttime hours between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.** The reason for this annual project is to preserve water quality, guarantee sufficient water pressure, maintain fire hydrant operability and remove sediment buildup in the lines.

We stress the importance of not using your water during this time as you would only draw dirt and sediment into your service line. After 6:00 a.m., if the water is still discolored, let it settle for a half hour, then run the cold water for a few minutes. Additionally, we urge you to check your wash water prior to doing any laundry. Water Softeners should be turned off to prevent back siphoning of the softening media.

We alert our customers in advance by mailing post card notices and posting alerts on our website: www.perkasieauthority.org. The Authority will also be alerting our customers via a rapid response phone call. You will receive a pre-recorded telephone message informing you when our flushing crew will be in your neighborhood. Property owners are responsible for contacting their tenants.

For more information regarding this routine maintenance project or if you would like to know your scheduled flushing day, please visit our website.



Construction Updates

Current and Completed Projects

Old Route 309 Water/Sewer Extension

West Rockhill Township is updating its Act 537 Plan to allow the Perkasie Regional Authority to extend its public sanitary sewer system from its current terminus 500 feet north of Ridge Road, along Old Route 309. The system will be extended to serve all properties from the current terminus to 123 Old Route 309. In addition, approximately 6 properties along Mill Road, immediately east of Old Route 309 will be served.

The sewage will be collected and conveyed to a proposed sewage pumping station located adjacent to Three Mile Run. The sewage will then be pumped to an existing gravity sewer main along Old Route 309, near Ridge Road.

This project will be constructed as part of a Public-Private partnership with Aqua Infrastructure, Inc. The Authority intends to finance this project with a combination of quarterly sewer charges and a one-time tapping fee. The typical quarterly bill for a property using 15,000 gallons of sewer per quarter is approximately \$160. The one-time tapping fee per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) will be \$26,925.

This project complies with the Sewage Facilities Plan adopted by West Rockhill Township in 2011.

Storage Tank

The Authority performed a total overhaul of its 2 million gallon storage tank on Park Avenue. The tank was drained, sandblasted and repainted both inside and out. This project was completed in September 2014.



- Does your sink/toilet/tub drain slowly?
- Do you have plumbing problems during rain events?
- Do you feel like your facilities are not draining like they should be?

Not sure what to do...See how Perkasie Regional Authority can help before contacting a plumber...

Perkasie Regional Authority utilizes sewer camera trucks to inspect and/or flush blocked sewer lines from your outside cleanout to the street. No access to your home is necessary and it's **No Charge!**

So give us a call and we will come to your property to help identify any issues/problems before contacting a plumber

Phone: 215-257-3654

Note: Must be a PRA Customer for No Charge – All others a fee is charged

Winterization Checklist

- Turn off valves to outside faucets and make sure to fully drain the faucets. You may also want to consider an insulated cover for the outside faucet.
- Disconnect your garden hoses from all outside faucets and drain if you store them outside.
- If you have any exposed water or drain piping in un-insulated spaces, make sure to insulate them with foam insulation at a minimum. Ideally they should be wrapped with electrical heating tape first and then insulated.
- If you have a sprinkler system, it is recommended to turn off the water supply and blow compressed air through the sprinkler lines to purge them of water to prevent them from freezing and bursting.