

CLEVELAND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

UNDERSTANDING WPC'S PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

Water Pollution Control is proposing a gradual increase in rates over a 5-year period to support critical infrastructure investment. We're also implementing new ways to keep rates affordable for customers.

WHY A RATE INCREASE IS NEEDED

Like other sewer utilities, WPC needs to continue to invest in upgrading aging infrastructure. 38% of WPC's infrastructure is 100 years or older, which is past its useful life. 5 years ago that number was 27%. It will continue to rise unless we invest more in infrastructure.

WPC must be able to adequately fund the cost of effective and reliable operation that meets our customers' needs. Current rates will not provide sufficient revenue for operations and maintenance and historical and current infrastructure investment.



HOW DO THE CHANGES BETTER HELP US SERVE YOU?

This rate proposal allows for \$98 million in investment over 5 years to address aging infrastructure. Increased investment in infrastructure is critical to proactively address issues like sewer collapses and storm drain overflows. These are the types of issues that can cause major inconvenience to our customers in the form of collapsed streets and flooded basements.

It also will allow for the addition of 18 new employees. This staff increase will give WPC the ability to complete more maintenance on sewers and catch basins as well as respond quicker to customer requests. Improving maintenance activities helps avoid potential health hazards and minimize the inconvenience created by sewer breaks and backups.



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

For an average user, monthly WPC charges would look similar to the following:



WPC rates are the lowest when compared to similar sewer utilities and will remain below the average even with this increase.

HOW TO SAVE

We recognize the burden that an increase in rates places on customers. Our priority is to maintain affordability while improving services to our customers.

As part of the proposed rates, a new Affordability Program will be available to income-eligible customers. Our Homestead Program is currently available for customers who are 65+ or disabled. Both programs offer qualifying customers significantly reduced rates.



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