

St. Louis County Water Rate Update



New water rates for St. Louis County customers were approved by the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) and became effective on November 28. The typical residential customer in St. Louis County using 22,500 gallons per quarter will pay approximately \$12.28 more **per quarter**.

This typical bill reflects the approved increase in base water rates and the fact that the infrastructure surcharge on customer bills will be reset to zero.

A primary driver for the 17.94 percent rate increase is the investment that the company has made in water system improvements. The new rates reflect approximately \$98.2 million of investments in St. Louis County's water system.

In St. Louis County, the typical residential customer will pay approximately \$80.72 **per quarter** for water service. This includes an increase in base water rates, the resetting of the infrastructure surcharge to zero and an increase in the public fire service charge. Customers will still be receiving a gallon of water delivered to their homes for about a penny per gallon.

Water Facts

Water System Improvements. From June 2007 to September 2008, Missouri American Water invested approximately \$98.2 million in improvements to St. Louis County's water system, including:

- Improving all four water treatment plants that serve St. Louis County by replacing 40 and 50-year-old equipment. Upgraded electrical and water treatment equipment will help to maintain service reliability.
- Relocating water mains to support road and highway improvements, including the new I-64 project which was completed on budget and on schedule.
- Replacing aging water mains around the county to improve water service reliability.

Water Quality. As a member of the Partnership for Safe Water, St. Louis County's four water treatment plants were recently recognized with the Partnership's five-year Director's Award for water quality performance that surpasses EPA standards. The Partnership is a voluntary program sponsored by the U.S. EPA, the American Water Works Association and other water organizations. Fewer than one percent of all water utilities in the U.S. have been awarded this honor.

Your Water Bill. The new rates took effect on Nov. 28, 2008. The first water bills issued after that date include fixed and usage charges at the old rate and a second set of fixed and usage charges at the new rate.

St. Louis County residential customers are billed once every quarter. Your water bill has several components. The two major elements on your water bill are the fixed and water usage charges.

New Fixed Residential Customer Charge (fixed quarterly charge for water service)	New Residential Water Usage Charge (The unit cost per thousand gallons used)	Public Fire Service Charge (fixed charge)
\$12.31	\$2.78	A fixed quarterly charge for fire hydrants that varies by fire district.

Note: Your water bill also includes taxes levied by local communities. A service line protection charge funds a County-administered program to help homeowners pay for the cost of qualified repairs if their water service line breaks.