

*Anne Arundel County
Department of Public Works*

Sewer Surcharge Program



*Our commitment...
to provide environmentally
sensitive wastewater treatment
and to share in the responsibility to
protect the health of the Chesapeake
Bay and its tributaries now and for
future generations...*

Striving for Excellence...

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, Bureau of Utility Operations has a long standing commitment to provide environmentally sensitive treatment of wastewater and to share in the responsibility to protect the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries now and for future generations.

DPW receives and treats more than 29 million gallons of wastewater each day before releasing it to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. DPW provides public sewer service to about 75 percent of county households, or over 300,000 residents.

Anne Arundel County has been recognized nationally for demonstrating a superior ability to meet national pollutant discharge standards. In 1999 the Association of Metropolitan Sewage Agencies (AMSA) recognized six County treatment plants for their outstanding performance.

Anne Arundel County is also committed to providing this high level service at the lowest possible cost and to spread those costs as equitably as possible among its users.

An Issue of Equity...

As a "private enterprise" fund, the county's utility system must be self-supporting and is paid for by user fees. In order to be as equitable as possible, users must be charged according to the costs sustained by the county to operate and maintain the system.

General user rates cover the costs to treat normal domestic strength wastewater, but higher waste strengths cost more to treat.

The Sewer Surcharge Program will provide the mechanism to recover costs incurred when treating high strength wastes discharged by industrial and commercial users to the wastewater system.

Simply put...

Although high strength wastes produced by some commercial customers are generally compatible with the wastewater system, it costs more to treat them. The primary purpose of the Sewer Surcharge Program is to recover the additional costs.

Other jurisdictions...

Surrounding jurisdictions, including Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Howard County, all have successful sewer surcharge programs in place.

Authority in County Code...

Article 27, Section 3-509 of the Anne Arundel County Code authorizes the Director of Public Works to "establish a system of user surcharges that are based on treatment costs for compatible pollutants to recover the actual cost of the treatment of excessive strength waste introduced into the collection system by users..."

Calculating Surcharges and Maximum Pollutant Levels...

The Code in Article 27, Section 3-509 (o)

provides a mechanism for calculating surcharges and establishes the pollutant concentration at which a surcharge can be assessed. Maximum pollutant concentrations not requiring a surcharge are:

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) 250mg/L
 Total Phosphorus (TP) 8mg/L
 Total Suspended Solids (TSS) 250mg/L

Waste Classification System

A waste classification system was developed as part of the Department's Sewer Surcharge Program. This waste classification system determines which industrial and commercial users of the sewer system should be surcharged. A range of waste strengths for each class has been established based on actual sampling and analysis.

Three main surcharge categories have been established by the Department:

- Category 1 Full Service Restaurant
- Category 2 Fast Food Restaurant
- Category 3 Misc. Food Prep

The waste strengths selected for each of these categories is as follows: (all numbers in mg/L)

| | | | |
|------------|-------|----|-------|
| | BOD | TP | TSS |
| Category 1 | 1,100 | 20 | 430 |
| Category 2 | 1,540 | 12 | 600 |
| Category 3 | 2,180 | 13 | 1,030 |

Surcharge Rates

Surcharge costs are based on the actual costs to operate and maintain seven (7) water reclamation facilities in the County, debt service, and the or

ganic, nutrient and solids loadings treated at the plants. The current surcharge rates on a per pound basis are:

BOD.....\$0.29/Lb
 TP.....\$0.56/Lb
 TSS..... \$0.21/Lb

Site Specific Testing

Although most commercial and industrial users will be surcharged based on a class strength, users can opt for site specific testing at their own expense. Testing must be conducted quarterly according to Department sampling protocol. Site specific data already received from the Pretreatment Program will be used to generate surcharge bills for those customers.

Site inspections may be conducted by the Department to verify a user's discharge and to note presence or absence of grease traps and other appurtenances.

Implementation and Billing

The surcharge cost will appear as a separate line item on your bimonthly or quarterly utility bill. The surcharge will be implemented over a three year period beginning January 1, 2001 with a one-third surcharge rate assessed and with an additional one-third January ,1,2002 and the final one-third January 1,2003, at which time the program will be fully implemented.

Questions?

Questions regarding the Sewer Surcharge program may be directed to:

- Pollutant concentration levels, surcharge categories, or site-specific testing:
 Pre-treatment Program Manager...
 410-222-7523
- Surcharge rate calculations:
 Bureau of Finance/Administration...
 410-222-7517
- Utility billing questions:
 Billing Customer Service...
 410-222-1774
 410-222-1144
- Other customer needs:
 DPW Customer Relations...
 410-222-7582



*Anne Arundel County
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Customer Relations Series