

Important Information: Proposed Changes to Your Water/Sewer Rates

On March 10, The North Carolina Utilities Commission incorrectly approved a 40% sewer rate increase for Utilities Inc subsidiary Carolina Water Service. It has since been determined that the company will refund customers with interest for over-collection during the period of March 10-June 30, 2014.

The company is currently undergoing negotiations with the NC Utilities Commission and the Public Staff to determine the best method of refund. They are asking that refund plan be settled August 15.

In addition, CWS is changing their sewer rate structure. Before, sewer charges were determined using a 33/67 ratio of flat rates to usage rates. Now, charges will be determined using a 75/25 ratio. Finally, the company is amending their water and sewer rates to reflect a new state tax law eliminating the Gross Receipts Tax. All of these measures should lower your monthly utility bills.

Current sewer rate	New, corrected rate	City of Asheville rate (for comparison)
\$18.68 per month + \$7.95/1,000 gallons (\$50.48 average cost)	\$33.02 per month + \$2.46/1,000 gallons (\$42.86 average cost)	\$3.00 per month + \$4.26/1,000 gallons (\$22.17 average cost)

Utilities Inc has increased their rates 3 times in the past 5 years. Now, the company has been approved for a new rate adjustment mechanism called the Water/Sewer System Improvement Charge (W/SSIC) which allows:

- Increases between formal rate cases up to 5%
- Increases twice a year
- No public hearings
- Very limited public notification

If you have questions or concerns about this please get in touch with Clean Water for NC! We are a nonprofit organization that promotes clean, safe water and empowered communities.

For More Information:

The Public Staff represents consumer interests to the NC Utilities Commission
(919)733-9277
www.pubstaff.commerce.state.nc.us

Who to Contact:

Katie Hicks
(828) 251-1291
katie@cwfn.org