

June 18, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Planned sewer rate increase takes effect July 1

Springfield is continuing to make additional investments in our wastewater system to meet regulatory requirements and to protect water quality.

On May 31, 2011, City Council passed a series of rate increases, with the last scheduled rate increase to be on July 1, 2016. Residents will see the next scheduled rate increase July 1, 2013. The rate increase will be on their CU bill sometime after July, depending on their billing cycle.

Sewer charges are based on water consumption, during January, February and March of each year. An average residential household will use 6.0 CCF (hundred cubic feet) or 4,488 gallons per month. Each residential household's bill will have a basic customer charge of \$16.55 and a volume charge of an estimated 6.0 CCF or \$9.72, depending upon water usage. The total bill for a typical residential household will be around \$26.27.

A Citizen's Wastewater Improvements Task Force was developed to look into the rate structure necessary to meet regulatory mandates and fund the \$50 million dollar phase two of the City's Amended Consent Judgment with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (referred to as the Early Action Program). The Task Force recommended a rate structure that was 'fair and equitable' for all ratepayers. Burns and McDonnell, an outside consulting firm, performed a comprehensive financial analysis of the entire sewer system with the goal of identifying 'fair and equitable' rate increases that will fund the sewer system until 2017.

Burns and McDonnell's consultant Steve Yonker said Springfield's rates would remain competitive in the region despite the increases and noted the proposed 2013 rate was lower than the average rate in national surveys.

For more information about City Wastewater improvements, visit www.springfieldmo.gov/taskforce/wastewater/index.html or call Kristy Haynes at 864-1924.