

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2020

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL WASTE AND WATER POLLUTION

Mr. Brian A. Perkovich, Executive Director

..Title

Request Authority to Amend the User Charge Ordinance of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

..Body

Dear Sir:

An in-house review of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (District) User Charge Ordinance (Ordinance) by the Monitoring and Research Department established the need to amend the Ordinance to modify certain provisions of the Ordinance. To facilitate extended public notice of the proposed changes, it is recommended that the Board consider the adoption of the revised Ordinance at the next regular Board Meeting on November 19, 2020.

The amendments are summarized as follows:

1. Section 2 is amended to include a new definition for "Facilities" and revise the definition of a "Tax-Exempt User." These changes are to clarify both terms as related to the administration of the User Charge program and eliminate ambiguity in current classification procedures.
2. Section 4(f) is amended to clarify that Tax-Exempt Users who pay property taxes can report those property taxes to the District as Large-Commercial Industrial Users currently do. This eliminates a perceived inequality that currently exists in Ordinance.
3. Section 10 is amended to clarify that Significant Industrial Users pay an administrative fee for the District to review many facility-specific reports and is based on both volume discharge and number of sampling points listed in the User's discharge authorization permit.
4. Appendix A, Section II(c) is amended, replacing the deadline for the District to seal a privately-owned water meter within five (5) days, with a one-week deadline to schedule an appointment to seal the meter. This allows the District and User to schedule the inspection without impacting the User's operations.
5. Appendix A, Section III is amended to allow Users to apply an approved metering system and/or methodology to the most recent prior year with a request, eliminating the appeal requirement and limiting any application of a credit to one year rather than two.
6. Appendix B, Section II(a)(1)(b) is amended to require a primary flow measurement device for the purpose of wastewater sampling to be approved by the District.
7. Appendix F, Section I is amended to modify the User Charge rates applicable to Large Commercial-Industrial User and Tax-Exempt User classes. The 2021 billing rates for volume, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Suspended Solids (SS) are as follows:

LARGE COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL USER AND TAX-EXEMPT USER RATES:


	2020 Rates	Recommended 2021 Rates
(1) Volume	\$273.88 per million gallons	\$278.81 per million gallons
(2) 5-day BOD	\$209.94 per thousand pounds of BOD	\$202.93 per thousand pounds of BOD
(3) SS	\$124.16 per thousand pounds of SS	\$117.81 per thousand pounds of SS

8. Appendix F, Section III is amended to modify the Operations, Maintenance and Replacement (OM&R) Factor as follows:

2020 OM&R Factor	Recommended 2021 OM&R Factor
0.319	0.354

The recommended rates and OM&R factor were the result of a collaboration between the District and its industrial community in 2013 to establish a more efficient cost recovery method starting in 2014.

Attached is "The Proposed Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's User Charge Ordinance, As Amended November 19, 2020." It is recommended that the Board adopt the proposed Ordinance, as herein amended. The Ordinance, as amended, will take effect on January 1, 2021.


 Requested, Edward W. Podczerwinski, Director of Monitoring and Research, EWP:JW:MG:lk
 Susan T. Morakalis, General Counsel
 Jacqueline Torres, Clerk/Director of Finance
 Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for November 5, 2020.

Attachments