

**SPRINGFIELD
WATER AND SEWER
COMMISSION**



**FISCAL YEAR 2024
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

DRAFT SUMMARY 4-24-23

Commissioner Matthew Donnellan
Commissioner Vanessa Otero
Commissioner Daniel Rodriguez

Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

Rules and Regulations

Additional Revisions of the Rules and Regulations as of July 1, 2023 are as follows:

1. Cover page of the Fiscal Year 2024 Rules and Regulations

DELETE

Commissioner William E. Leonard

REPLACE WITH

Commissioner Matthew Donnellan

2. Chapter 1; Section 1.2.1; Installation, Maintenance, Repair, or Replacement Charges:

INSERT THE FOLLOWING SECTION AS SUBSECTION 1.2.1 AND CONTINUE
RENUMBERING THE REMAINING SUBSECTIONS

1.2.1 Ownership of Building Sewers and Private Sewers

The Owner shall operate and maintain the Building Sewer from the Building Drain to the Public Sewer.

The Owner shall operate and maintain the Private Sewer from the Building Sewer to the Public Sewer.

3. Chapter 1; Section 1.2.2; Commission Approved Contractors

DELETE

1. No contractor or Person shall be allowed to install or repair Water Facilities, Sewer Facilities, a Building Sewer and/or Private Sewer unless they become a Commission Approved Contractor.

REPLACE WITH

1. No contractor, subcontractor, or Person shall be allowed to install or repair Water Facilities, Sewer Facilities, a Building Sewer and/or Private Sewer unless they become a Commission Approved Contractor.

4. Chapter 1; Section 1.2.7; Reuse of Existing Building Sewers

DELETE



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Old Buildings Sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when they are found, on examination and test by the Executive Director, to meet all requirements of this Chapter.

REPLACE WITH

Existing Building Sewers may be used in connection with new buildings only when it is determined by the Executive Director that the Building Sewers meet all the requirements of this Chapter, and it is the Owner's responsibility to demonstrate as such. Owner shall provide to the Commission a pipe inspection report for the Executive Director's consideration.

5. Chapter 1; Section 1.2.12; Discontinuance of a Building Sewer or Private Sewer to Public Sewer

DELETE

1. An Owner may discontinue a Building Sewer or Private Sewer to a Public Sewer. The Owner must notify the Commission by submitting an Application for Sewer Service Discontinuance. A site plan may be required in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines and Policies. The Owner shall be required to cut and cap the Building Sewer(s) and/or Private Sewer(s) to the Public Sewer(s), at the Owner's expense.

REPLACE WITH

1. Owner shall discontinue all inactive Building Sewers and Private Sewers which connect the Owner's property to a Public Sewer. Building Sewers and Private Sewers shall be discontinued via complete removal or a cut and cap at the connection with the Public Sewer, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. The Owner must notify the Commission by submitting an Application for Sewer Service Discontinuance. A site plan may be required in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines and Policies. The Owner shall be required to cut and cap the Building Sewer(s) and/or Private Sewer(s) to the Public Sewer(s), at the Owner's expense.

6. Chapter 3; Section 3.1.4; Commission Approved Contractors

DELETE

1. No contractor or Person shall be allowed to install or repair Water Facilities, Sewer Facilities, a Building Sewer and/or Private Sewer or Drain unless they become a Commission Approved Contractor.

REPLACE WITH



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1. No contractor, subcontractor, or Person shall be allowed to install or repair Water Facilities, Sewer Facilities, a Building Sewer and/or Private Sewer or Drain unless they become a Commission Approved Contractor.

7. Chapter 3; Section 3.3.5; Meters and Meter Testing

Subsection 13 (Auxiliary Meters For Underground Irrigation Systems Or Approved Process)

Auxiliary Meters for Underground Irrigation Systems or Approved Process. If Auxiliary Meters are wanted for the purpose of determining water use for underground irrigation systems or approved process use, they may be furnished by the Commission and at the expense of the Owner. Only a Property receiving both water and sewer service from the Commission will be eligible for an Auxiliary Meter. Customers that receive water and sewer service from separate communities will need the approval from both communities to install an Auxiliary Meter. The Owner must have a Licensed Plumber prepare the plumbing in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines and Policies and Material Specifications. The Commission shall subsequently maintain and replace such devices at its expense under normal conditions. The replacement of a frozen, damaged, or missing Auxiliary Meter shall be at the Owner's expense. Any water flow through an Auxiliary Meter that is not used for an underground irrigation system or approved process is considered an attempt to avoid sewer charges and hence meter tampering and subject to penalties as set forth in Section 3.10 and 5.15 these Rules and Regulations.

DELETE THE FOLLOWING FROM SUBSECTION 13

The Commission shall subsequently maintain and replace such devices at its expense under normal conditions.

8. Chapter 3; Section 3.7.2; Protection from Damage

ADD THE FOLLOWING

For purposes of this section "Person" shall be defined as "Owner, landlord, customer, tenant, permanent or temporary occupant, or account holder of record". Any charges associated with this section will be applied to and be the responsibility of the Owner of record on the subject account.

9. Chapter 4; Section 4.4.1; Costumer Illness Form

DELETE



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2. Notification of Serious Illness: The Customer shall obtain a Customer Illness Form and a Financial Hardship Certificate from the Commission. The Customer Illness Form shall be completed and signed by a licensed physician or Board of Health and returned within fifteen (15) working days along with the Financial Hardship Certificate to the Commission's Appeals Officer. The Commission, upon review of said documents, will inform the Customer in writing of the conditions to which the Customer may continue service under the Rules and Regulations provided herewith.

REPLACE WITH

2. Notification of Serious Illness: The Customer shall obtain a Customer Illness Form and a Financial Hardship Certificate from the Commission. The Customer Illness Form shall be completed and signed by a licensed physician or Board of Health and returned within fifteen (15) working days along with the Financial Hardship Certificate to the Commission's Collection Manager. The Commission, upon review of said documents, will inform the Customer in writing of the conditions to which the Customer may continue service under the Rules and Regulations provided herewith.

10. Chapter 5; Section 5.1; Rates

5.1.1 Water Rates

Deleted FY 2023 and replaced with FY 2024. Increased the water rates by 6.5%.

5.1.2 Water Rates for All Bulk Water Haulers

Deleted FY 2023 and replaced with FY 2024. Increased the water rates by 6.5%.

Deleted Minimum Charge of \$20.00 *For daily use of the Bulk Water Facility at 71 Colton Street, Springfield

5.1.3 Water Rates for Hydrant Users:

Deleted FY 2023 and replaced with FY 2024. Increased the water rate by 6.5%.

5.1.4 Fire Service Unauthorized Water Consumption

Deleted FY 2023 and replaced with FY 2024. Increased the water rate by 6.5%.

11. Chapter 5; Section 5.2; Monthly Service Charges

Increased all Monthly Service Charges by \$0.10



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12. Chapter 5; Section 5.4; Allowance Program Discounts

Increased discount from \$6.75/month to \$8.25/month

ADDED THE FOLLOWING

All credits issued to customers' accounts related to assistance programs offered by the Commission or any other outside agency are non-refundable and non-transferable.

13. Chapter 5; Section 5.5; Non-Beneficial Use Allowance

Increased the Non-Beneficial Use Allowance by 6.5%.

14. Chapter 5; Section 5.6.2; Police Officer Charge

Increased from \$250 per ½ day to \$275 per ½ day.

15. Chapter 5; Section 5.7; Sewer Rates

Deleted FY 2023 and replaced with FY 2024.

Increased the Residential, Institutional, and Municipal sewer rates by 6.5%.

Increased the Commercial rate to 1.1 times the Residential rate.

Increased the Medical Facility rate to 1.1 times the Residential rate.

Increased the Dry Industry rate to 1.2 times the Residential rate.

Increased the Wet Industry rate to 1.2 times the Residential rate.

Increased the Food Service Establishment (FSE) rate to 1.3 times the Residential rate.

16. Chapter 5; Section 5.9; Septage Disposal Rates for All Septage Haulers

Deleted FY 2023 and replaced with FY 2024.

17. Chapter 5; Section 5.10; Non-residential surcharges at the SRWTF where applicable

Deleted FY 2023 and replaced with FY 2024. Increased rates by 6.5%.

18. Chapter 5; Section 5.15 Penalties

6. Meter Tamper Violations



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DELETE

(a) If any tampering occurs with Meters or Auxiliary Meters or plumbing that affects Meters or Auxiliary Meters, the damage is the responsibility of the Owner of the Premises and shall be punished by a fine of triple the amount of damages sustained thereby or \$1000.00, whichever is greater. Damages shall include the value of water used and the cost of labor and equipment to repair and replace.

REPLACE WITH

(a) If any tampering occurs with Meters or Auxiliary Meters or plumbing that affects Meters or Auxiliary Meters, the damage is the responsibility of the Owner of the Premises and shall be punished by a fine of triple the amount of damages sustained thereby or \$1000.00, whichever is greater. Damages shall include the actual value or estimated value of water used and the cost of labor and equipment to repair and replace.

19. Chapter 6, Section 6.1 Definitions, Changes are in red and listed below:

Section 6.1 Definitions

ADD THE FOLLOWING AND RENUMBER THE REMAINING ITEMS

4. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) shall mean an integrated system of meters measuring and analyzing water usage, communication networks, and data management systems that enable two-way communication between metered endpoints and the Commission.

DELETE

28. Bulk Water Hauler shall mean a classification of Water Users that are engaged in providing water from a tank and/or water carrier. Bulk Water Haulers shall purchase and fill tanks and/or water carriers at the Commission's Bulk Water Facility at 71 Colton Street, Springfield. Water shall be sold to Bulk Water Haulers at the Bulk Water Hauler Rate as set forth in CHAPTER 5 of these Rules and Regulations and shall be subject to a per day minimum charge. An Annual Application/Permit Fee shall be charged to all Bulk Water Haulers.

REPLACE WITH

28. Bulk Water Hauler shall mean a classification of Water Users that are engaged in providing water from a tank and/or water carrier. Bulk Water Haulers shall purchase and fill tanks and/or water carriers at the Commission's Bulk Water Facility at 71 Colton Street, Springfield. Water shall be sold to Bulk Water Haulers at the Bulk Water Hauler Rate as set forth in CHAPTER 5 of these Rules and Regulations. An Annual Application/Permit Fee shall be charged to all Bulk Water Haulers.

ADD THE FOLLOWING AND RENUMBER THE REMAINING ITEMS



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193. Tamper shall mean an unlawful and/or intentional act that damages, injures, interferes, defaces, or causes to be injured, a water meter, water meter transponder, or to other Commission equipment appurtenant to the Water and Sewer Service or Water Service.

