

March 30, 2016

Dear Residents,

In order for us to continue providing you with reliable wastewater service, the Unity Utilities District (UUD) Board is making slight modifications to its rate structure. Using the Maine state plumbing codes as a guideline standard and our estimate of the types of business and residential structures in the service area, the sewer rates will be determined as follows:

Codes for types of dwelling: (Residential, Business or Combined):

Residential – All residential dwellings will be charged a minimum of one (1) connection. Residential dwellings that contain apartments will be considered under the category “Combined” (see Table 1 below).

Business – All dwellings containing a business. Residential buildings that contain a home business will be categorized as a business. Connections are charged based on the “Charge Category” below according to estimated daily discharge of wastewater to the sewer system.

Combined – The combined category includes residential dwellings that contain apartments or rental units. Each apartment in the dwelling with a separate secured (keyed) entrance (e.g. apartment building with main entrance and separate secured entrance to each unit) will be charged one (1) connection.

Table 1. Charge categories for businesses in UUD service area

Category	Definition	Minimum Number of Connections	Yearly Rate
C1	1-190 Gallons of Wastewater Per Day	1	\$175
C2	191-380 Gallons of Wastewater Per Day	2	\$350
C3	381-570 Gallons of Wastewater Per Day	3	\$525
C4	>570 Gallons of Wastewater Per Day	4	\$700
C5	Commercial/Residential Structure $\geq 100,000$ ft ²	see formula below	see formula below

Commercial/Residential Rate Determination

The rate of 12 gallons of wastewater per 100 ft² is applied to structures in this category. For this category, one connection is considered to be 190 gallons of wastewater per day. These values were used to create a multiplier for the determination of rates in this category. This rating structure is based on the State of Maine’s subsurface wastewater disposal rules, Chapter 241. The formula for calculating a rate in this category:

Example:

Assume that a structure is 150,000 ft² in area:

$$150,000 \text{ ft}^2 \times 0.00063 = 94.5 \text{ connections}$$

$$95 \text{ connections} \times \$175 \text{ per connection} = \$16,625.00.$$

The total amount due for annual service is \$16,625.00.

The UUD rate information since 1994 is shown in Figure 1. The current rate structure is \$160 per connection, plus an additional \$8 per member of the household (for businesses, there is an additional \$2 per employee charge added to the base connection rate). For example, a household of four individuals would pay \$192 per year. Under the new rate structure, that same household would pay \$175 per year, a savings of \$17. The new rate structure is intended to be universally applied to all clients in the UUD service area regardless of household size. Under the new rate structure, you no longer need to inform the UUD of any changes in household size and there is no longer a senior discount or vacant building rate. All residential rates will be charged at the rate of \$175. Compared to other rural towns, Unity has the lowest fees for wastewater service compared to a peer group of nine other communities (Figure 2).

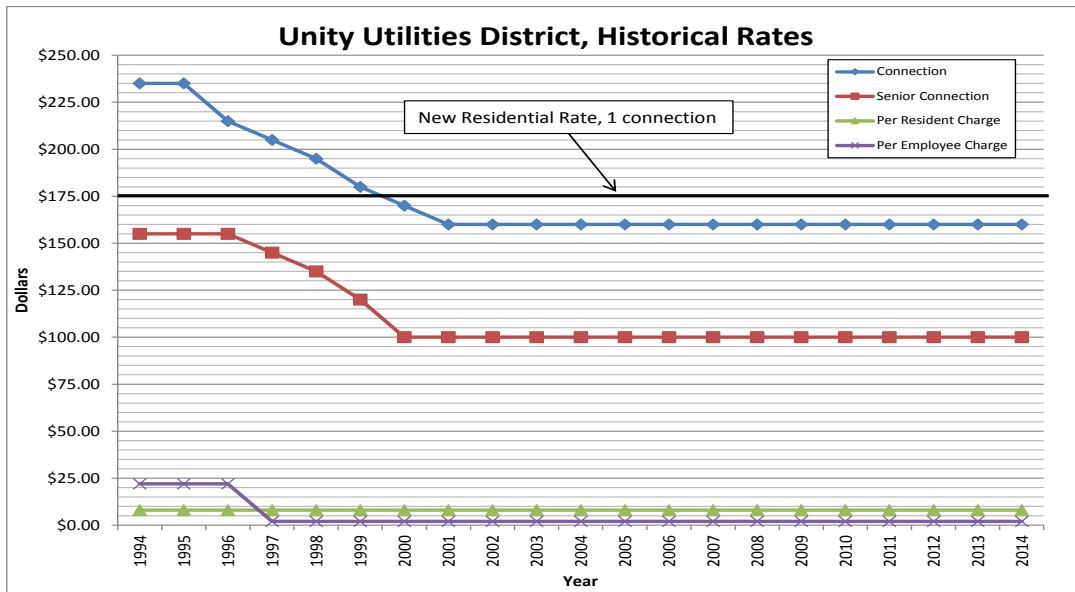


Figure 1. The graph above illustrates the UUD historical rate information for the period 1994-2014. As you can see, after an initial decline, rates have been consistent since 2000.

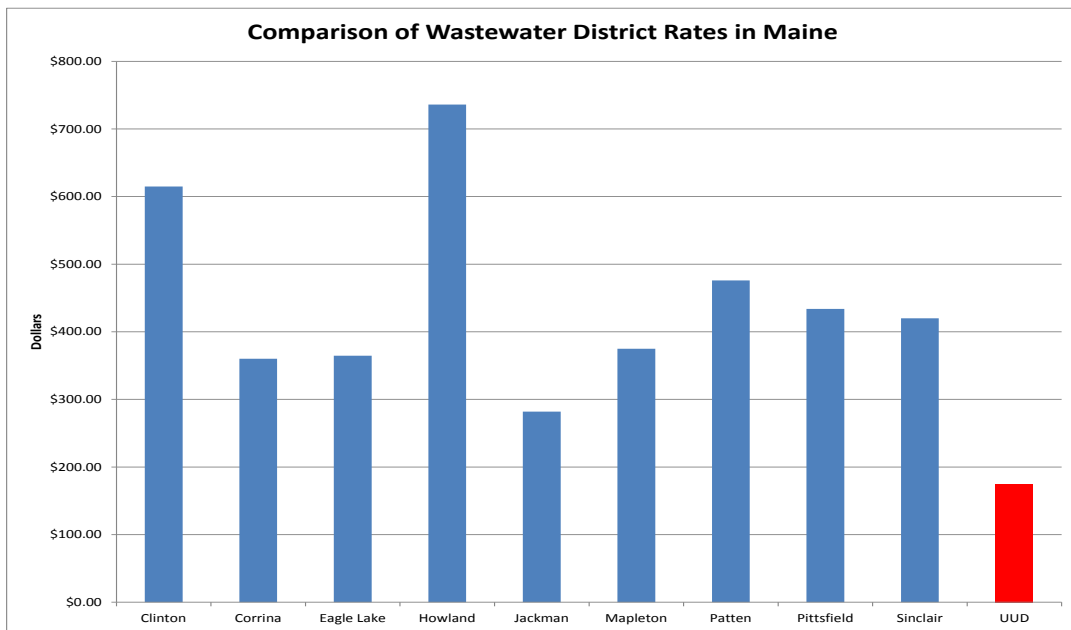


Figure 2. The graph above compares the wastewater rates of several Maine towns with similar treatment systems. The Town of Unity pays the lowest fees for wastewater service in this group. The data are from the 2013 Maine Rural Water Association Wastewater Rate Survey.

Right to appeal rate of charges:

If you feel that your rate has been inaccurately defined, submit a letter in writing to the UUD at the address above that explains your rationale. Include an estimate of your daily wastewater production. The Board will review your appeal, consult with our superintendent and evaluate your scenario with comparables included in the Maine wastewater regulations. You will be informed of the Board’s decision within fifteen (15) business days. The district reserves the right to change individual client’s rates based on wastewater characteristics that are unusual.

Sincerely,

The UUD Board
 Kevin M. Spigel, President
 Charlie Schaefer
 Patricia Clark