



City of Sidney

## PLANNED WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASES

*Notice to All City of Sidney Utility Customers*

*Planned Water and Sewer Rate increases pending final project costs and City Council approval*

For more information contact:

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## Ohio EPA Requirements

Ohio EPA is requiring that the City make the following changes to the water distribution and wastewater collection & treatment systems.

### Wastewater Collection & Treatment System

- Eliminate WWTP wet-weather blending operations which requires the City to increase treatment capacity from 13.5 Million Gallons / Day (MGD) to 30 MGD.
- Reduce Ammonia Nitrogen discharge limits by 20%.
- Disinfect for e-coli instead of fecal coliform. Current disinfection process cannot meet new standards.
- Reduce inflow and infiltration of rainwater/groundwater into collection system.
- Complete all necessary construction activities by January 31, 2017.
- Current estimated cost of \$33.6 million.

### Water System

- Install pH control on the clear water discharge from the lime lagoon or install a discharge pipe to Tawawa Creek at an estimated cost of \$163,000.
- Construct a new service lagoon so the existing lagoon can be emptied, cleaned and repaired. The Water Treatment Plant's 1978 lime lagoon is at capacity and has exceeded its 16 year design life. The estimated cost for this project is \$6.5 million.

## Impact on Property Owners

Ohio EPA's requirement to eliminate wet weather blending operations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant requires the City to investigate sources of clean water entering the sanitary sewers. Typically 50-80% of clean water enters the sewers on private property. Clean water (rain & ground water) that finds its way into a Sanitary Sewer is also called Inflow & Infiltration or I&I.

The City will not be able to meet EPA's requirements without finding and removing clean water from both public and private sewers.

Property owners will be required under certain circumstances, to have an inspection of their sewer performed to find and eliminate I&I. Inspection costs vary depending on site specific conditions, but are estimated to range from \$200 to \$400. Inspections that identify defects that may allow clean water to enter the sewer will be required to be repaired. Property owners that are replacing their sewer are encouraged to contact the City to obtain updated sewer standards.



*System Reliability Improvements*

In order to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water for now and the foreseeable future, the City is pursuing development of the new water source.

For more than 50 years the City has sought new sources of drinking water that will resist the influence of droughts, be less susceptible to contamination and meet future regulatory requirements without requiring significant additional treatment at the Water Treatment Plant.

The City has located a site that meets all of these project goals. After six years of evaluation and testing, a new groundwater well field is planned that will ensure a more reliable water supply for existing and future residential, commercial and industrial demands.

The estimated cost for design and construction of the new water source is \$25 million.

*Effect on Utility Bills*

To fund the projects described on this flyer, water rates and sewer rates are currently estimated to increase according to the table below.

Staff continues to work with Ohio EPA in order to delay or reduce the necessary capital outlay which could then reduce utility rates.

Residents have the option to switch from quarterly to monthly billing if they feel that would help their household budgeting. If interested, please contact the Revenue Collections office at (937) 498-8114.



**Estimated Monthly Water & Sewer Costs for Family of Four**

	2013	2014*	2015*	2016*
Water	\$26.13	\$33.67* 29% increase	\$38.73* 15% increase	\$40.27* 4% increase
Sewer	\$22.13	\$26.52* 20% increase	\$27.34* 3% increase	\$28.15* 3% increase
EPA Fee	\$21.86	\$22.30* 2% increase	\$22.75* 2% increase	\$23.20* 2% increase

\* Tentative & subject to final project costs

