



Media contact: Tim Hanson
815-387-7580
thanson@fourrivers.illinois.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY ANNUAL USER RATE INCREASE

Effective April 1, 2022, Four Rivers Sanitation Authority (FRSA) has adjusted user rates for residential, industrial and commercial customers. The annual rate increase reflects the need for FRSA to meet Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) mandates, which require that FRSA meet strict guidelines in eliminating phosphorus from wastewater; and the increasing costs in both the maintenance of an aging infrastructure and required capital improvement projects.

Rates for industrial and commercial customers will vary by the specific use and the characteristics of the wastewater the user discharges.

The average residential customers' wastewater bill will increase by approximately \$3.11 per month for an average monthly rate of \$38.09, which equates to a quarterly bill of approximately \$114.08. The quarterly billing rate includes both the charge for volume, or amount of waste water assumed to be processed, plus a customer charge of \$8.57 per quarter. Customers who use FRSA's e-bill payment process will receive a \$1.25 per bill credit toward that amount.

Residential sewer bills are generated from usage data supplied by the users' fresh water provider: the City of Rockford, Loves Park, North Park, Rockton, Utilities Inc, Cherry Valley or Winnebago. The rate for a residence on a private well is determined by the average municipal user rate for a like residence.

The wastewater treatment process removes Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Ammonia (NH₄) and Phosphorus (PHO), allowing the clean water to be discharged into the Rock River. FRSA customers' bills are calculated by multiplying flow (as provided by your fresh water provider) and the concentrations of each of these wastewater characteristics, by the current FRSA billing rate. A rate calculator is available at fourrivers.illinois.gov for residential customers to estimate their quarterly bill.

FRSA is committed to cost-efficient operations, and we're doing many things to control rates. Our activities include:

- **Revenue enhancement/cost reduction opportunities.** FRSA is actively exploring opportunities to reduce our expenses, including:
 - Electrical generation with biogas (gas produced in waste treatment used to generate electricity and heat).
 - Improvements in bio-gas fuel efficiency's, ultimately resulting in increased energy production using less fuel.
 - Land application of biosolids rather than diverting to a landfill

- Digesters that decompose 45% of incoming solids
- Using sodium hypochlorite instead of chlorine gas
- Sewer lining and point repair to reduce the need for costly infrastructure repairs in the future.
- **Capital project delivery.** FRSA is exploring alternative project delivery approaches, such as partnering with local roadway agencies to reduce the costs of implementing capital projects and accelerate project delivery. We are also prioritizing capital projects and encouraging conservation to defer capital needs.
- **Financing.** FRSA regularly explores low-interest loans through the State Revolving Fund, rather than issuing higher rate general obligation alternate bonds for project funding.

FRSA recognizes that the recent COVID shutdowns has made it difficult for many wastewater customers to meet the obligation of the quarterly bill. Users who need assistance with their sewer bill should contact the City of Rockford Community Services Division at 844-710-6919.

For additional information on Four Rivers Sanitation Authority, please visit fourrivers.illinois.gov.

###

About Four Rivers Sanitation Authority: Four Rivers Sanitation Authority provides wastewater treatment services covering nearly 100 square miles of Winnebago County and serves more than 240,000 people in the communities of Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Roscoe, Cherry Valley, New Milford, Village of Winnebago and a small part of Rockton and a number of unincorporated areas of Winnebago County.