



Customers of City of Kenova Sanitary Sewer,

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act which set in motion regulations that made many municipal sewage treatment plants obsolete. By 1991, Kenova was forced to close its plant and start sending its sewage to Huntington for treatment, thus coming under the rates of the City of Huntington.

As you may be aware, the City of Huntington passed an ordinance on December 12, 2022, that initiated a series of major upgrades to its existing Sewer System. Also, Huntington City Council enacted an ordinance that would increase rates and charges for the customers of the system.

Your initial reaction may be great for the City of Huntington and too bad for the customers who must pay higher rates but how does that impact me as a customer of Kenova Sanitary Sewer? The City of Kenova Sewer System is a collection and pumping system that has transported all its sewage waste to the City of Huntington Wastewater Plant for Treatment since 1991. The City of Kenova currently pays the Huntington Sanitary Board a rate of \$3.20 per every 1,000 gallons of wastewater that is delivered to the Huntington Treatment Plant.

The Rate Ordinance passed by Huntington City Council increases this treatment rate for the City of Kenova to \$3.75 February 1, 2023, to \$4.25 on January 1, 2024, to \$4.75 on January 1, 2025, and to \$5.25 on January 1, 2026.

As a result of these increases, the City of Kenova must pass this increase on to its customers to pay for these additional fees. The increase to the Kenova residents is calculated by taking the additional cost incurred for this increase in rate by Huntington, including any required reserve funding on that amount, and dividing that by the number of gallons billed by the City of Kenova to its customers. The result of this calculation based on a test year that ended June 30, 2022, will require Kenova to increase rates to its customers of \$1.31 per 1000 gallons on March 10, 2023, an additional \$1.19 on January 1, 2024, an additional \$1.19 on January 1, 2025, and an additional \$1.19 on January 1, 2026.

This increase in your rates is only used to pay for the increased cost of treatment by the City of Huntington and not to fund other items in the existing Kenova system. As a result, this increase in rates to Kenova is being kept at the minimum.

The impact on your sewer bill, upon passage of the sewer rate increase by Council, is as follows: If you use the minimum (2,000 gallons or less in a month), your bill will increase from the current \$35.66 to \$38.28 on March 10, 2023, to \$40.66 on January 1, 2024, to \$43.04 on January 1, 2025, and \$45.42 on January 1, 2026. If you are an average user (3,400 gallons per month), your bill will increase from the current \$55.90 to \$60.36 on February 1, 2023, to \$64.40 on January 1, 2024, to \$68.45 on January 1, 2025, and to \$72.50 on January 1, 2026. Your actual increase will depend on the amount of water you use so your actual monthly increase will vary.

Kenova's City Attorney plans to file a protest with the WV Public Service Commission for relief from the new rates on Kenova but will not know the outcome for some time. If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact us.

Thank You,

City of Kenova