



**Pearl River County Utility Authority Announces Rate Adjustment Effective June 1st**  
April 16, 2021

**Picayune, MS –**

The Pearl River County Utility Authority (PRCUA) Board of Directors has approved a rate adjustment effective June 1st, 2021 for all water and sewer customers in PRCUA service areas.

The Mississippi Department of Health requires all water systems to adjust rates every 3-5 years to sufficiently fund all operating expenses, debt service, and prudent surpluses for equipment replacement accounts and emergency repairs. The current rate structure has been in place 5 years. New rates were scheduled for adoption in February 2020, but were postponed due to Coronavirus pandemic economic uncertainties.

The rate adjustment is expected to generate 7.5% additional revenue. Compared to the same time period, this adjustment is significantly less than common inflationary measures:

Consumer Price Index +10.9%

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments +8.2%

**Residential base usage water/sewer customers using 3,000-gallons or less per month will see no increase to their bill.**

Average residential water customers using 5,000-gallons per month will see increases of \$0.50 per month, or \$6.00 per year. Flat rate sewer customers and average residential sewer customers using 5,000-gallons per month will see increases of \$1.30 per month, or \$15.60 per year.

The full proposed schedule of rates and fees and recent audit reports are available at our website: [www.prc-ua.org](http://www.prc-ua.org).

Rate adjustments will stabilize cash balances, which recently decreased more than \$750,000 due to the Highway 11 Phase 1 Widening Water/Sewer Relocation Project and debt service payments tied to the Picayune Phase 2 Sewer Rehabilitation Project. New rates will also offset inflationary cost pressures in labor, supplies, equipment, repairs, fuel, electricity and environmental compliance.

**About Pearl River County Utility Authority**

Pearl River County Utility Authority (PRCUA) is a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi, charged with managing and coordinating water resources and wastewater treatment throughout Pearl River County. PRCUA is a non-taxing entity, with operating revenues of approximately \$4.3M per year, exclusively from water and sewer rates and fees. The Authority employs 16 full-time employees who

manage 4 water wells, 3 elevated water tanks/treatment facilities, 9 wastewater treatment facilities, 95 pump stations, 950 grinder/STEP stations, and 175+ miles of water and sewer mains to provide safe, reliable water and/or sewer utility services to approximately 20,000 residents of Pearl River County. Board members are appointed by the Pearl River County Board of Supervisors (4), the City of Picayune (2), and the City of Poplarville (1). All business is conducted at regular monthly meetings open to the public. For more information, please visit [www.prc-ua.org](http://www.prc-ua.org)

## **Contact**

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**Pearl River County Utility Authority Rate Card**

**Effective June 1, 2021**

**(Changes Highlighted in Gray)**

<b>Item Description</b>	<b>New Monthly Rate Effective 6/1/2021</b>
Residential Water Base Usage	3,000
Residential Water Base Rate	\$19.75
Residential Water Flow Rate	\$3.25
Commercial Water Base Usage	3,000
Commercial Water Base Rate	\$36.00
Commercial Water Flow Rate	\$3.25
Residential Sewer Base Usage Picayune Poplarville HAWL	3,000
Residential Sewer Base Rate Picayune Poplarville HAWL	\$29.75
Residential Sewer Flow Rate Picayune Poplarville HAWL	\$3.65
Residential Sewer Unmetered Flat Rate (Wildwood, Round Rock, Hunters Trace, Old Mill Landing, New Arbor Lake) *	\$37.05
Tin Hill Copper Hill Sewer Base Usage **	60,000
Tin Hill Copper Hill Sewer Base Rate	\$595.00
Tin Hill Copper Hill Flow Rate	\$3.65
Commercial Sewer Base Usage	3,000
Commercial Sewer Base Rate	\$36.00
Commercial Sewer Flow Rate	\$3.65
Public Housing Authority Master Meter Base Usage	0
Public Housing Authority Master Meter Base Rate	\$50.00
Public Housing Authority Master Meter Flow Rate	\$3.65
Millard Jail Facility Effluent Flow Rate	\$3.90
Residential Water Tap	\$800.00
Commercial Water Tap	PRCUA Cost
Residential Sewer Tap Gravity	\$1,500.00
Residential Duplex Sewer Tap Gravity	\$2,250.00
Residential Sewer Tap Pressure System	\$1,000.00
Commercial Sewer Tap***	PRCUA Cost
Grinder & STEP Systems Installed (Up to 150' Service Tubing)	\$4,350
Grinder & STEP System Service Tubing per Foot	\$4.35
Grinder & STEP System Replacement Lids	\$75.00
Dual Grinder Systems	PRCUA Cost
Water & Sewer Main Line Extensions	PRCUA Cost
Relocation of Utility Facilities Due to Customer Site Development Changes	PRCUA Cost

Repairs to Damaged Utilities	PRCUA Cost
Grinder System Prohibited Items Fees First Offense	\$0.00
Grinder System Prohibited Items Fees Second Offense	\$100.00
Grinder System Prohibited Items Fees Third & Subsequent Offense	\$200.00
Grinder Pump Replacement Due to Prohibited Items	Formula ****
Septage Tipping Annual Fee	NA
Septage Account Setup Fee (Includes One Swipe Card)	\$75.00
Septage Swipe Card Extras	\$25.00
Septage Business Hour Rate	\$0.095
Septage After Hours Rate	\$0.095
Home Inspection Single Day Water Unlock Fee	\$20.00
Account Setup Fee	\$30.00
Account Deposit	\$150.00
Late Payment Fee	\$10.00
Reconnect Fee - First	\$25.00
Reconnect Fee - Second & Subsequent	\$50.00
NSF Fee	\$40.00
Tamper/Broken Lock Fee	\$500.00
Unauthorized Connection Fee	\$500.00
<b>Notes:</b>	
* 5,000-gallons imputed	
** 20 units per meter x 3,000-gallons.	
*** Includes triple unit or more residential multi-family properties	
**** 10-years minus years in service (rounded to nearest 12-months) multiplied x \$100	
The Authority's billing policy also aligns with the City of Picayune's special billing formula for grandfathered landlord accounts where multiple tenants are tied to a single master meter. This billing formula multiplies the number of occupied units x the normal base rate to determine the adjusted base rate and multiplies the number of occupied units x the normal base usage allowance to determine the adjusted base usage allowance. For example, a 4-plex would be billed 4 x the base rate and receive 4 x the base usage allowance and pay the adopted rate per thousand gallons in excess of the adjusted base usage allowance.	