

Rising Water Rates

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

NeRWA has recently completed the latest rate survey book. It is no surprise that the average water and sewer rates have increased. Everything in our lives keeps getting more expensive.

The major reason for most increases is due to regulations. I can't imagine any other industry that has dealt with the increase in regulations over the past 5 years like the drinking water industry. When you have communities under 1,000 in population spending approximately \$4,000,000.00 to find a new source due to the reduction in arsenic, selenium and/or uranium limits, it is bound to have a profound impact on the ratepayers. Of course many systems are also continually facing nitrates issues. I am surprised that over the past five years the average overall water rates in the state of Nebraska have only risen by about 20%. Of course this is encompassing all systems. Some population bases are much higher. The following chart shows a breakdown in rates by population and shows the increases from 2008-2013.

If water rates are something your system feels it needs to address, please give us a call.

		2009	2011	2013
0-200	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 17.81	\$ 19.35	\$ 20.54
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.84	\$ 2.11
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	2000	1800	1321
200-400	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 16.79	\$ 18.05	\$ 19.20
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.76	\$ 1.86	\$ 1.80
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1002	930	927
400-600	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 16.60	\$ 17.29	\$ 18.19
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.89
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	890	890	600
600-800	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 15.01	\$ 16.54	\$ 18.18
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.82
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1002	750	978
800-1000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 14.47	\$ 14.61	\$ 19.47
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.62	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.75
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1160	1080	465
1000-2000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 13.94	\$ 14.96	\$ 16.47
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.54	\$ 1.64
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	700	460	400
2000-5000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 10.60	\$ 11.85	\$ 19.09
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.48	\$ 1.81	\$ 1.89
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	980	720	720
5000-10,000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 9.44	\$ 10.56	\$ 11.48
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.80
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	620	620	500
10,000+	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 7.58	\$ 8.80	\$ 9.06
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.54
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1800	1500	400
RWD's	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$ 23.89	\$ 25.66	\$ 29.29
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.95	\$ 3.13
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	500	500	500