

Fee Schedule Community Water Systems

The Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976, P.A. 399 as amended, requires an annual fee for each community water system based on the following classifications:

Fee Schedule 2009/2010 Community Water Supply Program			
Population Served	2009/2010 Full Fee	Credit Adjustment	Adjusted 2009/2010 Fee
More than 500,000	\$122,918.97	\$20,404.55	\$102,514.42
100,001-500,000	\$25,522.57	\$4,236.75	\$21,285.82
50,001-100,000	\$16,134.96	\$2,678.40	\$13,456.56
25,001-50,000	\$9,534.30	\$1,582.69	\$7,951.61
10,001-25,000	\$5,133.45	\$852.15	\$4,281.30
5,001-10,000	\$2,786.95	\$462.63	\$2,324.32
1,001-5,000	\$1,173.46	\$194.79	\$978.67
401-1,000	\$733.42	\$121.75	\$611.67
101-400	\$586.73	\$97.40	\$489.33
25-100	\$366.71	\$60.87	\$305.84

PENALTY: After November 30, 2009 a penalty of 9% per annum on the unpaid balance is applied to the amount due.

ANNUAL FEE ADJUSTMENT: The fee is adjusted annually based on the Detroit Consumer Price Index (CPI). Last year's rate was -1.50%.

CREDIT ADJUSTMENT: At the end of the fiscal year, 75% of unspent fee revenue from previous annual fee payments is applied as a credit on a pro rata basis to the fee the following year.

NOTE:

- Visit our website to pay online at: <https://www.thepayplace.com/mi/deq/comm>
- If paying by check, please return the portion of the invoice indicated to receive proper credit.
- A written explanation is required to effect any change in the amount due.
- All changes to the amount due are subject to verification.

Any questions about invoices for community water systems please call (517) 241-1268.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO EXPLAIN MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY ANNUAL FEES

What is the authorization for this fee?

Public Act 165 was signed into law on September 16, 1993, and took immediate effect. The bill amended Act 399, P.A. of 1976, the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act.

Who is required to pay this annual fee?

There are over 11,500 community and noncommunity public water supplies serving an estimated 50 million visitors and residents each year. The community systems are those serving cities, towns, villages, mobile home parks, apartments, etc. with at least 15 service connections or 25 or more year round residents. Noncommunity public water systems include facilities such as schools, campgrounds, restaurants, businesses, parks, motels, highway rest stops etc. with their own well, serving an average of 25 or more persons per day, at least 60 days per year.

How much is the 2009/2010 fee?

The fees for community systems are based on population served, and range from \$305.84 to \$102,514.42. Noncommunity fees are divided into two categories. Facilities with wells serving primarily a transient population such as campgrounds, rest stops, motels, and restaurants are classified as transient noncommunity water supplies. Their annual fee is \$103.97. Nontransient noncommunity water systems (schools and businesses) serve the same 25 or more persons (students/employees) on a routine basis, at least six months per year. The nontransient annual fee is \$440.39 per year. Requirements for nontransient systems are much more complex than for transient systems demanding a higher level of regulatory support to attain compliance. Note: The annual fee DOES NOT include the costs for water sample analysis.

Why a fee?

In 1986, Congress passed amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act that significantly increased inspection and sampling requirements for public water supplies nationwide. Michigan maintains a primacy agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). This means the state retains authority to implement the public water supply program in lieu of the federal government as long as it enacts rules that are at least as stringent as the federal rules. The public water supply program includes periodic inspection of water systems, monitoring the quality of drinking water served to the public, certification of laboratories for drinking water analysis, maintenance of a state drinking water laboratory, certification of water treatment plant operators, technical consultation, permitting and construction plan review, and training. The fees are required to enable the state to implement the new federal regulations for public water supplies. This will be done primarily through contract with local health departments and other agencies.

Why is it better for Michigan to manage the public water program as opposed to the USEPA?

Retaining state and local control of the program is advantageous for several reasons. The federal rules allow states to reduce or waive a significant number of requirements based on inspections, historical data, and assessments of a system's vulnerability to contamination. A federally administered program would not be structured toward reduced monitoring and would require all systems to routinely sample for all regulated contaminants. For example, the cost for a typical small community, mobile home park, apartment complex, or school, to test for all federally required contaminants, (without waivers) would be approximately \$8,000 per source per three year period. The waiver program developed in Michigan for the typical system, based on existing data, state studies, and assessments of system vulnerability, reduces testing costs to about \$500 per source, a savings of \$7,500. In addition, the state program focuses on public health services including technical assistance, education, and training to ensure a safe and reliable public water supply and to prevent waterborne disease outbreaks. The state program strives to help system owners/operators comply with the complex new federal regulations. A federally administered program typically would use a strict enforcement oriented approach to gain compliance.

What if there are mistakes on the invoice?

If information is incorrect, you should correct it, and return the corrected invoice with the proper payment. If the error involves a change in the invoice amount, the information necessary to recalculate the fee is provided. A written explanation for the correction must be provided, signed by an authorized representative, and submitted with the appropriate payment. Always retain a copy of the invoice for your records.

What happens if the fee is not paid?

The Safe Drinking Water Act contains penalties for late payment (after November 30 of each year) calculated as 9% per annum for community systems and \$25.00 per month or portion thereof for noncommunity systems. The Department of Treasury collects all penalties.

MDEQ, Water Bureau
10/2009