



Important Information About Rates, System Repairs, and Benefits to Customers and Communities

The Oneida County Legislature recently adopted the Oneida County Sewer District Rate Schedule for 2021. Revenue generated by Sewer District rates is used to fund the operating budget and also to pay annual debt service on the \$378 million in repairs and rehabilitation needed to comply with New York State mandates. The Sewer District budget is not subsidized by property tax dollars.

The estimated sewer rate increase for a typical single family home is \$20 per quarter or \$6.75 per month. As a result of these new sewer rates, you may see an increase in your quarterly or monthly bill if you are an Oneida County Sewer District customer. Your bill may also include other local sewer use charges.

Sewer rates are set by the Oneida County Sewer District. Local sewer charges are set by your municipality (Utica City Council or Town/Village board). The Mohawk Valley Water Authority Board of Directors determines the rates for only the water consumption portion of your bill.

Project Background

In 2007, the Oneida County Sewer District (comprised of 15 municipalities) reached a crisis point due to the extreme debilitation of the sewer system. A consent order was issued by NYSDEC that required immediate action on rehabilitating the system or face significant risks:

- Property owners could face significant sewer disruptions and backups due to the quality of the sewer system, bringing with it property, health and safety, and quality of life consequences
- Significant fines of up to \$37,500 per violation per day if failing to meet Consent Order requirements
- Potential for a moratorium on further residential and economic development if the consent order was not followed

We — the County and all municipalities in the Oneida County Sewer District — no longer had the option of putting it off for another generation to deal with.



Sewer system repairs help keep the Mohawk River clean.



Installation of new aerobic digesters increase capacity of solids and reduce energy costs.

Efforts to Offset Costs to Municipalities and Customers

Oneida County continues to appeal to state and federal government for funding relief, with over \$326 million in low interest loans, \$20 million in no-interest loans, and \$32 million in grants acquired to date. Oneida County also offers assistance to municipalities in instituting a sewer maintenance program to assure that the system is well maintained and we avoid a repeat of the current situation.

For more information regarding your water or sewer bill, please contact the following:

County sewer charges: Oneida County Sewer District, 315-798-5656

City, town or village sewer charges: Contact your local municipality

MVWA water charges: 315-792-0301