

Belfast Water District Public Notice

The Belfast Water District will be filing a revised rate schedule with the Maine Public Utilities Commission, to be effective January 1, 2024. The filing is made under provisions of 35-A-M.R.S.A. Section 6104. The docket number for the filing is 2023-00263.

Present rates were effective January 1, 2015. Since the last rate increase, operating costs have increased and new bonds have been issued for capital improvements. In order to continue properly maintaining its water system and paying its debt service obligations, the District is proposing an overall revenue increase of \$421,425 as shown below:

Residential	\$156,655	30%
Commercial	\$ 76,647	30%
Industrial	\$ 10,383	30%
Public Authorities	\$ 11,816	30%
Public Fire Protection	\$125,000	30%
Private Fire Protection	\$ 33,466	30%
Sales For Resale	<u>\$ 7,458</u>	30%
	<u>\$421,425</u>	30%

The public fire protection increase is governed by Public Utilities Commission Chapter 69. In accordance with Chapter 69, the public fire protection revenue is set at 30% of total operating revenue.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Belfast Water District office located at 41 Wight Street at which time complete details will be furnished in support of the increase.

You may inspect data relating to the present and proposed rates at the Belfast Water District office, located at 41 Wight Street, before the hearing. If you have any questions or desire additional information, you may contact the District at (207)-338-1200, PO Box 506, Belfast, ME 04915. You have the right to an open and fair hearing and the right to further hearings before the Commission. The Public Advocate is available for assistance to you in this matter upon request. The Public Utilities Commission may be contacted at (207)-287-3831, 18 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, or the Public Advocate at (207)-624-3687, 112 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

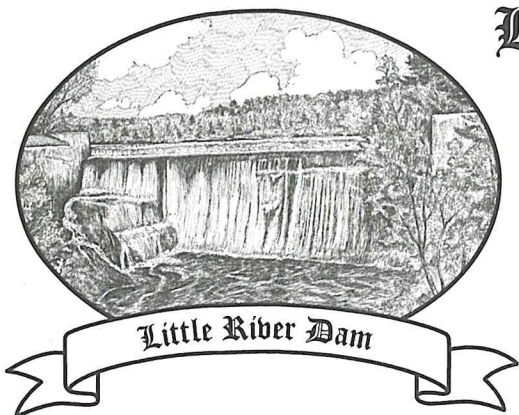
If, within 30 days of the public hearing, 15% of the customers of the District file with the District and the Commission petitions demanding a review of the rate changes by the Commission, the rate change may be suspended, investigated, reviewed, and changed in accordance with Section 310. Signatures on the petition are invalid unless accompanied by the printed names and address of the signers. Upon request the District will provide customers with the appropriate petition forms.

Belfast Water District

41 Wight Street
P.O. Box 506
Belfast, Maine 04915-0506

www.belfastwater.org
email: info@belfastwater.org

TEL 207-338-1200
FAX 207-338-0444



October 18, 2023

To Our Customers,

The Belfast Water District Board of Trustees recognizes their responsibility to provide safe drinking water to its customers and a dependable water supply for fire protection while protecting our system for the future.

In 2022, one of our largest water consumers, Penobscot McCrum was destroyed by fire and decided not to rebuild in Belfast. The Nordic Aquafarms project, which would have generated substantial revenues for BWD, has been delayed and may not be built as anticipated. These factors, along with a significant rise in inflation during the past several years, are among the causes for a now-necessary rate increase.

On October 2, 2023, the BWD Board of Trustees approved a rate increase effective January 1, 2024, of 30% which equates to approximately three percent per year since the last increase more than nine years ago in 2015. In Maine on average, water utilities such as ours increase rates every three to five years. The additional funds will help cover increased operational costs, existing bond payments, and future maintenance of infrastructure as well as capital improvements. It will also help pay for the changing regulations designed to protect drinking water.

It is important for BWD to balance the financial effects on our customers and the long-term needs and strategic plans to move forward over the next several years. We are committed to providing our customers with safe, clean, high-quality water, both now and in the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

BELFAST WATER DISTRICT