



From The Director

YCUA is pleased to announce a new payment option for customer water and sewer bills. Effective the first of November 2010, YCUA customers are able to enroll in our budget-billing program. This program utilizes historic billing information to estimate consistent bi-monthly costs that will be billed over the next 12 months. Annually, the charges paid will be reconciled with a property's actual usage, and any credit will be applied to the account, or any amount still owing will be added to the following year's bill amount.

There are certain requirements an

account must meet to qualify to enroll in this program. For more information, visit our website at www.ycua.org or contact our customer service department at 734.484.4600 option 2.

Budget billing is one more option available to make the billing and payment of water and sewer charges more convenient for our customers. For a complete list of all available payment options, visit our website at www.ycua.org.

- YCUA Director

Visit our website at www.ycua.org

for more information

on these and other topics.

MDNRE Inspection

On October 11, 2010, Douglas Early of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) performed a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (CEI) of the YCUA wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The purpose of the CEI is for the MDNRE to determine if YCUA is complying with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to discharge quality water to the waters of the State. The CEI consisted of touring the entire wastewater treatment plant including the laboratory.

The MDNRE inspector observed the operation and maintenance status of the WWTP equipment and verified that the WWTP preventive maintenance program is being fulfilled. The laboratory analytical records were checked against the analytical values submitted in the monthly discharge monitoring reports. The quality assurance / quality control (QA / QC) results of the analytical procedures were reviewed.

After the inspection, the MDNRE inspector stated that the YCUA wastewater treatment plant was being operated and maintained very well. The inspector also stated that the analytical data that YCUA reported was verified and the QA / QC results show that laboratory analyses are precise and accurate.

YCUA's ARRA Projects

The Authority and its customers experienced directly some of the benefits from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This program, which offered loans for qualified projects with 40% principle forgiveness, coupled with the low-interest loan program administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, allowed us to accomplish many improvements to our water and sewer infrastructure while minimizing the cost.

These projects included improvements to the Martz Road and Willow Run pump stations; complete upgrades to the Duncan and Emerick pump stations; water main replacements along Hewitt Road and Mansfield Avenue; and modifications to the wastewater treatment plant designed to optimize energy efficiency and lower energy costs. The cost of these projects totaled over \$8 million; however as part of the ARRA, the actual cost to the Authority was 40% less, or approximately \$4.8 million.

YCUA staff worked diligently to optimize the use of these government programs for the benefit of our customers.

It's Time To Winterize!

The time to prepare your home for winter is before the freezing temperatures and snow arrive. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen pipes in your home:

1. Disconnect outdoor hoses and make sure hose bibs are not dripping.
2. Insulate pipes in unheated areas or seal off unheated areas.
3. Find your water meter shutoff so if a break does occur, you can turn off your water service quickly.
4. If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, contact your dealer about scheduling an appointment to have your system thoroughly winterized.
5. If your home's water will be turned off for winter, there should be heat to protect the meter as well as the plumbing.
6. YCUA always recommends that customers winterize their homes just in case there is a complete power outage.

Annual Hydrant Inspections

This time each year, YCUA winterizes the over 3,000 hydrants in its system and checks their operation for fire protection. The procedure involves an employee completing an inspection of the internal workings of each fire hydrant, making repairs and getting water out of the hydrant barrels to prevent freezing. YCUA will also flush or run each fire hydrant to insure that it will operate properly during an emergency. As part of this process, each hydrant is tagged with ribbon to indicate that the winterization has been completed and, to make sure there is no confusion as to whether they were done, the color of the ribbon changes each year. This year, the color pink was chosen.

Area residents should be advised that as crews flush hydrants, there may be some discoloration of the water. If you experience rust-colored water, simply run the cold water tap for a few minutes to let the water clear. Please keep in mind, not to wash any light colored clothing until the water is running clear. The rust coloring is caused by a natural build up of minerals in the water system. Some natural mineral deposits are stirred up in the water pipes when fire hydrants are first turned on.

The fire hydrant inspection program helps insure that all our fire hydrants are ready in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions about the program please contact YCUA Director of Service Operations Jeff Castro at 734.484.4600 ext. 305.

YCUA's Cross Connection Program

A cross connection is a direct or potential arrangement of drinking water piping that is or can be connected to a questionable source. An example is the common garden hose submerged in a swimming pool, a bucket of detergent or other contaminated water. Other examples are supply lines connected to boilers, process equipment, or bottom-fed tanks. When the proper conditions occur water can backflow into the drinking water through a cross connection. There are two ways that contaminated water can backflow into the drinking water: back-siphonage or backpressure.

As required under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399 and the Michigan Plumbing Code, it is the responsibility of the water utility to implement a cross connection program. Rule 1404 of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act states "A water utility shall develop a comprehensive control program for the elimination and prevention of all cross connections." The purpose of a cross connection control program is to help protect public health by preventing pollution and/or contamination of the drinking water delivered to a home or business.

The YCUA Cross Connection Program will consist of the following procedures:

1. All commercial inspections and residential surveys are entered into cross connection software.
2. Reports are generated from the software to identify which accounts have a device(s) and when testing is due.
3. Residential accounts are surveyed by a Meter Service Technician and are done on external water spigots and irrigation systems only. A letter is sent only if there is a non-compliance issue.
4. A follow-up survey is made to ensure non-compliance issues have been resolved.

Reports are run monthly from the cross connection software to determine which commercial accounts are due to have their devices tested. A 30-day letter is sent to inform them that their device(s) are due for testing. When test forms are received they are verified that the test results are within acceptable range and the plumber is a certified backflow tester. If test results are not received, a 10-day letter is sent and if a contact number is available a courtesy call is made. Onsite visual inspections are done by YCUA personnel. A copy of the inspection will be given to owner when complete.

Inspections are done according to level of hazard. Commercial inspections and residential surveys are reported to the State of Michigan DNRE on the Annual Cross Connection Compliance Report.

YCUA's New Water Services Rules

Water Services Rules — General

1. Unauthorized use of water shall be considered theft of service and treated accordingly, including but not limited to reimbursement of costs and criminal prosecution.
2. YCUA will perform no work outside of the public right-of way, excluding meter installation and/or repair, unless YCUA has determined that it is in the best interest of the Authority to perform said work.
3. YCUA accepts responsibility for the water service from the water main to the curb box.

Water

1. No person except an authorized employee of YCUA shall operate a curb stop or gate valve without prior approval of the Director of Service Operations or his / her designee.
2. YCUA will charge the property owner for repairs to a curb stop, curb box, and/or service line if the preceding were damaged during the course of the owner or his/her designee attempting to operate a curb stop or gate valve without prior approval of the Director of Service Operations or his / her designee.
3. No person except an authorized employee of YCUA shall remove, repair, or in any way tamper with a meter installed by YCUA.
4. The property owner is responsible for all plumbing within a structure, as well as within a particular piece of property, with the noted exception of the meter(s) and tailpieces.
5. If it becomes necessary to change the meter, and in the opinion of YCUA the meter cannot be changed without damage to the existing plumbing, the property owner shall be required to replace the existing plumbing as necessary to allow for a meter change without damage to the plumbing within the structure.
6. The property owner is responsible for maintaining meter pits, meter pit covers, and all plumbing within the meter pit(s).
7. The property owner shall be held responsible for any and all damage to the meter, remote register, and/or meter wiring caused by vandalism, frost, hot water, and / or theft.

These Rules replace all policies and rules previously adopted by the YCUA Board or otherwise implemented by YCUA for repair, replacement, or other services or payments relative to water service leads, curb stops, gate valves, water meters, or meter pits, covers and plumbing within a meter pit, which are revoked by these Rules.

5. These Rules replace all policies and rules previously adopted by the YCUA Board or otherwise implemented by YCUA for the repair, replacement, or other services or payments relative to sewer service leads, which are revoked by these Rules.



YCUA's New Sewer Service Lead Rules

Sewer Service Lead Rules—Acknowledgments

It is acknowledged as follows:

1. Public Act 233 of 1955, MCL 124.281, et seq; MSA 5269(51), et seq, the enabling statute under which the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) was created and functions, and Public Act 222 of 2001, MCL 691.1415, et seq; MSA 3.996(115) et seq, the Sewage Event Claims Act, provide that YCUA owns and operates a “sewage disposal system,” precisely defined in each statute as: All interceptor sewers, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, combined sanitary and storm sewers, sewage treatment plants, and all other plants, works, instrumentalities, and property used are useful in connection with the collection, treatment, or disposal of sewage or industrial waste.
2. A “sewage disposal system” does not include a “service lead,” separately and precisely defined in Public Act 222 of 2001, as: An instrumentality that connects an affected property, including a structure, fixture, or improvement on the property, to the sewage disposal system and that is neither owned nor maintained by a governmental agency.
3. Consistent with and as provided in Public Act 233 of 1955 and Public Act 222 of 2001, sewer service leads have been and are installed, maintained, and owned by private property owners and are not a part of the sewage disposal system, installed, maintained, and owned by YCUA.
4. YCUA does, however, have an interest in the proper and uninterrupted operation of both the sewage disposal system and service leads including, but not necessarily limited to, protection of the general health, safety and welfare of YCUA customers by avoiding and/or limiting sewage backup cases in which sewage and sewage-water flow into areas and spaces occupied or used by humans; and, prompt, correct, and safe repair of failed, blocked or otherwise compromised sewage service leads, which, in some cases, involves the excavation and restoration of curbs and roadways and attendant traffic control and safety issues.

Rules

- A. For those reasons and as a service to its customers, YCUA will provide specific services to YCUA customers as to sewer service leads, limited to the following:
1. When a sewer service lead is blocked or damaged to the extent that hands-on repair or replacement is necessary, YCUA will complete the repair/replacement, from the inside edge of the sidewalk to the sewer main or, in the absence of a sidewalk, from the property line to the sewer main, including excavation and road surface and curb repair or reinstallation.
 2. When a property owner replaces a sewer service lead and excavation and exposure of the entire lead is not necessary, YCUA may, at its option, place or insert a plastic pipe inside the lead, from the inside edge of the sidewalk to the sewer main or, in the absence of a sidewalk, from the property line to the sewer main, and will do what excavation is necessary, if any, to complete a new tap at the sewer main.
 3. In cases of sewer service lead cleaning and sewer service lead blockage caused by tree roots, the property owner is responsible for cleaning his/her/its own sewer service lead; YCUA does not and will not accept direct billing from a private sewer cleaning company or plumber unless YCUA has requested and hired the cleaning company or plumber; and, YCUA does not and will not reimburse a property owner for a televised inspection of a sewer service lead unless authorized in advance by the YCUA Transmission and Distribution Supervisor or his/her designee.
 4. YCUA will perform and assume the expense of the services identified in paragraphs A. and B., above, if and only if the affected property owner signs a written acknowledgment and agreement that, by providing these services, YCUA does not assume any ownership, control and/or maintenance responsibility as to the property owner's service lead and that the service lead, from the point of connection at a home, business or other structure to the point of connection at the sewer main, is owned by and remains the sole responsibility of the property owner.
 5. These Rules replace all policies and rules previously adopted by the YCUA Board or otherwise implemented by YCUA for the repair, replacement, or other services or payments relative to sewer service leads, which are revoked by these Rules.
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