

Watts News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES, PO BOX 373, BRAINERD, MN 56401

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SAFE DRINKING WATER SERVICE CONNECTION FEE

The Minnesota Legislature has approved an increase in the annual drinking water service connection fee from \$5.21 to \$6.36, effective July 1, 2006. The monthly charge to your water bill will increase to \$0.53 an increase of \$0.10 over the current rate.

Revenue from this fee is used to fund activities of the drinking water protection program related to maintaining compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. These activities include, conducting sanitary surveys, sample collection and analysis, compliance determination, wellhead protection, enforcement, and various technical assistance services.

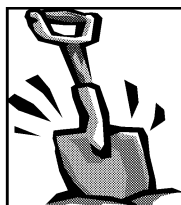
The fee has not changed since it was established in 1993, however, new federal safe drinking regulations continue to be implemented. Program expenses have been exceeding the revenue generated by the fee, and in order to continue providing the services necessary to help water utilities remain in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, an increase in the fee is needed.

Minnesota Water Facts

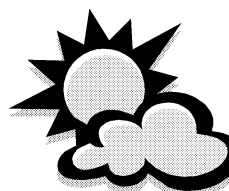


- The first water pipes made in the U.S. were fire-charred, bored out logs.
- There are over 59,000 community public water systems in the U.S.

NOTICE: All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be completed, filed, and work inspected by our inspector. If you need the form or have any questions, please contact Brainerd Public Utilities at 825-3210 or 829-2193.



BEFORE DIGGING, call Gopher State One Call at 1-800-252-1166 for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least 48 hours before digging begins.



Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation

January 2006 2.08"
January 2005 16.85"

Average Temperatures

January 2006 Hi 32 Lo 17
January 2005 Hi 16 Lo -5

SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM RATE CHARGES

Effective April 1, 2006 the wastewater collection rate will increase to \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water consumed per month. The current rate is \$0.62 per 1,000 gallons. This charge is imposed by the BPU on the behalf of the City of Brainerd.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Enthusiasm is contagious. Be a carrier." - Susan Rabin

Business Office Hours 7:00 - 3:30, 829-8726
Repair/Service Operations Office Hours 7:00 - 3:30, 829-2193
Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year, 829-2193
EMAIL@BPU.ORG OR WWW.BPU.ORG

DIRECT PAYMENT PLAN

You can have your payment made automatically from your checking or savings account. And, you won't have to change your present banking relationship to take advantage of this service.

The Direct Payment Plan will help you in several ways:

- It saves time – fewer checks to write
- Helps meet your commitment in a convenient and timely manner – even if you're on vacation or out of town
- No lost or misplaced statements, your payment is always on time – it helps maintain good credit
- It saves postage
- It's easy to sign up for, easy to cancel
- No late charges

Here's how the Direct Payment Plan works:

You authorize regularly scheduled payments to be made from your checking or savings account. Then, just sit back and relax. Your payments will be made automatically on either the 10th or the 25th of each month. The date is determined by the first two digits of your utility account number. If the first two digits are between 01-10, your automatic payment date will be the 25th of each month. If the first two digits are between 11-18, your automatic payment date will be the 10th of each month. You will still receive your monthly utility billing statement and proof of payment will appear on your monthly bank statement.

The authority you give to charge your account will remain in effect until you notify us in writing to terminate the authorization.

The Direct Payment Plan is dependable, flexible, convenient and easy. **To take advantage of this service, complete the attached authorization form and return it to us.**

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize **Brainerd Public Utilities** and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account once each month in the amount of my current billing beginning _____. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

(Name of Financial Institution)

(Branch)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Name – PLEASE PRINT)

(Address – PLEASE PRINT)

Account No. _____ Phone No. _____ Checking _____ or Savings _____

(Signature)

(Date)

DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK