

**Compliance
Conservation
Equitable Billing**

Water Distribution *Water Metering Program*

The Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury

Water Meter Implementation

Why Meter Water Use?

Water is critical to our economy and to your health, yet many communities don't know exactly how much water is available, how it's being used and what the demand for water will be in the future.

As a result, many areas of the country are experiencing an increasing number of conflicts over the same source of water.

Metering of water not only allows for planning present and future use, but also affords a mechanism to measure the amount delivered to each customer. In turn, a metered consumer receives a bill that accurately reflects a charge for only the amount of water used.

A water meter can also be an effective personal tool in conserving a precious resource, safe drinking water, and managing your monthly bill.

By monitoring your usage, you can set water conservation goals, detect plumbing leaks, and learn a lot about water use in your household.

Is our Community Required to Install Meters?

Yes. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has placed the Sunbury Municipal Authority under a Consent Order/ Agreement which requires the installation of meters on all properties within our service area.

The Agreement contains specific conditions and a timeframe to accomplish this task.

How Much will this Cost and How will it Affect me?

The installation of approximately 3,600 meters is projected to cost 3 to 4 million dollars.

The Authority plans to actively seek grant funding and low interest loans to offset the cost of the project, however the net cost of this project will ultimately be paid by all water customers.

In order to minimize the impact, the Authority plans to spread the cost over time through our water billing process.

When will it Start and What is the Timeline?

The entire project is expected to span across the next 6-years and will be divided into several phases:

... [Grant/Funding Search](#)

... [Bidding and Installation](#)

... [Billing Structure Development](#)

... [Unaccounted-for Water](#)

The project completion date is March 2014.

Grant/Funding Search

Although grant funding is limited, the Authority will aggressively seek all grant funding opportunities.

Other options are low interest loans through programs such as PENNVEST.

In either case, the Authority will make every effort to capitalize on alternative funding sources to help offset project costs.

Bidding and Installation

The present plan for installation is to divide the City in three sections and complete a section at a time.

A contractor will be hired to do this work through a formal bidding process.

Installation is projected to begin in June 2010 and completion is anticipated in November 2013.

Billing Structure Development

Once meters are installed, your bill will change. The new bill will be divided into two parts; a Consumption Charge and a Fixed Charge.

The Consumption Charge is based on gallons consumed as recorded by meter readings. The charge covers operational expenses such as repairs and maintenance, operators, equipment, electricity and capital improvements.

The Fixed Charge covers costs for meter reading, billing, computer system maintenance, telephone and postage. Each customer will share this expense equally.

Unaccounted-for Water

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requires Water systems to reduce "unaccounted-for" water to 20% or less.

With the installation of meters, the Authority will have the capability to calculate water loss (unaccounted-for) within the distribution system to determine compliance.



For More Information

... If anyone has any questions or would like additional or more specific information, please contact Danny Ramer, General Manager, Sunbury Municipal Authority at (570) 286-5858.

