

ORONO-VEAZIE WATER DISTRICT
 47 PENOBSCOT STREET
 ORONO, ME 04473-4443

CUSTOMER NAME
 ADDRESS
 ADDRESS
 CITY, ST ZIP

**Water Rate Increase
 General Information**

Why is a water rate increase necessary now?

The District Board of Trustees and employees work hard to keep operating and maintenance expenses as low as possible while at the same time keeping the water treatment and distribution systems in good working order so that we may provide our customers with clean, safe, dependable water. While we have held off as long as we could, our operating and maintenance costs have increased since the last water rate increase in 2011 and an increase in rates has become necessary. The Board of Trustees is always mindful of the effect that a rate increase has on the customers. Unlike town/city municipalities, which can adjust their mil rate each year to bring in the revenue they need, public water districts must get approval from the Maine Public Utilities Commission to set new rates and this is typically not done as often.

When will the new water rate be effective?

If approved by the MPUC, the proposed water rate increase will be effective as of January 1, 2024.

How much will your water bill increase?

With a few exceptions, most customers of the District have a 5/8" water meter. The chart below is an example of the proposed change in water charges for residential customers who have a 5/8" meter. This is only an example of a few usage amounts and the change in the charge. To get an estimate of how this proposed water rate change will affect your individual water bill based on your usage history, please call our office at (207) 866-4449.

Example						
	Usage Per Quarter	Current Quarterly Charge	Proposed Quarterly Charge	Quarterly Increase	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase
5/8" Meter	1,200 cft	\$ 43.44	\$ 51.58	\$ 8.14	\$ 32.56	\$ 2.71
5/8" Meter	1,500 cft	\$ 49.05	\$ 58.24	\$ 9.19	\$ 36.76	\$ 3.06
5/8" Meter	2,000 cft	\$ 58.40	\$ 69.34	\$ 10.94	\$ 43.76	\$ 3.65
5/8" Meter	3,000 cft	\$ 77.10	\$ 91.54	\$ 14.44	\$ 57.76	\$ 4.81

How can you get more information on this water rate increase?

Please call our office at (207) 866-4449 with any questions concerning your water bill or this proposed water rate increase. Our office is located at 47 Penobscot St., Orono, ME 04473. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Board of Trustees
 Orono Veazie Water District

Orono-Veazie Water District Legal Notice

The Orono-Veazie Water District gives notice to the public that on **Tuesday October 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m. at the Orono Town Office, 59 Main Street, in the Council Chambers, Orono**, the trustees of the Orono-Veazie Water District will hold a public hearing to discuss and hear comments on a proposed water rate increase.

	Effective on January 1, 2024	
	Rate	Revenue
	<u>% Increase</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>
Residential	18.69%	\$ 103,566
Commercial	18.62%	7,968
Industrial	18.43%	7,229
Public Authorities	18.39%	42,807
Private Fire Protection	18.77%	36,922
Public Fire Protection	<u>66.93%</u>	<u>219,612</u>
Overall Increase	<u>29.73%</u>	<u>\$ 418,104</u>

Public Fire protection rates are determined pursuant to Chapter 69 of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Rules.

Rates are to become effective on January 1, 2024. Since the last adjustment in 2011, the District has incurred continuous increases in its operating costs.

Pursuant to 35-A MRSA Section (6104), a customer has the right to request additional information relating to the present and proposed rates from the District, the right to open and fair hearing, and the right to assistance from the Public Advocate. Customers also have the right under 35-A MRSA Section (6104) to petition the Maine Public Utilities Commission to suspend and investigate the District's rates pursuant to 35-A MRSA Section 310, if, on or before **November 10, 2023**, 348 of the District's customers (15% of customers or 1,000 customers, whichever is less) file with the District's Treasurer, Orono, ME and with the Public Utilities Commission, c/o Administrative Director, State House Station #18, Augusta, ME 04333-0018, a petition or petitions demanding review by the PUC of the proposed rate changes. Signatures on the petitions filed pursuant to Section 7 are invalid unless accompanied by the printed names and addresses of the signers. Upon request the District will provide customers with petition forms that include space for signatures and the printed names and addresses of the signers.

A copy of material supporting the proposed rate changes will be available at the District office for inspection on and after **September 8, 2023**. If you have any questions or desire additional information, you may call Boyd Smith, Superintendent at (207) 866-4449 or the Administrative Director of the PUC at (207) 287-3831. For additional assistance contact the Public Advocate, State House Station #112, Augusta, ME 04333-0112, (207) 624-3687.

Board of Trustees
Orono-Veazie Water District