

PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC.
DOCKET NO. 2019-281-S

SEWER RATE SCHEDULE
Effective Date: September 20, 2020

1. **MONTHLY CHARGE**

- a. Residential - Monthly charge per
single-family house, condominium,
villa or apartment unit \$59.87*
- b. Commercial - Monthly charge per
single-family equivalent \$59.87*
- c. The monthly charges listed above are minimum charges and shall apply even if the equivalency rating is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating is greater than one (1), then the monthly commercial charges may be calculated by multiplying the equivalency rating by the monthly charge of \$59.87*. The monthly residential charge shall be \$59.87* regardless of the equivalency rating.

Commercial customers are those not included in the residential category above and include, but are not limited to, hotels, stores, restaurants, offices, industry, etc.

The Utility may, for the convenience of the owner, bill a tenant in a multi-unit building, consisting of four or more residential units which is served by a master sewer meter or a single sewer connection. However, in such cases all arrearages must be satisfied before service will be provided to a new tenant or before interrupted service will be restored. Failure of an owner to pay for services rendered to a tenant in these circumstances may result in service interruptions.

*This rate shall not apply during the period following the Effective Date as specified in the Decrement Rider set out in Sewer Rate Schedule Section 14 below, but shall be reduced to \$54.93 for such period of time as is necessary to give effect to the Decrement Rider..

2. **NONRECURRING CHARGES AND TAX MULTIPLIER**

- a. Sewer service connection charge per
single-family equivalent \$250.00
- b. Plant Impact fee per single-family
equivalent \$800.00

- c. The nonrecurring charges listed above are minimum charges and apply even if the equivalency rating is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating is greater than one (1), then the proper charge may be obtained by multiplying the equivalency rating by the appropriate fee. These charges apply and are due at the time new service is applied for, or at the time connection to the sewer system is requested.

Except as otherwise provided by contract approved by the Commission, amounts paid or transferred to the Utility by customers, builders, developers or others, either in the form of cash or property, shall be increased by a cash payment in an amount equal to the income taxes owed on the cash or property transferred to the Utility by customers, builders, developers or others and properly classified as a contribution or advance in aid of construction in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts. Included in this classification are sewer service connection charges and plant impact fees. The method used by the Utility to collect the tax multiplier from all contributors of such cash or property, shall be the "present value" method approved by the Commission in Order No. 88-237 issued March 18, 1988, in Docket No. 87-456-W/S. Should Federal tax law change in the future such that depreciation on contributed property becomes non-deductible for income tax purposes, the Utility shall have no obligation to reduce the tax multiplier amount by the present value of the future tax benefit from depreciation of contributed property. Should Federal or South Carolina tax law change in the future such that the Utility's total effective Federal and South Carolina tax rate ("effective tax rate") changes, the tax multiplier will be adjusted as appropriate to reflect the Utility's then-current effective tax rate. Should Federal tax law change in the future such that CIAC is no longer considered income for purposes of taxation, the Companies will cease charging and collecting the tax multiplier as of the effective date of any such change in law. For property contributions, the Company shall utilize its capital structure as approved by the Commission in determining the net present value tax multiplier percentage.

3. **BULK TREATMENT SERVICES**

The utility will provide bulk treatment services to Richland County ("County") upon request by the County in the portion of the service territory for which the utility acts as the County's contractual agent for purposes of discharging the County's designated management agency function under the Federal Clean Water Act Section 208 water quality management plan adopted by the Central Midlands Council of Governments. The rates for such bulk treatment services shall be as set forth above for both monthly charges and nonrecurring charges per single-family equivalent. The County shall certify to the Utility the number of units or taps (residential and commercial) which discharge wastewater into the County's collection system and shall provide all other information required by the Utility in order that the Utility may accurately determine the proper charges to be made to the County. The County shall insure that all commercial customers comply with the Utility's toxic and pretreatment effluent guidelines and refrain from discharging any toxic or hazardous materials or substances into the collection system. The County will maintain the authority to interrupt service immediately where customers

violate the Utility's toxic or pretreatment effluent standards of discharge prohibited wastes into the sewer system. The Utility shall have the unfettered right to interrupt bulk service to the County if it determines that forbidden wastes are being or are about to be discharged into the Utility's sewer system.

The County shall pay for all costs of connecting its collection lines into the Utility's mains, installing a meter of quality acceptable to the Utility to measure flows, and constructing a sampling station according to the Utility's construction requirements.

4. **NOTIFICATION, ACCOUNT SET-UP AND RECONNECTION CHARGES**

- a. Notification Fee: A fee of \$25.00 shall be charged each customer to whom the Utility mails the notice as required by Commission Rule R.103-535.1 prior to service being discontinued. This fee assesses a portion of the clerical and mailing costs of such notices to the customers creating that cost.
- b. Customer Account Charge: A fee of \$20.00 shall be charged as a one-time fee to defray the costs of initiating service.
- c. Reconnection charges: In addition to any other charges that may be due, a reconnection fee of \$250.00 shall be due prior to the Utility reconnecting service which has been disconnected for any reason set forth in Commission Rule R.103-532.4. Where an elder valve has been previously installed, a reconnection charge of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) shall be due. The amount of the reconnection fee shall be in accordance with R.103-532.4 and shall be changed to conform with said rule as the rule is amended from time to time.

5. **BILLING CYCLE**

Recurring charges will be billed monthly in arrears. Nonrecurring charges will be billed and collected in advance of service being provided.

6. **LATE PAYMENT CHARGES**

Any balance unpaid within twenty-five (25) days of the billing date shall be assessed a late payment charge of one and one-half (1½%) percent.

7. **TOXIC AND PRETREATMENT EFFLUENT GUIDELINES**

The Utility will not accept or treat any substance or material that has been defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") or the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("DHEC") as a toxic pollutant, hazardous waste, or hazardous substance, including pollutants falling within the provisions of 40 CFR §§ 129.4 and 401.15. Additionally, pollutants or pollutant properties subject to 40 CFR §§ 403.5 and 403.6 are to be processed according to the pretreatment standards applicable to such pollutants or pollutant properties, and such

standards constitute the Utility's minimum pretreatment standards. Any person or entity introducing any such prohibited or untreated materials into the Company's sewer system may have service interrupted without notice until such discharges cease, and shall be liable to the Utility for all damages and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the Utility as a result thereof.

8. **REQUIREMENTS AND CHARGES PERTAINING TO SATELLITE SYSTEMS**

- a. Where there is connected to the Utility's system a satellite system, as defined in DHEC Regulation 61-9.505.8 or other pertinent law, rule or regulation, the owner or operator of such satellite system shall operate and maintain same in accordance with all applicable laws, rules or regulations.
- b. The owner or operator of a satellite system shall construct, maintain, and operate such satellite system in a manner that the prohibited or untreated materials referred to in Section 6 of this rate schedule (including but not limited to Fats, Oils, Sand or Grease), stormwater, and groundwater are not introduced into the Utility's system.
- c. The owner or operator of a satellite system shall provide Utility with access to such satellite system and the property upon which it is situated in accordance with the requirements of Commission Regulation 103-537.
- d. The owner or operator of a satellite system shall not less than annually inspect such satellite system and make such repairs, replacements, modifications, cleanings, or other undertakings necessary to meet the requirements of this Section 7 of the rate schedule. Such inspection shall be documented by written reports and video recordings of television inspections of lines and a copy of the inspection report received by the owner or operator of a satellite system, including video of the inspection, shall be provided to Utility. Should the owner or operator fail to undertake such inspection, Utility shall have the right to arrange for such inspection and to recover the cost of same, without mark-up, from the owner or operator of the satellite system.
- e. Should Utility determine that the owner or operator of a satellite system has failed to comply with the requirements of this Section 8 of the rate schedule, with the exception of the requirement that a satellite system be cleaned, the Utility may initiate disconnection of the satellite system in accordance with the Commission's regulations, said disconnection to endure until such time as said requirements are met and all charges, costs and expenses to which Utility is entitled are paid. With respect to the cleaning of a satellite system, the owner or operator of a satellite system shall have the option of cleaning same within five (5) business days after receiving written notice from Utility that an inspection reveals that a cleaning is required. Should the owner or operator of such a satellite system fail to have the necessary cleaning performed within that time frame, Utility may arrange for cleaning by a qualified contractor and

the cost of same, without mark-up, may be billed to the owner or operator of said system.

9. **CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

The Utility requires all construction to be performed in accordance with generally accepted engineering standards, at a minimum. The Utility from time to time may require that more stringent construction standards be followed in constructing parts of the system.

10. **EXTENSION OF UTILITY SERVICE LINES AND MAINS**

The Utility shall have no obligation at its expense to extend its utility service lines or mains in order to permit any customer to discharge acceptable wastewater into its sewer system. However, anyone or any entity which is willing to pay all costs associated with extending an appropriately sized and constructed main or utility service line from his/her/its premises to an appropriate connection point on the Utility's sewer system may receive service, subject to paying the appropriate fees and charges set forth in this rate schedule, complying with the guidelines and standards hereof, and, where appropriate, agreeing to pay an acceptable amount for multi-tap capacity.

11. **CONTRACTS FOR MULTI-TAP CAPACITY**

The Utility shall have no obligation to modify or expand its plant, other facilities or mains to treat the sewerage of any person or entity requesting multi-taps (a commitment for five or more taps) unless such person or entity first agrees to pay an acceptable amount to the Utility to defray all or a portion of the Utility's costs to make modifications or expansions thereto.

12. **SINGLE FAMILY EQUIVALENT**

A single family equivalent (SFE) shall be determined by using the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control Guidelines for Unit Contributory Loading for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities --6 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-67 Appendix A (Supp. 2016). Where the Utility has reason to suspect that a person or entity is exceeding design loadings established by the Guidelines for Unit Contributory Loadings for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facilities, the Utility shall have the right to request and receive water usage records from the provider of water to such person or entity. Also, the Utility shall have the right to conduct an "on premises" inspection of the customer's premises. If it is determined that actual flows or loadings are greater than the design flows or loadings, then the Utility shall recalculate the customer's equivalency rating based on actual flows or loadings and thereafter bill for its services in accordance with such recalculated loadings.

13. **TAMPERING CHARGE**

In the event the Utility’s equipment, mains, service lines, elder valves, or other plant or facilities have been damaged or tampered with by a customer, the Utility may charge the customer responsible for the damage the actual cost of repairing the Utility’s equipment, plant or facilities not to exceed \$250.00. The tampering charge shall be paid in full prior to the Utility re-connecting service or continuing the provision of service. This charge shall be in addition to any notification, reconnection, or similar charges that the Utility is entitled to impose under this rate schedule or under Commission orders, rules, and regulations.

14. **ORDER NO. 2020-561 DECREMENT RIDER**

In accordance with the requirements of Commission Order No. 2020-561, issued August 20, 2020, the monthly service rate per residential customer and per commercial customer SFE shown in Sewer Rate Schedule Section 1 above shall be reduced to \$54.93 until such time as the \$2,032,146 regulatory liability referenced in that Order is reduced to zero (\$0.00) dollars. Once that regulatory liability amount is reduced to \$0.00, the monthly service rate listed in Sewer Rate Schedule Section 1 above shall apply to all subsequent billing periods and may be applied on a partial basis in the first such subsequent billing period to the extent necessary.