



Stormwater Management Service Charge (Stormwater Fee) Billing for Accounts in the Non-Billed Status

Overview

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) implemented a parcel area based stormwater management service charge (stormwater fee), which went in to effect on July 1, 2010. This charge is applicable to all parcels that are within the City's limits, and is not a new charge to existing water/sewer customers.

Prior to July 1, 2010, the stormwater fee was included under the sewer service charge in the monthly water/sewer bill, and the stormwater fee was assessed based on the size of the water meter. This fee was assessed only to properties that had water/sewer service.

However, beginning July 1, 2010, the basis of stormwater fee computation was revised. The monthly fee is now assessed based on a parcel's gross area (lot size) and impervious area (compacted hard surface that prevents absorption of water), and is billed as a separate line item in the water/sewer/stormwater utility bill.

Further, beginning July 1, 2010, properties that do not have any water/sewer service are assessed a monthly stormwater fee, as those properties also contribute stormwater runoff during rainstorms.

Accounts that are in a "Non-Billed" Status are Required to Pay the Monthly Stormwater Fee

Periodically, the accounts of some water/sewer customers are designated as "Non-billed" status either when the customer's water/sewer service is shut-off due to delinquency in payment of the water/sewer charges or due to damage to the property due to events such as a fire. The Water Department's Regulations require all parcels to pay a monthly stormwater fee - even parcels that do not have any water/sewer service or have accounts that are in a "Non-billed" status.

Even though the stormwater parcel area based fee went into effect on July 1, 2010, due to technical constraints in the City's utility billing system, the City was unable to bill the monthly fee for all "Non-Billed" status accounts, during the period of July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

However, the related programming changes that allow this billing for the "Non-Billed" status accounts have been completed. Therefore, beginning January 3, 2011, the City will begin issuing monthly bills with SWMS charges to these accounts, even if these accounts are not billed for Water and Sewer services.

Retroactive Billing of "Non-Billed" Status Water/Sewer Accounts

The January 2011 bill will include retroactive stormwater fees for the six month period from July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. **Late fees/penalties will NOT be attached to these bills.** Beginning February 2011, the monthly bill will include the stormwater fee only for the prior month billing period.

For more information on the Water Department's stormwater billing, please visit PWD's website at www.phila.gov/water/stormwater_billing.html.