



The ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-2994

BERNARD BRUNWASSER
Commissioner

Contact: Laura Copeland, 215-685-4902

For Immediate Release: July 1, 2009

**New Water and Sewer Rates Take Effect July 1st
Rates Still Among the Lowest in the Region**

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia Water Department began the second phase of a four-phase change to rates over an approximate three-and-a-half-year period, from November 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012. Beginning July 1, 2009, a typical residential customer’s monthly bill will change by an additional \$3.40 a month, or a total monthly bill of \$56.24. A typical senior citizen’s monthly bill will change by an additional \$2.03, or a total monthly bill of \$35.03 for those seniors who qualify for the Department’s 25-percent senior citizen discount. The income test to qualify for this discount has been changed to \$28,900 annually.

“The new rates will enable the Water Department to meet rapidly escalating costs and continue a variety of initiatives that are critical to protecting Philadelphia’s drinking water quality, preserving its waterways and improving stormwater management programs. Even with the additional rates, our water and sewer charges will continue to be among the lowest in the region,” remarked Commissioner Brunwasser.

The third and fourth phases of the rate changes will be implemented in Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012. These changes include:

- \$3.20 increase in the typical monthly bill (total monthly bill \$59.44) from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011; and
- \$3.49 increase in the typical monthly bill (total monthly bill \$62.93) from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

The new rates will also enable the Philadelphia Water Department to meet its obligations under the City Charter of having a balanced budget through June 2012 and to meet its bond covenants.

The Water Department has implemented numerous measures to improve service and reduce costs over the past decade. The Department has greatly contributed to the noticeably improved quality of Philadelphia’s rivers and streams and has refinanced more than \$345 million of debt as part of a November 2007 bond issue, saving \$14.7 million. Some of the Water Department’s other major projects will improve the City’s water main system, reduce stormwater runoff from combined sewer overflows, provide advanced source water protection and create a “natural” treatment plant – a stormwater wetland.

###