



DATE: June 26, 2019
TO: Community Water Supply Financial/Accounting Officials
FROM: Sandeep Burman, Manager
Drinking Water Protection Section
Minnesota Department of Health
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SUBJECT: Service Connection Fee Increase

The Minnesota Legislature has approved an increase in the drinking water service connection fee from \$6.36 to \$9.72, effective January 1, 2020. This is the annual fee you have been charging your drinking water system customers and passing through to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) since the fee was established in 1993 per Minnesota Statute 144.3831.

Revenue from this fee is used to fund activities of MDH's Drinking Water Protection Program related to maintaining compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and protecting the health of all Minnesotans. These activities include sanitary surveys, sample collection and analysis, compliance determination, source water protection, enforcement, and various technical assistance services.

The fee amount has not changed since 2005. With expectations for federal regulations continuing to be expanded, program expenses have been exceeding the revenue generated by the fee. In order to continue providing the services necessary to help water utilities provide safe drinking water, an increase in the fee was needed.

The invoice you will receive from us for the January through March 2020 billing period will reflect the change in the fee. We are alerting you to this change now so you can account for the change in your annual budget planning, and to notify residents accordingly.

We appreciate your continued partnership in providing safe and sufficient drinking water for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

If you have any questions about the fee, please contact me.

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