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TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



SEWER UTILITY TARIFF

1434(a) WSC

FOR

Ricardo Wastewater Improvements Corporation
(Utility Name)

Route 2, Box 364-B
(Business Address)

Kingsville, Texas 78363

(512) 592-4011

This tariff is effective for utility operations under the following Certificate(s) of Convenience and Necessity:

TNRCC Pending 20821

This tariff is effective in the following county(ies):

Kleberg County

This tariff is effective in the following cities or unincorporated towns (if any):

Town of Ricardo

This tariff is effective in the following subdivisions or systems:

Ricardo Townsite / Ricardo Water Supply Corporation

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SECTION 1.0--RATE SCHEDULE

Section 1.01 - Rates

CONNECTION TYPE

Volume charges are determined based on average consumption for winter period which includes the following months: None

REGULATORY ASSESSMENT 1.0%
A REGULATORY ASSESSMENT, EQUAL TO ONE PERCENT OF THE CHARGE FOR RETAIL SEWER SERVICE ONLY, SHALL BE COLLECTED FROM EACH RETAIL CUSTOMER.

Section 1.02 - Miscellaneous Fees

TAP FEE \$ 400.00
TAP FEE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE OF THE UTILITY'S ACTUAL COST FOR MATERIALS AND LABOR FOR STANDARD RESIDENTIAL CONNECTION.

RECONNECTION FEE
THE RECONNECT FEE WILL BE CHARGED BEFORE SERVICE CAN BE RESTORED TO A CUSTOMER WHO HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:
a) Non payment of bill (Maximum \$25.00) \$ 25.00
b) Customer's request \$ 25.00
OR OTHER REASONS LISTED UNDER SECTION 2.0 OF THIS TARIFF

TRANSFER FEE \$ 35.00
THE TRANSFER FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR CHANGING AN ACCOUNT/NAME AT THE SAME SERVICE LOCATION WHEN THE SERVICE IS NOT DISCONNECTED.

LATE CHARGE \$ 2.00 OR 5%
A ONE TIME PENALTY MAY BE MADE ON DELINQUENT BILLS BUT MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO ANY BALANCE TO WHICH THE PENALTY WAS APPLIED IN A PREVIOUS BILLING.

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE \$ 20.00

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT (Maximum \$50) \$ 50.00

RATES LISTED ARE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF THIS PAGE HAS TNRCC APPROVAL STAMP

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 2.01 - Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Rules

The utility will have the most current Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Rules, Chapter 291, Water Rates, available at its office for reference purposes. The Rules and this tariff shall be available for public inspection and reproduction at a reasonable cost. The latest Rules or Commission approved changes to the Rules supersede any rules or requirements in this tariff.

Section 2.02 - Application for and Provision of Sewer Service

All applications for service will be made on the utility's standard application or contract form (attached in the Appendix to this tariff) and will be signed by the applicant before sewer service is provided by the utility. A separate application or contract will be made for each service at each separate location.

After the applicant has met all the requirements, conditions and regulations for service, the utility will install service connections, which may include a utility cut-off valve and/or take all necessary actions to initiate service. The utility will serve each qualified applicant for service within 5 working days unless line extensions or new facilities are required. If construction is required to fill the order and if it cannot be completed within 30 days, the utility will provide the applicant with a written explanation of the construction required and an expected date of service.

Where service has previously been provided, the utility will reconnect the service within one working day after the applicant has met the requirements for reconnection.

The customer will be responsible for furnishing and laying the necessary customer service pipe from the connection location to the place of use.

Section 2.03 - Refusal of Service

The utility may decline to serve an applicant until the applicant has complied with the regulations of the regulatory agencies (state and municipal regulations) and for the reasons outlined in the TNRCC Rules. In the event that the utility refuses to serve an applicant, the utility will inform the applicant in writing of the basis of its refusal. The utility is also required to inform the applicant that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.04 - Customer Deposits

If a residential applicant cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility, the applicant will be required to pay a deposit as provided for in Section 1.02 of this tariff. The utility will keep records of the deposit and credit interest in accordance with TNRCC Rules.

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONT.)

Residential applicants 65 years of age or older may not be required to pay deposits unless the applicant has an outstanding account balance with the utility or another water or sewer utility which accrued within the last two years.

Nonresidential applicants who cannot establish credit to the satisfaction of the utility may be required to make a deposit that does not exceed an amount equivalent to one-sixth of the estimated annual billings.

Refund of deposit - If service is not connected, or after disconnection of service, the utility will promptly refund the customer's deposit plus accrued interest or the balance, if any, in excess of the unpaid bills for service furnished. The utility may refund the deposit at any time prior to termination of utility service but must refund the deposit plus interest for any customer who has paid 18 consecutive billings without being delinquent.

Section 2.05 - Meter Requirements, Readings, and Testing

It is not a requirement that the utility use meters to measure the quantity of sewage disposed of by individual customers. When a sewer utility is operated in conjunction with a water utility which serves the same customers, the charge for sewage disposal service may be based on the winter months average monthly consumption of water as registered on the customer's water meter. One connection is required for each residential, commercial or industrial facility in accordance with the TNRCC Rules.

Section 2.06 - Billing

Bills from the utility will be mailed monthly unless otherwise authorized by the Commission. The due date of the bills for utility service will be at least sixteen (16) days from the date of issuance. The postmark on the bill or, if there is no postmark on the bill, the recorded date of mailing by the utility will constitute proof of the date of issuance. If the due date falls on a holiday or weekend, the due date for payment purposes will be the next work day after the due date.

A late penalty of either \$2.00 or 5.0% will be charged on bills received after the due date. The penalty on delinquent bills will not be applied to any balance to which the penalty was applied in a previous billing. The utility must maintain a record of the date of mailing to charge the late penalty.

Each bill will provide all information required by the TNRCC Rules. For each of the systems it operates, the utility will maintain and note on the monthly billing a telephone number (or numbers) which may be reached by a local call by customers. At the utility's option, a toll-free telephone number or the equivalent may be provided.

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONT.)

In the event of a dispute between a customer and a utility regarding any bill for utility service, the utility will conduct an investigation and report the results to the customer. If the dispute is not resolved, the utility will inform the customer that a complaint may be filed with the Commission.

Section 2.07 - Service Disconnection

Utility service may be disconnected if the bill has not been paid in full by the date listed on the termination notice. The termination date must be at least 10 days after the notice is mailed or hand delivered.

The utility is encouraged to offer a deferred payment plan to a customer who cannot pay an outstanding bill in full and is willing to pay the balance in reasonable installments. However, a customer's utility service may be disconnected if a bill has not been paid or a deferred payment agreement entered into within 26 days from the date of issuance of a bill and if proper notice of termination has been given.

Notice of termination must be a separate mailing or hand delivery in accordance with the TNRCC Rules.

Utility service may also be disconnected without notice for reasons as described in the TNRCC Rules.

Utility personnel must be available to collect payments and to reconnect service on the day of and the day after any disconnection of service unless service was disconnected at the customer's request or due to a hazardous condition.

Section 2.08 - Reconnection of Service

Service will be reconnected within 24 hours after the past due bill and any other outstanding charges are paid or correction of the conditions which caused service to be disconnected.

Section 2.09 - Service Interruptions

The utility will make all reasonable efforts to prevent interruptions of service. If interruptions occur, the utility will re-establish service within the shortest possible time. Except for momentary interruptions due to automatic equipment operations, the utility will keep a complete record of all interruptions, both emergency and scheduled and will notify the Commission in writing of any service interruptions affecting the entire system or any major division of the system lasting more than four hours. The notice will explain the cause of the interruptions.

SECTION 2.0 - SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONT.)

Prorated Bills - If service is interrupted or seriously impaired for 24 consecutive hours or more, the utility will prorate the monthly base bill in proportion to the time service was not available to reflect this loss of service.

Section 2.10 - Quality of Service

The utility will plan, furnish, and maintain and operation a treatment and collection facility of sufficient size and capacity to provide a continuous and adequate service for all reasonable consumer uses and to treat sewage and discharge the effluent at the quality required by its discharge permit issued by the Commission. Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, the utility will maintain facilities as described in the TNRCC Rules.

Section 2.11 - Customer Complaints and Disputes

If a customer or applicant for service lodges a complaint, the utility will promptly make a suitable investigation and advise the complainant of the results. Service will not be disconnected pending completion of the investigation. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the utility's response, the utility must advise the complainant that he has recourse through the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission complaint process. Pending resolution of a complaint, the commission may require continuation or restoration of service.

The utility will maintain a record of all complaints which shows the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint and the adjustment or disposition thereof, for a period of two years after the final settlement of the complaint.

SECTION 2.20 - SPECIFIC UTILITY SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

This section contains specific utility service rules in addition to the rules previously listed under Section 2.0. It must be reviewed and approved by the Commission and in compliance with the TNRCC Rules to be effective.

SECTION 3.0 - EXTENSION POLICY

Section 3.01 - Standard Extension Requirements

LINE EXTENSION AND CONSTRUCTION CHARGES. No contribution in aid of construction may be required of any customer except as provided for in this approved extension policy.

The customer will be given an itemized statement of the costs, options such as rebates to the customer, sharing of construction costs between the utility and the customer, or sharing of costs between the customer and other applicants prior to beginning construction.

The utility will bear the full cost of any oversizing of collection mains necessary to serve other customers in the immediate area. The individual residential customer shall not be charged for any additional treatment capacity or facilities. Contributions in aid of construction may not be required of individual residential customers for treatment capacity or collection facilities unless otherwise approved by the Commission under this specific extension policy.

COST UTILITIES SHALL BEAR. Within its certificate area, the utility will pay the cost of the first 200 feet of any sewer collection line necessary to extend service to an individual residential customer within a platted subdivision. However, if the residential customer requesting service purchased the property after the developer was notified of the need to provide facilities to the utility, the utility may charge for the first 200 feet. The utility must also be able to document that the developer of the subdivision refused to provide facilities compatible with the utility's facilities in accordance with the utility's approved extension policy after receiving a written request from the utility.

Developers may be required to provide contributions in aid of construction in amounts to furnish the system with all facilities necessary to comply with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's Rules.

SECTION 3.20 - SPECIFIC UTILITY EXTENSION POLICY

This section contains the utility's specific extension policy which complies with the requirements already stated under Section 3.01. It must be reviewed and approved by the Commission and in compliance with TNRCC Rules to be effective.

Residential customers not covered under Section 3.01 will be charged the equivalent of the costs of extending service to their property from the nearest collection line even if that line does not have adequate capacity to serve the customer. However, if the customer places unique, non-standard service demands upon the system, the customer may be charged the full cost of extending service to and throughout their property, including the cost of all necessary treatment capacity necessary to meet the service demands anticipated to be created by that property.

Developers will be required to provide contributions in aid of construction in amounts sufficient to furnish the development with all facilities necessary to provide for reasonable local demand requirements and to comply with Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's minimum design criteria for facilities used in collecting, treating, transmitting, and discharging of wastewater effluent. For purposes of this subsection, a developer is one who subdivides or requests more than two connections on a piece of property. Commercial, industrial, and wholesale customers will be treated as developers.