

As of January 1, 2023, the Lower Lackawanna Valley Sanitary Authority (LLVSA) will be increasing its quarterly rates for the first time since 2012. Residential customers who pay a flat rate will see their bill increase by \$10 per quarter. Significant Industrial Users and Commercial Rate customers will also be subject to the same increase.

For the past ten years, the LLVSA has been able to maintain its rate structure without any increases. This rate increase is in response to the rising costs of the operation of the treatment plant and process. Across the board, the LLVSA has seen drastic increases in the cost of chemicals, sludge handling, and costs associated with the operation of a treatment process that has a design flow of six million (6,000,000) gallons per day of wastewater and the maintenance of over seventeen (17) miles of interceptor conveyance lines that deliver wastewater to the plant for treatment.

The LLVSA has exhausted every means necessary to avoid this rate increase. In 2022 alone, the LLVSA re-financed existing debt and applied for, and received, a grant from the state of Pennsylvania to help fund a much-needed capital project that will directly impact our customers. The LLVSA also has not increased its workforce in over ten years, despite a fourteen million dollar (\$14,000,000) mandated plant upgrade to comply with requirements for the removal of nitrogen and phosphorous from the treatment process effluent. The LLVSA financed the project in 2014 without a rate increase.

All customers are encouraged to take advantage of the discounts that are available to them. The LLVSA will continue to offer discounts for senior citizens, and a discount for residential customers choosing to pay in advance for the entire 2023 year. The five-percent (5%) pay for the year discount must be paid by March 31, 2023.

The LLVSA first quarter billing will reflect the increase. The first quarter billing will be mailed on or around February 7, 2023. It will be due on March 31, 2023.