

2011 Vacant Structure Explanation

In accordance with Ordinance No. 2010-05 that was adopted by the Hopewell Township Commissioners on October 11, 2010, the policy regarding invoicing Vacant Structures for sanitary sewage collection and treatment service has changed.

The past practice utilized by Hopewell Township was that Vacant Structures were not invoiced for sewage collection and treatment service.

The present practice employed by Hopewell Township is to invoice Vacant Structures for sewage collection and treatment service at a reduced rate. A Vacant Structure is defined as follows:

- An unoccupied structure that will remain unoccupied for at least three (3) months;
- The potable water service (if connected to public water supply) must be shut off for the period of the vacancy; and
- The property owner must complete the Vacant Structure Agreement, which is available from Hopewell Township. Hopewell Township will confirm that the property is vacant and verify that the potable water service has been turned off.

The typical residential sewer rental fee that is presently charged by Hopewell Township is as follows:

Minimum Quarterly Charge	\$50.00
Rate per 1,000 Gallons	\$7.10

A typical customer in Hopewell Township utilizes 15,000 gallons of water per quarter, which equates to a typical sewer rental fee of \$156.50.

The "Minimum Quarterly Charge" was established to cover existing long-term and short-term debt (which is a fixed amount), as well as some other fixed costs. These costs must be paid by Hopewell Township no matter how many customers are served and no matter how much sewage is collected and treated. These charges were financed based upon the total number of customers in the system. Therefore, these charges are attributable to all properties (vacant structures as well as occupied structures) that are provided public sewage collection and treatment service.

The established fee for the "Rate per 1,000 Gallons" is set to cover a portion of fixed costs (personnel wages and benefits, vehicles, equipment, etc.) as well as variable costs (chemicals, utilities, gasoline, etc). The variable costs fluctuate somewhat with the amount of sewage collected and treated.

Hopewell Township charges vacant structures a flat fee equal to the Minimum Quarterly Residential charge. **Thus, the sewer rental fee for a vacant structure is \$50.00.**

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

Department of Public Works --- Water Pollution Control System

Municipal Building, 1700 Clark Blvd., Aliquippa, PA. 15001

Phone: 724-512-0156, 724-512-0157 Fax Phone: 724-512-0154

DATE: _____ ACCOUNT NO.: _____

VACANCY NOTICE

SEWAGE _____ (Only with termination of water service)
REFUSE _____

SERVICE ADDRESS: _____

This vacancy is for the period from _____ to _____

The services noted above need to be discontinued on the identified effective date of this notice.

I/we acknowledge that any misrepresentation presented shall cause reinstatement of all billing from the identified date.

PROPERTY OWNER: _____

Owner's Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Owner's Signature/Agent: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Received _____ Initials _____

****This vacancy is voided if there are any water consumptions reported for any quarters within the vacancy effective dates.**

****The Township will visit the property to verify the vacancy.**

"PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY"