<u>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:</u>

"I ALSO RECEIVE A BILL FROM MY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY FOR SEWER SERVICE. WHY DO I HAVE TWO BILLS?"

The short answer is that different government agencies handle different steps of the sewage collection and treatment services provided to your property. Your municipality handles the first part of the system, that takes sewage from your home to the county-wide system, then CCMUA handles the conveyance to the treatment plant in Camden City, and the actual treatment of the raw sewage. Each agency sends you a bill to cover its separate cost of providing its services to you. (Some municipalities include this cost your property tax bill rather than sending a separate sewer bill.) Drinking water treatment and conveyance to your home is a separate service, for which you may get a bill from your township or water company. These are all different services. You are not being billed twice for duplicated service.

You will always receive a separate bill from the CCMUA for our charges.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment: Two Providers—Two Bills

Your municipality is responsible for the collection system within your town, which includes the pipes in the street in front of your house and various pump stations. This local collection system directs and conveys your town's wastewater to the CCMUA's regional interceptor pipeline.

The CCMUA is responsible for transporting your wastewater via pipeline from one location within your community to a modern wastewater treatment facility on the Delaware River and then treating it. At this facility wastewater from all over Camden County receives the best treatment that modern technology can provide.

The costs of maintaining wastewater treatment facilities include not only those incurred in day-to-day operation and maintenance, but also the cost of the construction of the physical facilities which—like any loan—is financed by paying back the principal and interest over time. As parts of the physical infrastructure wear out, and as the system is expanded to improve its performance and to handle growth in the County to maintain the public health and improve the environment, new investment is ongoing, and its cost must be recovered in the quarterly user charges. <u>The charges for operating the municipality's collection system are not included in your CCMUA bill.</u>

Since the CCMUA was established, many towns were able to reduce their local rates substantially once they were no longer responsible for operating a treatment plant. And accounting for inflation, the quarterly CCMUA bill to residences has actually decreased over time since the CCMUA was established.

The Result: Clean Water

Before the Regional Wastewater Treatment System was constructed, 45 million gallons per day of inadequately treated sewage was discharged into the lakes and streams of Camden County. Local municipal treatment plants, some 50 years old, were handling more flow than they were designed for. Comden County's surface water and drinking water were threatened by this pollution. The public health of the County's citizens was jeopardized by waterborne diseases.

Pollution of local waterways was reduced by 90 to 95% as measured by the bacteria count after the Regional Wastewater Facility began operation. In recent years, the Authority also coordinated repairs and upgrades to old piping to reduce the incidence of overflows, and expanded plant capacity, as well as moving toward self-sustainability in energy use, with solar panels and methane generated by sewage sludge processing now supplying 60% of the treatment plants energy consumption.

By providing proper wastewater treatment and returning the now cleaned water back to the Delaware River, our streams and rivers are once again being environmentally restored to be enjoyed by the residents, fish, and wildlife of Camden County. Proper wastewater treatment is a very serious public health matter, and we are proud of the service we provide.

For more information, please visit our website: https://www.ccmua.org