

L.R.B.O.I. Utility Department Frequently asked Questions

LRBOI Utility Department

Septage Receiving Station, Water Distribution, Waste Water Collection and Treatment. The Tribe employs 5 staff members and the Utility Operators are licensed through the M.D.E.Q. The Tribe has invested over 7.7 million in infrastructure for the water distribution system and the waste water collection treatment systems including support equipment.

Tribal Council in 2014 approved a resolution (#14-0226-043) for a five year plan.

Various departments were to become self-sufficient which included the Utility Department. Rates are set to ensure that we gradually become self-sustaining and alleviate any need to be funded with Tribal funds.

Water System

The water system pumps approximately 45,000,000 gallons a year with a 250,000 gallon spheroid water storage tower. Set points for the water level in the tower is controlled by radio telemetry.

Waste Water Collection and Treatment

The Tribe owns and operates a Sequencing Batch Reactor that is able to process 180,000 gallon of sewage per day and an Aerated Lagoon that is capable of treating 200,000 gallons per day. The plant processes approximately 43,000,000 gallons per year. There are currently 7 lift stations that pump the waste flows to the waste treatment plants.

Water and Sewer Collection and Treatment: Tribal Housing area, Little River Casino Resort, Convenience – Store, Community Center, Next Generation Learning Center and Government Complex

Water Service: L.R.B.O.I. Justice Center and Little River Casino Warehouse

Sewer Collection and Treatment Manistee Township: Since May 23, 2016 West Shore Medical Center, NW MI. Health Center, Medical Care Facility and County Sheriff Office /Jail.

On September 23, 2016 Townline Unlimited tied into the system.

May 15, 2017 - 2 homes connected along the U.S. 31 corridor in East Parkdale

Hours of Operation

7:00 am to 3:30 Pm Monday – Friday

On-Call after normal working hours for emergencies

On-call is rotated weekly between each staff member

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Current Rates are:

Rates are set in accordance with the current national standards from the American Water Works Association/MI Section. Each Municipality has different water distribution and waste water collection and treatment systems so rates will vary from municipality to municipality.

Rates are set to cover operations and maintenance costs with a portion set aside to cover replacement costs for various equipment.

Residential \$5.51 Base Rate \$1.02 per thousand gallons water and waste water is \$3.70 per thousand gallons

Commercial customers pay a different rate than residential.

To calculate a residential bill:

Average use and Bill in Aki Madizwiin

4,500 gallons per month

4,500 gal / 1000 gal = 4.5 units

4.5 x 1.02 = \$4.59 or equivalent to \$0.00102 per gallon

4.5 x 3.70 = \$16.65 or equivalent to \$0.0037 per gallon

\$5.51 Base + \$4.59 Water + \$16.65 Sewer Collection and Treatment = \$26.75

Manistee Township Residential pay a flat rate of \$31.75 per month

Tap fees: Vary depending on the size of your service

Permit Fees: \$50 cover the cost of reviewing the permit

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What does that help pay for? Operation and Maintenance costs, repair and replacement costs of equipment and pumps, EPA required sampling of the water distribution system, sampling of the waste water treatment systems, five tribal member employees.

A few of the responsibilities for the water system

- Monitor and readings on flow rates and equipment
- Flushing the water system
- Maintain fire hydrants
- Chlorine injection for disinfection of the water system
- Operate and maintain water storage
- Turn on / off water service
- Exercise valves
- Various compliance samples, example lead and copper
- Bacteriological sampling of the system
- Meter repair
- On – call duties rotated between staff
- MISSDIG

A few of the Waste Water Collection and Treatment responsibilities

- Monitor and readings on flows rates and equipment
- Cleaning the sewer system
- Pump maintenance
- Calibrate lift stations
- On – call duties rotated between staff
- Sampling of Aerated Lagoon and Sequencing Batch Reactor
MLSS, MLVSS, Nitrate Nitrite, Ammonia, Total Nitrogen pH, Total Phosphorus as P, D.O.
- Monitor SCADA system and make changes as needed
- MISSDIG
- Building repairs

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Do I need to put down a deposit? Yes, we have tried to keep the deposit low at \$50. If you move out, the deposit will be returned to you when your bill is paid in full. Your deposit may be used to offset any funds owed for the services if you decide to move out of the Tribes water and sewer service area. Your deposit is good and will transfer if you move from one home to another provided that home is in the service area of the water and sewer owned and operated by the Tribe.

When are rates set? The rates are set annually and are posted for 30 days for public comment, notices are sent to customers to inform you of when and where the meeting will be as well as the rates themselves, notices are also posted in each Tribal building.

Customer Information Form: a new form to update customer information was sent out in May of this year. When filling out updated customer information forms you do not need to pay another deposit fee if you already have.

Voluntary per cap form: there was a voluntary per cap deduction form sent out this year in May and it is “voluntary”. You may choose to have any amount owed in arrears paid via this form and, “it is not mandatory”. It is an option if you wish to use it.