

# SAXONBURG AREA AUTHORITY

## NEWS SHEET

### WINTER 2022

The Saxonburg Area Authority (SAA) is pleased to present our customers with this Winter 2022 news sheet, which has been customized to supply our customers with information about your sanitary sewer service, upcoming bill payment alternatives, important projects recently completed, future projects currently planned, and other important information about your sewer service utility.

#### Who is the Saxonburg Area Authority?

The SAA is your sanitary sewer service provider. The SAA currently provides sanitary sewer service to approximately 4,500 customers in Clinton Township, Jefferson Township, Middlesex Township, Penn Township, and Saxonburg Borough. Nine appointed residents from each of the five municipalities serve on the Authority Board and are responsible for the overall direction and policy decisions of the SAA.



The SAA currently maintains a wastewater treatment facility, seven sewage pumping stations, and 140 miles of sewer lines in southern Butler County. The SAA's Sewage Facilities Planning Area consists of approximately 100 square miles in southern Butler County, while the Service Area is about 30 square miles.

The SAA is a self-contained body addressing all operational functions through its administrative, development, operations, and maintenance staff. The SAA's staff is responsible for all daily operations. All invoices, payment collections, and service calls are processed through the SAA's billing department. All development projects are fully managed by the SAA's development department. The operations and maintenance staff perform all required operations and maintenance in the SAA's system.

#### SAA Budget

We are pleased to announce that once again, the SAA will not increase customer user rates in 2022! The SAA has not raised customer user rates since 2013.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of each year, the Authority Board adopts the budget for the upcoming year. The \$5.2 million budget for 2022 was approved in November 2021.

The most significant revenue sources are customer user charges making up 75% of the total revenue. Developer contributions and tap fees comprise 20% of the total revenue, while the remaining 5% comes from miscellaneous sources.

Out of the SAA's total expenses, 57% are attributable to debt service payments. Debt service payments are fixed, and therefore not subject to cost increases in the future. The SAA has two separate debt service obligations, the last of which will be fully satisfied in 2038.

Other SAA total expenses can generally be classified as variable costs and are therefore subject to market conditions. Some of these costs, on a percentage basis, include 16% related to employee expenses, 13% treatment, pumping, and collection expenses, 7% capital improvement expenses and 7% miscellaneous expenses.



#### SAA Contact Information

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General Questions	Extension 221
Billing, New Service Service Changes	Extensions 222 or 227
Operations and Maintenance	Extension 224
Development & Inspections	Extension 225

#### Billing Department

The majority of the SAA's customers pay their bills electronically. The Authority recommends its customers

use electronic and paperless payment methods, as these methods are most economical. However, some customers continue to make payments by check, money order, or even by using our drop box. If you choose to use these methods, we ask you to refrain from using tape or staples when submitting your payments.

### Introducing InvoiceCloud®

The SAA has initiated a service with InvoiceCloud® to provide our customers a secure, private, and easy-to-use bill presentation and payment experience. SAA customers will have access to the latest payment technology trends, such as Venmo, PayPal, Apple Pay, and Google Pay. Of course, all major credit and debit cards brands including Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express will also be accepted. This service not only provides customers an easy online experience, it also will remind customers of upcoming bills or auto drafts. You will receive information in the upcoming months on how to use this service.



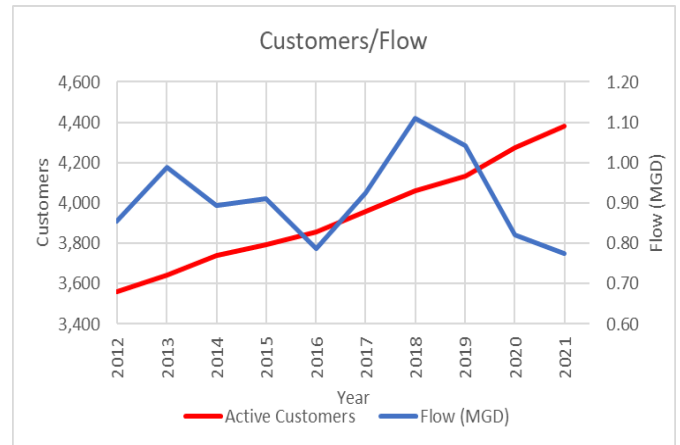
### Growing Customer Base

Over the past 10 years, the SAA's customer base has grown approximately 2-3% each year. Over 900 new customers connected to the sewer system during this time and just over 600 new customers connected to the system in the past 5 years. Much of this growth has been in planned residential developments in the southern portion of Middlesex Township. These residential developments are expected to continue growing in the upcoming years.

The Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township is currently extending public water service along the Route 8 Corridor in Penn and Middlesex Townships. Also, PennDOT is working on transportation improvements along State Route 228. These types of infrastructure projects often result in significant community growth, which the SAA's sewer system is ready to accommodate.

### System Hydraulic Loading

Typically, as the number of customers increase in a sewer system, wastewater flows increase at a corresponding rate. However, despite the SAA's tremendous growth in recent years, the flow in the sewer system has been consistent and even slightly reduced. The reason for this is because of the SAA's aggressive initiative on rehabilitating older sanitary sewer lines in the system. In fact, the total flow in 2021 was the lowest total flow into the system since 2007. The following chart illustrates the total flow (in million gallons per day) into the wastewater treatment plant over the past 10 years. The total number of SAA customers over the same period is also illustrated.



### System Rehabilitation Project

The SAA has invested approximately \$3 million over the past 10 years into sewer line rehabilitation projects. Most of these projects replaced old clay sewer lines known to contribute infiltration into the sewer system. Infiltration exists when storm water and/or ground water enters the sanitary sewer system, typically through broken or cracked pipes. The SAA has rehabilitated 30,000 feet of these old sewer lines recently. The Authority plans to replace an additional 15,000 feet of old sewer mains in the upcoming years. These replacement projects are extremely important as they extend the life of the SAA's facilities. As storm water infiltration is removed from the sewer system, capacity for actual wastewater is gained. Additionally, treatment costs are reduced since less flow is required to be pumped and treated. These rehabilitation projects along with system growth have allowed the SAA to stabilize user rates.

### Capital Improvement Projects

Each year, the Authority Board reviews and budgets for important capital improvement projects. In 2021, some of the most significant projects included completing the Tower Road sewer line replacement project, a new roof on the office building, and constructing a new material storage bin. Budgeted projects in 2022 include the State Street sewer line replacement project, new siding on the office building, a new operations vehicle, a mini excavator, and paving the office building parking lot. In effort to keep costs to a minimum, the SAA staff completes as many projects as possible without contracting outside services.

## NEW CUSTOMERS/CHANGES IN SERVICE

Please contact the Authority if you are moving into the area, building a home, transferring service, or planning to work on your sanitary sewer service line. The Authority will be able to provide you the necessary procedures for your specific needs.