

EAST END WATER

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Dear EEW Customer,

We at East End Water Improvement District # 1 would like to inform you of some changes coming to our rates. Due to rising cost of chemicals, material, infrastructure needs and development in our area, rates will need to be increased to maintain our system along with keeping up with water usage demands.

If you are not aware, EEW is part of the Saline County Public Water Authority. This will be a new wholesale water company that will service most of Saline County with water pumped from the Ouachita River to a treatment facility in Saline County. A permit to pump water was granted by Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (June 24, 2023) who also approved funding (November 15, 2023) for this project. While planning of this project is now under way, EEW will not begin taking water until 2057-2060 unless needed.

Arkansas Rural Water in accordance with Act 605 has conducted a rate study to help with our rate increases that will be required to maintain our aging system and new growth. The new (Minimum Rate) will increase from \$15.26 to \$ 24.40. Price per 1000 gallons of water will increase from \$ 3.61 to \$ 6.46. Arkansas Rule Water Association rate study recommends a rate increase of 3% annually. This rate increase will be reflected in June's billing cycle 2024.

We are sending you this letter to keep you informed of the changes to our water system and the reasons for the upcoming rate changes. It is our goal to provide water to our growing community now and years down the road. Act 605 along with our rate study can be found online at the following web site <https://eastendwater.com>.

East End Water Improvement District #1