

**Stonebridge Billing** 

**Summary of Issues and Resolution** 

**November 21, 2013** 



#### **Timeline of Events**

Accounts converted to new system	Some accounts bill from May 15 to May 30 in error	End of first full service period in new system	Meters changed by contractor	Identified measure- ment error with new meters	Bills issued to date are cancelled and metering issue correction started	Winter Average Error confirmed	Accounts to be held from billing until corrections made
May 21	May 30	June 11	Late June to early July	August 7	August 14	August 19	September 3



## **Summary**

- The correction process has not gone smoothly
  - Employees working with new technology and processes
  - Multiple issues increasing the complexity
  - Not all affected accounts could be corrected in the same way
- Customers may have been affected by one or multiple issues
  - Meter exchange with unit of measure error
  - Prorated billing periods
  - Estimated billing
  - Winter averaging calculation error
  - Additional invoices received after errors were confirmed
- Customers with inquiries may have received incorrect or incomplete information
- Customers have received many different invoices resulting in confusion and lack of confidence in accuracy and amount due



#### **How Accounts were Corrected**

- Bills issued between May and September were cancelled
  - Fixes applied to meter unit of measure and winter average calculations
- Billing recalculated by period between May and August
  - Invoice issued during first week in November
  - Contained rebilled charges by service period
  - Payments received to date were reapplied to corrected billing
  - Customer service representatives made calls to affected customers
- Billing issued for combined September / October period
  - Will be closely followed by November billing
  - Extended payment terms offered
  - December and billing going forward will be generated monthly on regular cycle
- 85% of accounts confirmed corrected at this point and billed through November
  - Remaining are being manually reviewed and action taken daily to resolve



# **Understanding Your Billing**

APPENDIX A 5



# **Billing Period and Meter Reading**

#### BILLING PERIOD AND METER READINGS

- Billing date: October 30, 2013
- Due Date: November 21, 2013
- Billing period: May 14 to Aug 12 (91 Days)
- Next reading on or about: Sep 06, 2013
- Customer Type: Residential
- Meter Reading Measurement:
   1 unit = 1000 gallons of water
- Billing Measurement: 100 gallons (CGL)

Meter No.	19658459
Size of meter	5/8"
Current Read	482 (Actual)
Previous Read	480 (Actual)
Total water used this	2 units
billing period	(2,000 gallons)

Meter Changed:

06/28/2013

Meter No.	13365026
Size of meter	5/8"
Current Read	145 (Actual)
Previous Read	0 (Estimated)
Total water used this	145 units
billing period	(14,500 gallons)
Total water used this	147 units
billing period	(16,500 gallons)

Total Water Use Comparison (in 100 gallons)

- Current billing period 2013:
- Same billing period 2012:

165.00 CGL 0.00 CGL

- Provides detail on water consumption and days of service used to calculate your bill
- Displays the old meter information as well as new meter information and date meter changed
- Total water used in gallons and number of units
- 1 unit on old meter = 1000 gallons
- 1 unit on new meter = 100 gallons

Total water used between old and new meter for the billing period referenced



#### **Bill Reversal and Rebill**

BILLING SUMMARY

#### For Service To: 1 For Account 1017-210011570498 **Totals** Prior Balance Balance from last bill 68.97 payments Payments as of May24. Thank you! -313.00received Balance Forward -244.03 Cancelled Bill Cancelled Invoice Period 05/14/2013 - 06/11/2013 Represents Cancelled Invoice Amount 21.91 invoices Reason for Reversal: Billing Error Correction received that Cancelled Bill Cancelled Invoice Period 06/12/2013 - 07/08/2013 were cancelled Cancelled Invoice Amount 93.85 Reason for Reversal: Billing Error Correction **Total** Total Amount Reversed 115.76 amount of cancelled invoices



#### **Rebilled Charges**

B-1-11 /OF /4.4 /OO4.0 OC /4.4 /OO4.0\

#### Detailed by bill period

Water Service  Water Service Charge  Water Usage Charge (\$0.23700000 x 10.00)  Total Water Service Related Charges	22.06 2.37 24.43	Water service charge and usage charge
Wastewater Service Wastewater Service Charge Wastewater Use Charge (\$0.60324000 x 10.00) Total Wastewater Service Related Charges	40.97 6.03 47.00	Wastewater service charge and usage charge
Other Charges  • Water Primacy Fee  • Total Other Charges	0.27	Primacy fee

Rebill (06/12/2013 - 07/08/2013) (Continued on next page)

#### Continues on additional pages as needed

248.14
1.04
1.04

total rebilled charges
 Prior payments are subtracted from total current charges

Taxes are applied against



## **Understanding Winter Averaging for Wastewater**

- Concept based on using winter months water consumption to calculate the wastewater charges during the summer months
- Water consumption <u>billed</u> in the months of January, February and March are averaged to arrive at the winter average value.
- A zero winter average is allowed
- If no history is available the system will use a default value of 6,000 gallons

# As example:

January	February	March
1,000	2,000	zero usage

$$1,000 + 2,000 + 0 = 3,000$$
  
 $3,000$  divided by  $3 = 1,000$ 

Winter Average value is 10 units (ten hundred gallons)



# **How Winter Averaging appears on the Invoice**

Water Service  • Water Service Charge  • Water Usage Charge (\$0.23700000 t 44.00)  • Total Water Service Related Charges	22.06 10.43 32.49 For this bill period
Wastewater Service Wastewater Service Charge Wastewater Use Charge (\$0.60324000 : 10.00) Total Wastewater Service Related Charges	water use is 4,400  40.97 6.03 47.00  water use is 4,400 gallonswastewater is
Other Charges  • Water Primacy Fee  • Total Other Charges	1,000 gallons
Bill (07/09/2013 - 08/12/2013)	
Current Water Service Water Service Charge Water Usage Charge (\$0.23700000 x 111.00) Total Water Service Related Charges	For this bill period water use is 11,100
Current Wastewater Service Wastewater Service Charge Wastewater Use Charge (\$0.60324000 : 10.00) Total Wastewater Service Related Charges	gallonswastewater is 1,000 gallons
Other Charges  • Water Primacy Fee  • Total Other Charges	0.27 0.27



## Other Questions you may have about billing.....

- Why was I billed with estimated readings after the meter was changed?
  - Meter exchanges were performed by a contractor and the information recorded on paper. It took some time to get this information manually entered into our billing system. In the meantime, the meter number in the meter reading equipment did not match the new meter installed, therefore no reading was captured.
- Why wasn't the customer service representative able to answer my questions?
  - The issues experienced with this billing were not typical and complicated by the meter change and incorrect winter averaging. Also during this time employees were working in a new system. We have since implemented the ability to place an 'alert' on an account which links the CSR to specific information about that event.



- Am I expected to pay for all these months of service by the due date on the corrected invoice?
  - Not necessarily, if requested, we will be happy to provide you with the same number months to repay as covered in your corrected billing. Just contact us at the toll free number on your bill and we will help to set up this payment plan.
- What if I still don't understand my bill. Who can help me?
  We have customer service specialist who have received training in understanding the complexity of the issues experienced by Stonebridge customers. Appointment times are available for you to schedule a call at your convenience.
- How can I be assured we won't have more billing problems?
  The issues experienced have not been typical. Now that the meters are changed and programming corrected you should expect to receive monthly billing on schedule and based on actual meter readings. We are focused on making things right and providing you with the quality of service you expect.
  APPENDIX A