

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR JENSEN AND BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
FROM: KARL HAGERMAN, UTILITY DIRECTOR 
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPLICATION OF A FUEL ADJUSTMENT CHARGE
DATE: 4/27/2022
CC: STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER

Per the Municipal Code, Chapter 14.16.720, titled Rates – Fuel and Purchased Power Adjustment Charge, the Assembly has the discretion to implement a fuel adjustment to all kilowatt hours sold in the billing period that also includes the annual SEAPA maintenance shutdown and the resulting 10-day diesel plant run by the utility.

With this memorandum, I am requesting that the Assembly consider implementing the codified rate adjustment for the billing period between May 27th and June 27th of 2022. The adjustment has not been used for many years due to the application of SEAPA rebates toward fuel consumption by the utility during the shutdown. Now that the SEAPA rebates are no longer a consideration of the Agency, the utility desires to recoup fuel costs above \$2.40 per gallon (the price noted in the code) for the annual maintenance run this year. The SEAPA maintenance period is scheduled for June 1st–10th.

The adjustment would take fuel burn expenses above \$2.40 per gallon and spread out those costs to all kilowatt hours sold during the affected billing period. If fuel is not above \$2.40, there is no adjustment. Pricing for bulk diesel fuel to the utility was \$3.09 per gallon in January 2022 and pricing as of the writing of this memo is \$4.27 per gallon. Pricing of fuel is likely to go up again before the diesel run, which just emphasizes the need to recoup unanticipated expenses related to fuel costs.

As an example of potential adjustment per kwh, a hypothetical scenario is presented below, with 2021 generation levels and current pricing for fuel.

$$\text{Fuel Adjustment} = (F-240)/13.5 \times D/G$$

F = Cost in cent/gal of most recent fuel purchase = 427 (As of April 21, 2021)

D= kwh generated during prior month by diesel plant = 744,132 kwh (June 2021)

G = Total generation during prior month, in kwh = 3,748,012 kwh (June 2021)

$$\text{Adjustment} = (427-240)/13.5 \times (744,132/3,748,012) = 2.749 \text{ cents/kwh}$$

In this hypothetical scenario, the utility would be seeking to recover \$93,193 in unanticipated fuel costs and a customer that used 1,000 kwh in the billing period would see an adjustment of \$27.49 added to their bill.

If approved, the utility will begin a public information campaign to make our customers aware of the power adjustment and the billing period in which it will be applied. Conservation of power at households and businesses during the billing period will lessen the amount of power generation and fuel usage during the shutdown, but also the total amount of usage by the community that is factored into the adjustment formula. Concerted conservation efforts will help every customer to lessen the impacts of the adjustment.

Thank you for your consideration.
