



Town of Bristol

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Summary of Changes: Appendix B Fee Schedule (April 2025 to September 2025)

RATE INCREASES:

1. Usage Charge Increase

- **Before:** \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons
- **After:** \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons
- **Impact:** 18.2% increase in volumetric charges

2. Reconnection/Disconnect Fees - Reduced to Statutory Limits

- **Before:** \$75 (normal hours), \$100 (after hours)
- **After:** \$25 (normal hours), \$37.50 (after hours)
- **Impact:** Significant reduction to comply with 24 V.S.A. §5151 statutory maximums

3. Access Denial Surcharges - New Escalating Structure

- **Before:** \$75 (first), \$100 (subsequent)
- **After:** \$25 (first), \$37.50 (second), \$50 (subsequent)
- **Impact:** Lower initial penalty but escalating consequences

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS:

4. Legal Compliance Framework - NEW SECTION 5 Comprehensive disconnection procedures added:

- Pink notice requirements (40 days from delinquency, 14-20 days prior notice)
- Prohibited disconnection circumstances (\$15 minimum, disputed charges, health hazards, no payment agreement offered)
- Restricted disconnection hours (8 AM - 2 PM, Monday-Thursday only)
- 24-hour service restoration requirement

5. Interest Structure Clarification - NEW SECTION 6

- Detailed two-tier structure: 1.0% monthly (first 3 months), 1.5% monthly (after 3 months)
- Municipal vote requirement explained
- Calculation methodology specified

6. Legal Authority Documentation - NEW SECTION 7

- Lien authority under 24 V.S.A. §3306
- Chapter 129 compliance confirmation

- Statutory maximum compliance certification

FEE STRUCTURE CHANGES:

7. Collection Fees - New Statutory Compliance

- **Before:** Implied in reconnection fees
- **After:** Explicitly limited to \$25 maximum "regardless of number of attempts" per 24 V.S.A. §5151

8. Bulk Water Purchase Adjustment

- **Before:** \$4.00 per additional 1,000 gallons over 10,000 gallons
- **After:** \$6.50 per additional 1,000 gallons (matches standard usage rate)
- **Impact:** Consistency with regular metered rates

KEY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES SUMMARY:

1. **18.2% usage rate increase** (\$5.50 → \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons)
2. **67% reduction in reconnection fees** to meet statutory limits
3. **Comprehensive Chapter 129 compliance framework** added
4. **Enhanced consumer protections** through detailed disconnection procedures
5. **Improved document accessibility** through restructured format
6. **Legal authority documentation** establishing compliance and lien rights

Conclusion: The September 2025 version represents both a rate adjustment (primarily usage charge increase) and a complete reframing of the fee schedule to ensure full compliance with Vermont's consumer protection statutes under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 129. The restructuring significantly improves clarity, enforceability, and legal defensibility while reducing some fees to statutory maximums and increasing usage charges to support system operations.