



AWWU Update to the Infrastructure, Enterprises, & Utility Oversight Committee of the Anchorage Assembly

Thursday, June 18, 2026

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Pipes Hate Wipes: Clarifying Title 26 to Prohibit Flushing Disposable Wipes



An Ordinance prepared by Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility
and Sponsored by Members Johnson & Baldwin Day

The Wipes Problem

- Wipes don't disintegrate like toilet paper, causing:
 - Sewer main clogs and sanitary sewer overflows
 - Jammed pumps
 - Blocked screens at treatment plants
- 6,000-7,000 pounds of wipes reach Asplund Wastewater Treatment Plant every day
- In 2025 at Asplund *alone*, wipes cost AWWU:
 - \$112,728 in employee labor
 - \$95,385 in tipping fees for disposal at ARL



Wipes and diapers plugging an AWWU pump.



The Change: Clearly Prohibit Flushing Wipes



Wipes removed from headworks screens at Asplund Wastewater Treatment Facility.

AMC 26.50.050 Prohibited Acts

A. It shall be unlawful for any user to:

2. Discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described pollutants, substances, or wastewater into the municipal sewerage system:

- c. Any solid or viscous substance, or liquid that can become viscous when cooled, in amounts capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the sewerage system....

- n. Any quantity of disposable wipes, regardless of product labelling.

Why this change matters

- Public awareness
- Compliance with the Clean Water Act and AWWU's discharge permits
- Reducing costs for AWWU and ultimately AWWU's ratepayers
- Protecting the environment and human health



Maintenance on a clarifier tank at Asplund Wastewater Treatment Facility, with the Knik Arm and the Tordrillo Mountains behind.



AWWU Levy Upon Connection 2025 Rate

Levy Upon Connection (LUC) Rate

- When a property connects to AWWU-constructed water or sewer mains, the property pays an assessment for the benefit of connecting.
- The LUC rate determines the amount of the assessment.
- The LUC rate is multiplied by the square footage area of the property benefitted by the water or sewer main.
- The LUC rate from the year AWWU placed the main in service is used to calculate the assessment.
 - Example: In 2030, the owner of a parcel builds a service extension to connect to an AWWU water main built in 2025, so the 2025 LUC rate is used to calculate the assessment.



Approval of the LUC Rate

- Per Title 26, the Assembly must approve the LUC rates AWWU submits to the RCA.
 - 2025 LUC Rate AO being introduced at 6/23/26 meeting.
- Then AWWU seeks the RCA's approval of the LUC rates.
- The RCA has 45 days to make a decision on AWWU's proposed rates.
 - This includes time for public comment to the RCA.
- Historically, the RCA has approved our proposed LUC rates because the calculation methodology is already in our RCA-approved Tariff rules.

LUC Rate Calculation

- Methodology for rate calculation for assessments is outlined in AWU and ASU Tariff Rules 8.6.
- Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) approved the method for LUC calculation in our Tariff rules.
- AWWU calculates the LUC rates for each year based on the approved methodology outlined in Tariff.
 - The LUC rates for past years are in AWU and ASU Tariff Rule 13.1, Rate Schedule No. 1.

RCA No. <u>122</u> Original <u> </u> Sheet No. <u>128.2</u> Cancelling <u> </u> Sheet No. <u> </u>	RECEIVED JAN 13 2017 STATE OF ALASKA REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA
Anchorage Water Utility	
8.0 <u>EXTENSION OF SERVICE (continued)</u> (N)	
8.6 <u>LUC RATE CALCULATION (continued)</u>	
B. Identify the total square feet of the benefited areas subject to Assessments from the WDID projects resulting from Rule 8.2.A.2.a.i. For a year in which no WDID Assessments were levied, the total square feet of benefited areas for the year shall be the total for the last preceding year in which such Assessments were levied.	
C. Adjust the net Certified Project Costs for each of the preceding five (5) years from Rule 8.6.A for inflation. 1. The net Certified Project Costs are adjusted from the year the project was closed to the year for which the LUC Rate is being established by using the annual average of the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (ENRCCI). 2. For a year in which no WDID Assessments were levied, the net Certified Project Costs for that year shall be adjusted using the annual average of the ENRCCI.	
D. The LUC rate equals the sum of the five (5) year adjusted net Certified Project Costs (from subsection C) divided by the total square feet of the benefited area subject to Assessments (from subsection B).	

A screenshot of AWU Tariff Rule 8.6. AWU and ASU Tariff Rules are online at: www.awwu.biz/customer-service/rates-and-billing-policies.

