

# The Drain Report

## Good News / Bad News For Your Sewer Rates

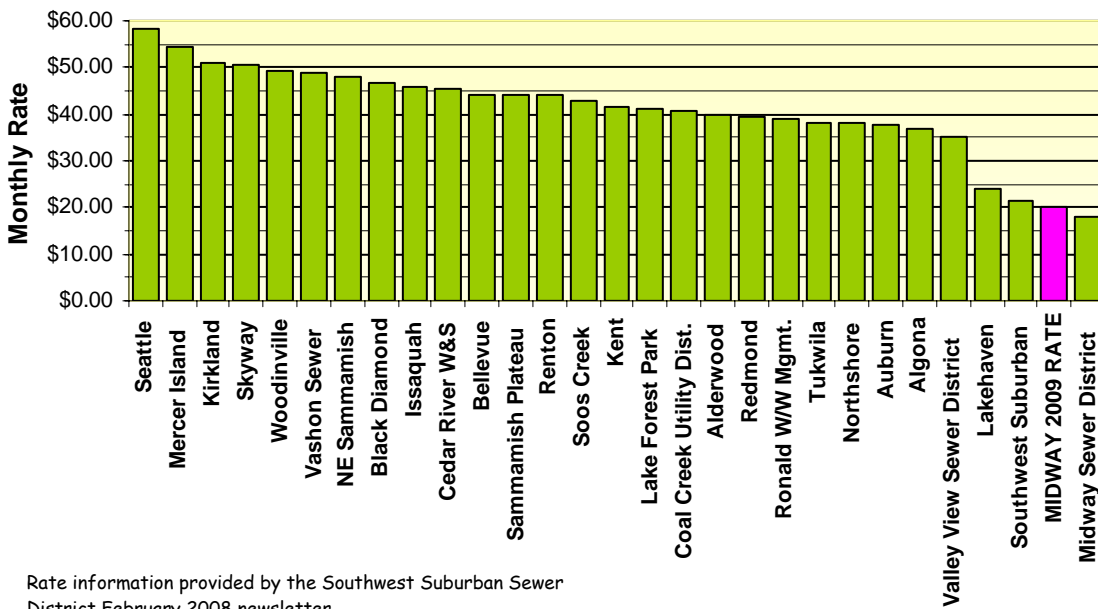
By Ken Kase

The bad news is that the sewer rates are increasing by \$2 to \$20 per month for residential customers and \$20 per 750 cubic feet of consumption per month for commercial customers, effective January 1, 2009. The good news is that even with this rate increase you are still paying less than half of what many other King county residents pay for their sanitary sewer service.

The graph below indicates what a residential customer pays per month for 750 cubic feet of consumption per month in 2008. The new Midway rate for 2009 is also shown. You can clearly see that the rate you pay is very favorable when compared to the neighboring communities.

Just because the rates are low does not mean that we are cutting corners. You can still expect the same high level of service and commitment to protect the environment that you have always enjoyed as a Midway Sewer District customer.

2008 Sewer Rate Comparison



Rate information provided by the Southwest Suburban Sewer District February 2008 newsletter.

Inside this issue:

Information about the upcoming sewer rate increase 1

Consider a career as a wastewater operator. 2

Special points of interest:

- Midway Sewer District has one of the lowest monthly rates in the state.
- The Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please contact the office for the meeting time.
- Midway serves the Cities of Des Moines, SeaTac, Kent, Federal Way, Normandy park, Burien, and the Port of Seattle's SeaTac Airport.
- Continually improving and maintaining our system to ensure reliable service.
- You can expect fast personal service when you need it.
- Our employees care about their customers.
- We have a single focus of providing quality sanitary sewer service and have been in business since 1946.



# Considering A Career In Wastewater?

By: Jack Hendrickson

An opportunity exists for those willing to work and train hard in the wastewater industry. Job opportunities should be excellent because the retirement of the baby boomer generation will require that many operators with years of experience be replaced. At the Midway Sewer District the average employee is over 51 years old and has worked here for over 18 years. The number of applicants nationwide for wastewater jobs is normally low, due primarily to the physically demanding and unappealing nature of some of the work. Opportunities should be best for persons with mechanical aptitude and problem solving skills.

Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators work both indoors and outdoors and may be exposed to noise from machinery and to unpleasant odors. Operators' work is physically demanding and often is performed in unclean locations; they must pay close attention to safety procedures because of the presence of hazardous conditions, such as slippery walkways, dangerous gases, and malfunctioning equipment.

With an apparent shortage of trained and qualified people entering the job market and expected faster than average increase in wastewater operator positions nationwide, it should be relatively easy for an individual to find employment in this field. And these jobs generally provide a comfortable income and come with great benefits such as health and life insurance, a retirement plan, and educational reimbursement for job-related courses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, water and wastewater treatment plant and system operator jobs are expected to grow faster than average compared with other occupations. Job opportunities should be excellent for qualified workers.

Employment of water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators is expected to grow by 14 percent between 2006 and 2016, which is faster than average when compared with other occupations. An increasing population and the growth of the economy are expected to boost demand for water and wastewater treatment services. As new plants are constructed to meet this demand, new water and wastewater treatment plant and system operator jobs will arise.

If you are willing to get the training and certification needed to be a wastewater operator and are willing to do physically and mentally demanding work, you should consider a career as a wastewater operator. It is a job that is generally unaffected by the ups and downs of the economy and provides a source of steady, reliable employment.

## Board of Commissioners



George Landon    Jack Hendrickson    Vince Koester



## Midway Sewer District

PO Box 3487  
 3030 South 240th Street  
 Kent, WA 98089  
<http://www.midwaysewer.org/>  
**206-824-4960**