



NPU approves framework for wastewater Inter-Municipal Agreement

In September 2019, the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich approved the framework of a 20-year, inter-municipal agreement with the Towns of Bozrah, Franklin, Lisbon, Preston and Sprague to provide wastewater plant capacity. The towns must now approve individual contracts with NPU through their individual Water Pollution Control Authorities (WPCAs).

Each town will pay the same rates and fees as any Norwich wastewater customer, residential or commercial. It is anticipated that the inter-municipal agreement could generate up to \$25 million over the next 20 years that could be used to support capital improvements by the Sewer Authority in Norwich.

All of the parties have worked over the past six years to develop an agreement that outlines a number of terms and conditions:

- The agreement establishes the number of gallons per day of wastewater than can be sent to Norwich. Each town has also reserved additional capacity should their needs increase over the next five years. Meters will be installed in each municipality to monitor usage.

- Any sewer collection or pumping infrastructure constructed within a town that connects to the system in Norwich will be funded and operated by the town.
- Each town will pay the same sewer charges and capital connection fees based on equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) as are charged in Norwich. The current capital connection fee in Norwich is \$2,500 per EDU, or approximately 200 gallons per day.
- Each town's sewer use regulations shall be no less stringent than the regulations in Norwich.
- Each town will be responsible for billing and collecting from their customers the capital costs, sewer usage charges and the costs of operating and maintaining the sewer system within their town.
- Norwich will invoice each town monthly.



NPU recognized as Smart Energy Provider

Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) has earned a Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for demonstrating commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support a goal of providing low-cost, quality, safe, and reliable electric service.

"We're honored to be recognized for our efforts to support our community's responsible energy use," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "We are proud of the programs we offer that help our customers save money and reduce our collective footprint in the environment. It's encouraging to be recognized as a best-of-class utility when it comes to smart energy."

The SEP designation, which lasts for two years, recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices

in four key disciplines: smart energy program structure; energy efficiency and distributed energy programs; environmental and sustainability initiatives; and the customer experience.

This is the first year APPA has offered the SEP designation. NPU joins more than 60 public power utilities nationwide that received the inaugural SEP designation.

"This designation highlights utilities that are really stepping up to deliver their customers top-notch programs and services," Chris Van Dokkumburg, Chair of the APPA Energy Services Committee. "These utilities are going beyond 'keeping the lights on,' and their communities should be proud."

APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 49 million people in 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

Natural Gas Safety: Removing snow from meters

Use caution when shoveling or plowing snow near your meter.

Norwich Public Utilities reminds customers to be aware of a number of safety tips regarding their natural gas meters. It is important to keep the area around the meter free from snow so that fire departments and other emergency response agency personnel have access to gas meters in case of an emergency shut-off situation.

NPU Meter Readers also need access to the meters if customers want to avoid an estimated bill.

When removing snow around gas meters:

- Make sure you know the exact location of your meter before you begin to remove snow.
- Maintain a safe distance between gas meters and shovels, snow blowers, and other equipment while shoveling.
- NEVER push snow against gas meters, gas piping, or appliance vents and make sure all vents are free of snow or other obstructions.
- NEVER pile snow on top of gas meters, gas piping, or appliance vents.

All natural gas customers should be aware that gas meters that are buried in deep snow or damaged by snow removal equipment could begin to leak. Gas meter leaks are a potentially hazardous situation.

Customers are encouraged to report any problems with their meters to NPU's gas emergency line at **860-887-7207**. If there is a natural gas odor present, exit the premises and call 911 right away. Natural gas has a rotten egg-like odor.

For more gas safety information, visit <http://norwichpublicutilities.com/community/safety>. You can also request gas safety information by calling us at 860-887-2555 or emailing communitymatters@npumail.com.



A minute with the Mayor:

Help us save baseball in Norwich



Mayor Peter Nystrom

One of the things I've always loved about baseball is its simplicity: ball or strike, fair or foul, safe or out. The rules of baseball have never changed and never will – which is part of the charm of a game that has

entertained millions of us for such a long time.

But a recent baseball-related announcement in Norwich comes down to right and wrong – and clearly needs to be changed.

In a shocking decision in November, Major League Baseball (MLB) announced that it wants to eliminate more than 40 teams, including our own Norwich Sea Unicorns, the Single A affiliate of the Detroit Tigers. Under MLB's plan, the minor league system would be decimated, the annual draft would be reduced from 40 to 20 rounds and our local

team would become a low-level, independent league team that would rely on try-outs to fill their squad.

This short-sighted plan, which is being vigorously fought in small communities across the country, must be defeated.

Professional baseball has played an important role in our community for a generation. Dodd Stadium, built in 1994, is one of our best and well-used community resources, attracting more than 700,000 fans since just 2010. The stadium has also been the host for many other events, from high school and college baseball games, to charitable events and community activities.

Minor league baseball in Norwich is one of the most accessible, and well-loved activities in our region. A game at Dodd Stadium is a fun and affordable night for almost any family, and an opportunity to run into old friends or make new ones.

The taxpayers of Norwich have made considerable investments at Dodd Stadium,

including a new backstop, HVAC system and upgraded lighting last year. The City signed a ten-year lease with the owners of the existing team last August – an agreement that was approved by both Major League and Minor League Baseball.

So what can we do? Call, email or write to Major League Baseball and let them know that you disagree with this decision. I applaud Congressman Joe Courtney for joining our fight along with more than 100 of his colleagues in opposing MLB's plan to eliminate more than 40 minor league teams – including our own Norwich Sea Unicorns.

Minor league ballgames are a vital part of our community and a more reasonable summer entertainment alternative than a long and expensive trip to Fenway Park or Yankee Stadium. It is important that we all tell the Commissioner's Office that minor league baseball must stay in Norwich.

Working together, our community can help turn this decision around.

NPU provides 'Day of Caring' for Thames River Place

As part of its celebration of Public Power Week, Public Gas Week and Customer Service Week last October, Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) provided a 'Day of Caring' for Thames River Place on Friday, October 18.

"NPU plays a number of roles in Norwich, and among the most important is helping other organizations that are committed to meeting the needs of our community," said Chris LaRose, General Manager of NPU. "We were very excited to lend the time and talents of our employees to Thames River Place and support the critical work that they do every day."

NPU employees completed a number of projects, both inside and outside of the facilities of Thames River Place, including repairing sidewalks, internal painting, power washing exterior siding, repairing playground apparatus, installing motion /



building's air condition system.

NPU selected Thames River Community Service as part of its ongoing commitment to the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut.

Thames River Community Service, Inc. (TRCS) provides a safe environment and housing for families and individuals

occupancy sensors in hallways to help save on energy costs, light carpentry and remodeling, and upgraded portions of the

experiencing homelessness. Through support services, TRCS pursue goals for self-sufficiency and greater control over their lives by promoting family and individual wellness, empowering and developing achievable plans for successful independent living, pursuing significant employment, acquiring life skills, and learning to maintain stability.



Like us on Facebook for important information and utility service updates

Are you on Facebook? If so, be sure to like our Facebook page @NPUutilities to be in the loop on important utility-related information, outage updates, efficiency tips and more.

However, any emergency issues with your natural gas, electric, water or

wastewater services should not be reported via Facebook. For immediate attention, call NPU at 860-887-2555 to report the issue. This phone number is answered by a staff member 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A group of NPU employees braved the cold temperatures to participate in the annual Norwich Winterfest Parade where our Candyland float won Best Theme.



HERE TO SERVE YOU

Visit our website for more information: norwichpublicutilities.com

Please call, fax or e-mail us your questions, comments and suggestions.

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