



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

**PRESS RELEASE
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Tarentum Advances Utility Restructuring with Water Rate Freeze and Electric System Modernization

TARENTUM, PA – Tarentum Borough Council has approved the next phase of its long-term utility restructuring, including a residential water rate freeze and significant modernization efforts across both the water and electric systems.

Water System Updates

Council approved a rate freeze for 5/8-inch residential meters through 2029. These meters currently pay the highest price per 1,000 gallons, and freezing their rate reflects the Borough's commitment to fairness and equity. The change aligns with recommendations from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to standardize rates across customer classes. Larger meter sizes will see gradual rate increases over the next four years to bring them in line with residential rates.

In addition to rate adjustments, the Borough is implementing the most comprehensive water system plan in its history:

- Development of the first long-range capital plan for water infrastructure, including a strategy to replace a set amount of waterline annually.
- Rollout of a leak and pressure detection program to proactively monitor system performance.
- Deployment of hydrant flushers, now operational, to enhance water quality and circulation.
- Cross-training of staff in water distribution to reduce reliance on any single employee for system repairs.

Electric System Updates

On the electric side, Tarentum continues its shift toward greater in-house capacity and modernized infrastructure. Currently, the Borough relies on a contracted lineman. Plans are underway to hire a second lineman and bring both roles in-house as Borough employees, an approach expected to reduce cost per lineman and increase operational flexibility.

The Borough has also made significant technological advancements over the past two years:

- Savvy Citizen alerts and an online outage reporting tool now deliver real-time communication to residents during outages or emergencies.
- With advanced AMI meter technology, Borough staff are automatically notified when a meter fails, enabling quicker responses and reduced outage times.
- The Borough is exploring additional modernization tools such as advanced SCADA systems and automatic reclosers to enhance grid monitoring and reliability.

At the start of 2025, Tarentum also consolidated electric supply contracting, legal strategy, regulatory compliance, and load forecasting under the Borough Manager as a trial, streamlining services

previously split among multiple contractors and consultants. This consolidation will be evaluated in the coming months.

A Comprehensive Realignment

This dual restructuring marks the **first major utility realignment in decades** for the Borough. Officials are focused on improving efficiency, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring long-term stability for Tarentum ratepayers.

“Our community depends on reliable and fairly priced utilities,” said Borough Manager Dwight Boddorf. “These changes position Tarentum for the future, ensuring equity in water pricing, modern infrastructure planning, and stronger control over our electric system. We are building resilience and efficiency that will benefit residents for years to come.”

Tarentum Borough will continue to keep residents informed as these initiatives move forward.

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