

# 2026

## ANNUAL AE2S UTILITY RATE SURVEY REGIONAL/RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

IN COOPERATION WITH



### INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete the survey online, or complete the following print survey (7 pages) and fax, mail, or email as a PDF to:

**Mail** Miranda Kleven  
AE2S Nexus  
4050 Garden View Drive, Suite 200  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

**Email** ratesurvey@ae2s.com

**Fax** 701-746-0370  
Attention: Miranda Kleven



**ONLINE VERSION | [www.ae2sratesurvey.com](http://www.ae2sratesurvey.com)**

Access the data you submitted last year for easier and faster survey completion!

### PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY MARCH 20, 2026

*All survey participants will receive a complimentary copy of the utility rate survey report. AE2S reserves the right to limit the distribution of surveys to survey participants.*

Regional Water System: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name (Last): \_\_\_\_\_ (First): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide the following information for each person that you would like to receive a copy of the utility rate survey report booklet:*

NAME	TITLE	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## WATER SOURCE

- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Combined
- Purchased from (source type):
  - Surface Water    Groundwater
  - Combined    Other

If Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

## TYPE OF TREATMENT PROCESS:

- Disinfection Only  
Type of Disinfection: \_\_\_\_\_
- Iron & Manganese removal
  - Sand Filter
  - Green Sand Filter
- Clarification
- Softening
  - Lime Softening
  - Membrane Softening

Population Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of individual users (accounts/meters) on system: \_\_\_\_\_

Average monthly residential water use per account (gallons or CCF): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bulk users (towns, special user contracts) on system: \_\_\_\_\_

## WASTEWATER

**DO YOU PROVIDE WASTEWATER SERVICE?**    Yes    No

## RATE STRUCTURE

Does your water rate structure include a fixed monthly minimum for rural/residential users?

- Yes    No

Does your fixed monthly rate vary according to meter size?

- Yes    No

Does your water rate structure include a volumetric charge (per 1,000 gallons or 100 cubic feet)?

- Yes    No

What type of volumetric water rate structure(s) do you currently charge per 1,000 gallons or 100 cubic feet?

- Constant Block    Declining Block
- Inclining Block    Flat/Fixed Fee (no volumetric rate)
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Did you increase your water rates for 2026?

- No    Yes \_\_\_\_\_ %

## WATER PURCHASE COST (IF PURCHASED):

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  1,000 Gallons    CCF

**WATER LOSS (%):** \_\_\_\_\_

## BILLING IS IN:

- 1,000 Gallons
- CCF

## FREQUENCY OF BILLING

Monthly    Quarterly   Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:

Administrative/Customer Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution/Field: \_\_\_\_\_

## RATE INFORMATION

If your current rate schedule includes the information below, you can send a copy of it along with this survey, instead of completing the form below. If your rate schedule is unavailable, please complete the rest of the form.

<b>RESIDENTIAL USER RATE - WATER</b>		
Base Water Charge	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly
Is Any Volume Included in Base Rate?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Gallons <input type="checkbox"/> Cubic Feet are Included in Base Rate	
Water Rate Per Volume	Tier 1 Rate: \$ _____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF	
	Tier 1 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF	
	Tier 2 Rate: \$ _____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF	
	Tier 2 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF	
Tier 3 Rate: \$ _____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF		
Tier 3 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF		
Additional Fixed Charges or Fees (please specify what the charge is for)	\$ _____ for _____ \$ _____ for _____	
Please Calculate Cost for 6,000 Gallons of Monthly Use	\$ _____ Fixed Charge + \$ _____ Variable Charge for 6,000 Gallons/8.02 CCF = \$ _____ Total Charge for 6,000 Gallons/8.02 CCF	
Comments/Explanation		

<b>RESIDENTIAL USER RATE - WASTEWATER</b>		
Base Water Charge	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly
Is Any Volume Included in Base Rate?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Gallons <input type="checkbox"/> Cubic Feet are Included in Base Rate	
Water Rate Per Volume	Tier 1 Rate: \$ _____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF	
	Tier 1 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF	
	Tier 2 Rate: \$ _____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF	
	Tier 2 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF	
Tier 3 Rate: \$ _____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF		
Tier 3 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF		
Additional Fixed Charges or Fees (please specify what the charge is for)	\$ _____ for _____ \$ _____ for _____	
Please Calculate Cost for 6,000 Gallons of Monthly Use	\$ _____ Fixed Charge + \$ _____ Variable Charge for 6,000 Gallons/8.02 CCF = \$ _____ Total Charge for 6,000 Gallons/8.02 CCF	
Comments/Explanation		

**INDUSTRIAL USER WATER RATES-FIXED:**

- Single Fixed Charge: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Fixed Charge that varies by meter size: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (for 4-inch meter)
- Fixed Charge that varies by contract: \$\_\_\_\_\_

INDUSTRIAL USER RATES-VOLUMETRIC	
Water Rate Per Volume	Tier 1 Rate: \$_____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF
	Tier 1 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF
	Tier 2 Rate: \$_____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF
	Tier 2 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF
	Tier 3 Rate: \$_____ per <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 Gallons or <input type="checkbox"/> CCF
	Tier 3 Volume: _____ to _____ 1,000 Gallons or CCF

**BULK USER RATES-FIXED:**

- Single Fixed Charge: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Fixed Charge that varies by meter size: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (for 4-inch meter)
- Fixed Charge that varies by contract: \$\_\_\_\_\_

BULK USER RATES-VOLUMETRIC	\$ PER UNIT
Bulk User 1	
Bulk User 2	
Bulk User 3	
Bulk User 4	
Bulk User 5	
Bulk User 6	
Bulk User 7	
Bulk User 8	
Bulk User 9	
Bulk User 10	

## UTILITY STATISTICS

Individual utility results will not be reported and will be kept confidential.

2025 EXPENDITURES		\$
Personnel Services (salary /labor and benefits)		
Chemicals		
Water Purchase		
Electricity		
Non-personnel Budgeted Expenditures (exclude depreciation, chemicals, electricity, and debt service interest)		
Depreciation		
Debt Service Principal		
Debt Service Interest		
Cash-funded Capital Expenditures		
Debt-funded Capital Expenditures		
Estimated System Book Value (Water)		

2025 REVENUES		\$
User Rate Revenue		
Non-rate Revenue ( late fees, misc. Revenue)		
Membership/Hookup Fees		
Grant Funds		
Debt Proceeds		
Other		

### 2025 RESERVES:

RESERVE TYPE	TARGET LEVEL	
Capital Renewal/Replacement		
Debt Service		
Emergency/Rate Stabilization		
Operating Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> 60 Days <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Days <input type="checkbox"/> 90 Days <input type="checkbox"/> 600 Days or More <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Days <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Days or More	

# GENERAL OPERATING STATISTICS

## 2025 VOLUME OF WATER TREATED:

1,000 Gallons  
 CCF \_\_\_\_\_

Capital needs over the next 5-10 years: \$\_\_\_\_\_

System Debt Repayment is addressed using these mechanisms (please check all that apply):

Fixed Monthly or Quarterly User Fees       Property Tax Assessments  
 Sign Up/Connection Fees       Other – Please Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Served (square miles): \_\_\_\_\_

Miles of pipe: \_\_\_\_\_

Miles of pipeline rehabilitated in the last year: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2025 VOLUME OF WATER SOLD:

1,000 Gallons  
 CCF \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Geographical Information System (GIS)?

Yes  No

Do you have a SCADA system?  Yes  No

Please select the description that best defines your approach to system renewal/replacement/asset management:

Condition-based (based on the condition of the asset)  
 Performance-based (based on whether the asset is doing its intended job)  
 Service-based (based on whether the asset is providing an acceptable level of service)  
 Risk-based (takes into consideration the probability and consequence of failure)  
 No defined strategy

## 2025 CHALLENGES AND RESILIENCE

Did Operating Challenges in 2025 require unplanned use of Rural Water System reserve funds?

- Reserve funds used
- No reserve funds were used

Were Rural Water Reserve Funds adequate to support resilience of the system in 2025

- Yes
- No

Please rank all applicable general utility challenges from the list below with "1" being the greatest challenge.

<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Shortages	<input type="checkbox"/> Operational data management
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Cost Increases	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation-related
<input type="checkbox"/> Aging infrastructure/replacement needs	logistical challenges (railway, trucking, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cyber security threats	<input type="checkbox"/> Public understanding of the value of water
<input type="checkbox"/> Capital funding challenges	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial sustainability
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> Drought or other climate impacts
<input type="checkbox"/> Water supply availability/conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Affordability
<input type="checkbox"/> Water supply quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Workforce availability

How does your utility communicate rate increases to your customers? (Check all that apply)

- Announcement in utility bill
- Social media post(s)
- Letter to customers
- None of the above
- News release to local media
- Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Does your utility employ someone devoted to communication tasks?

- Yes, we have a full-time communications professional on staff.
- Yes, we have someone responsible for communications tasks among other responsibilities.
- No, we do not have anyone responsible for communications.
- I don't know.

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR 2026 RATE SURVEY!**