



RESERVOIR OF **PROGRESS**

A Year of Growth and Achievement

JOIN US FOR THE
36TH ANNUAL MEETING



March 13, 2025



5:30 PM



Effingham Event Center

OUR COMMITMENT

Provide healthy drinking water to you and your family.

TOP

3

PRIORITIES
EXPRESSED
BY MEMBERS

1.

Quality
Water



2.

System
Reliability



3.

Affordable
Rates



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

RESERVOIR OF PROGRESS

A Year of Growth and Achievement



March 13, 2025



4:30 PM - Registration | **5:30 PM** - Meeting



Effingham Event Center

1501 W Fayette Ave.
Effingham, IL 62401



For more info visit

ejwatercoop.com/annualmeeting

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc., an Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation, will be held at the Effingham Event Center in Effingham, Illinois on March 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. It is hoped that each member can attend.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2025.

Jason Warfel, President
EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Testing above EPA Standards - Certified Water Lab with 6 qualified technicians
- Built 250MG Reservoir (Reliability)
- Average 20 year increase has been below average 20 year CPI increase

2

3

THE 2025 PROGRESS REPORT

Last year EJ Water celebrated its 35th year in business, which is a testament to the strong vision and execution of our founding Board Members. As with most things, an idea is just that, an idea until it touches someone that is fearless and courageous to take those faithful next steps.

Our late founder, Delbert Mundt, was famous to lament that a lot of people talk but very few people do something about it. We are forever grateful that he did something about it.

Just like all of our household budgets, the dollar doesn't seem to go very far. Recently I was buying a bottle of ketchup, and it was \$8.89 and that wasn't for the oversized bottle for over \$13.00. The same thing has happened in our business; everything is costing more. In fact, the economics we leveraged over the last 35 years will not work today. Especially when our system average is only 4.2 customers per mile. Again, we're forever grateful he did something about it.

Given these Capital and Operating Cost challenges, the Coop continues to look at other opportunities to grow as long as it doesn't negatively impact water quality, service, or rates. We continue to focus on what we can control, which is maintaining world-class customer service and watching our budget and operating indicators. One such measure is how many miles we drove. In 2023, it was 629,369 miles compared to 600,226 in 2024 showing a reduction of 4.6%. While this may seem small, it translates into driving nearly 30,000 less miles in one year.



Bill Teichmiller, *CEO*

We continue to watch our weekly indicators continuing to focus on costs that we can easily change for a more efficient and economic outcome for our members.

Rural regionalization of towns and rural water suppliers in our area will continue to grow in the future. This will translate into more contractual relationships with the Coop and possibly additional acquisitions if this makes strategic and economic sense for our members. As the ole saying goes, we'll all need to do more with less.

The Board of Directors and Leadership team began holding annual strategic planning sessions last year to formalize and maintain an annual plan which serves as a road map moving forward.

Our capital plan this year was:

💧 **Phase 76 – Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant Expansion. – construction will be 2025-2028**

- The original plant built in 2010 is at its capacity after 15-years of service. This expansion will allow the plant to serve more retail and wholesale members and provide additional reliability and process redundancy to its service area. This expansion is being built on a phase-by-phase basis allowing the capital debt service to be transitioned more evenly as the Coop continues to grow.

💧 **Phase 91 – Water System Improvements – construction is in 2025**

- Constructing 100,000-gallon elevated water tower in Coalton (Montgomery County).
- High Service Pump Room at Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant to serve north and westward service areas.
- Refurbish Strasburg elevated water tower.
- Owaneco (Christian County) water distribution replacement/upgrade.
- Richland County new rural water distribution serving unserved members.

💧 **Phase 93** – 300,000 kW Solar Array at Gila Water Treatment Plant (Jasper County). This project was completed in Oct 2024.

💧 **Phase 1** – Wastewater System Improvements– construction is in 2025

- Watson (Effingham County) sewer lining and refurbishing of collection system.
- Witt (Montgomery County) sewer lining and refurbishing of collection system.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you, our Members.

Best,
Bill Teichmiller

Bill Teichmiller



YOUR CO-OP

PROVIDING **HEALTHY DRINKING WATER** TO NEARLY

100,000 PEOPLE

THROUGHOUT

19 ILLINOIS COUNTIES

THANK YOU!

EJ Members are the owner and heart of the CO-OP. Our members help make it possible for us to bring water and other services to more communities.



Solar Project at Gila Water Treatment Plant



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1



DIANE AHERIN
DIRECTOR



CHRIS HARTKE
DIRECTOR



GAIL GARBE
SECRETARY

DISTRICT 2



JASON WARFEL
PRESIDENT



MIKE HALL
VICE PRESIDENT



JEFF WILSON
TREASURER

DISTRICT 3



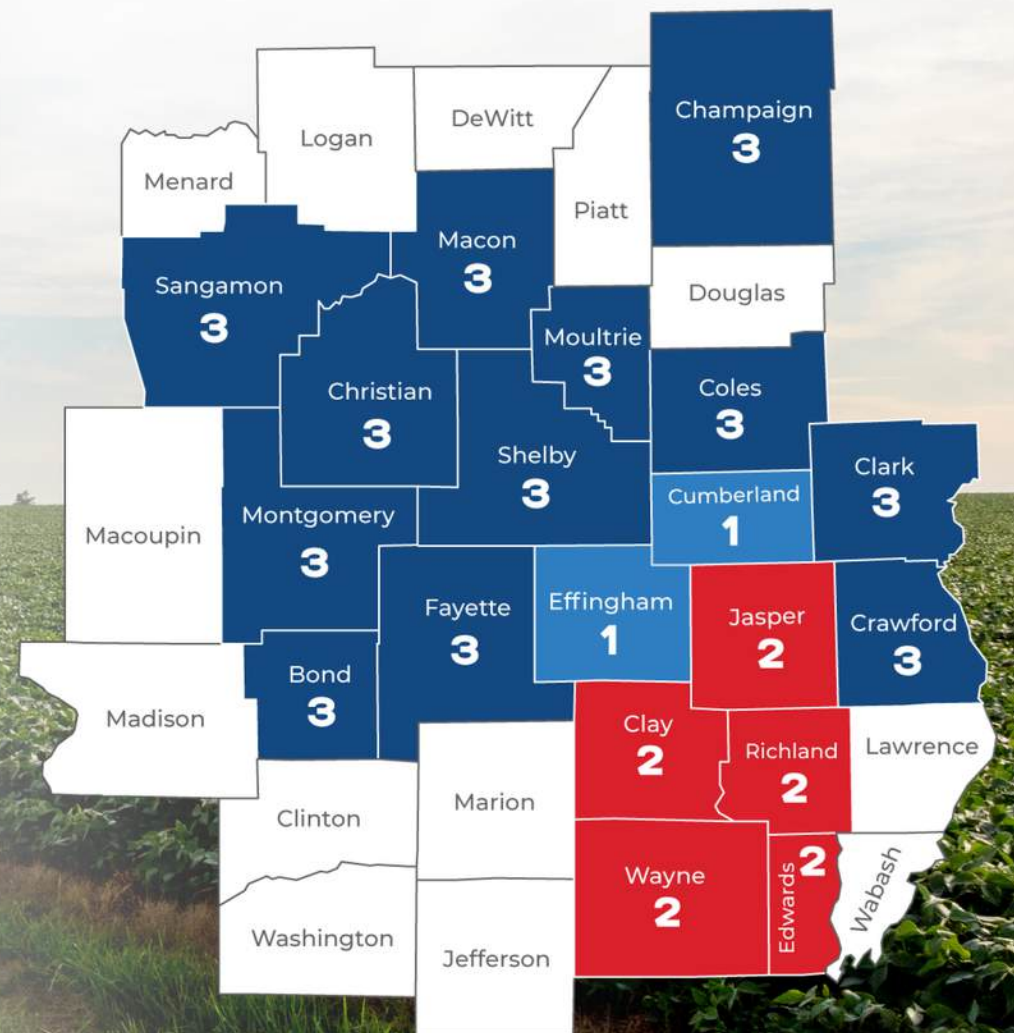
JIMMY AYERS
DIRECTOR



CHUCK SMEDLEY
DIRECTOR



GARRY MORRISON
DIRECTOR



REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. met on December 9, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the offices of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. in Dieterich, Illinois. In attendance at the meeting were the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Judy Verdeyen*	Randy Rusk*
Randy Brooks*	Bryan Cox
AC Pickens	Dean McWard*
Bill Jansen	Louise Lee*
Brian Bohnoff	

*Attended by telephone conference

(Strike through any absentees, and insert name(s) below:)

Absent was: NONE

Upon a motion by Bill Jansen, seconded by Brian Bohnoff, AC Pickens was elected Chairman of the meeting. Upon a motion by Brian Bohnoff, seconded by Bryan Cox, Bill Jansen was elected Secretary of the meeting.

The members of the Committee were advised of their duties including the duties to determine the accuracy and authenticity of such petitions, establish and approve the manner of Member registration and voting by ballot for contested positions, count ballots and other possible responsibilities at a future meeting, as well as elect director(s) by acclamation if any position is uncontested, to count said ballots. The winners for the three Board of Director positions shall be announced at the annual meeting of members to be held on March 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM at the Effingham Event Center 1501 West Fayette Avenue, Effingham, Illinois.

Upon a motion by Randy Rusk, seconded by Bryan Cox, the Committee, by a vote of 9-0, determined the petition of Diane Aherin, as a District 1 representative to be accurate and authentic.

Upon a motions by Louise Lee, seconded by Brian Bohnoff, the Committee, by a vote of 9-0 determined the petition of Jason Warfel, as a District 2 representative to be accurate and authentic.

The Committee was advised that no petitions were for a District 3 representative so the position would be deemed vacant after the current term expires and will be filled by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

Upon a motion by Randy Rusk, seconded by Louise Lee, the Committee, by a vote of 9-0 elected by acclamation Diane Aherin as District 1 representative for a three-year term.

Upon a motion by Bryan Cox, seconded by Bill Jansen, the Committee, by a vote of 9-0 elected by acclamation Jason Warfel as District 2 representative for a three-year term.

Upon a motion by Brian Bohnhoff, seconded by Judy Verdeyen, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:14 PM.

Dated this 19th Day of December, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Jansen, Secretary
Nomination Committee



MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 35th Annual Meeting of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. was held in person and as a livestream event on March 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Effingham Event Center. President Jason Warfel called the meeting to order followed by the National Anthem sung by Michael Love and the invocation was then given by Jeff Wilson.

At this time, all veterans in attendance were recognized and a small gift was presented to each one. President Warfel review housekeeping items.

President Warfel introduced Secretary Gail Garbe who reported that a total of 60 members were present in person, 13 via Zoom, in addition to 26 proxies, for a total of 99 members, exceeding the bylaws requirement for a quorum.

President Warfel introduced Vince Fisher as Sergeant in Arms for the evening and Aaron Leonard with Taylor Law Offices as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

President Warfel then read the Proof of Mailing Notice for the 35th Annual Meeting.

President Warfel then presided over the reading of the 2023 minutes. He requested a motion to amend the agenda to include a portion for public member comment. Upon a motion by P.B. Finley, seconded by Louis Ochs, the membership voted to amend the agenda. President Warfel requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Upon a motion by Ron Zwilling, seconded by Nick Wentz, the membership voted to dispense with reading the 2023 annual meeting minutes.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Jeff Wilson presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ending September 30, 2023.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Warfel then presented his president's report highlight the Strategic Plan that the board recently adopted. He explained the planned had three main objectives, planned growth, develop, measure and define success and also employee retention and succession planning. He quoted Warren Buffett saying "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago," and thanked everyone who dreamed, supported, and been a part of the EJ Journey.

CEO REPORT

Bill Teichmiller began by welcoming everyone to the 35th Annual Meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the members for their faith in the Board of Directors and the Leadership Team. He then recognized the board members and the staff. He then walked the membership through the history of EJ Water

Bill then provided information on the various projects EJ has worked on since last year's meeting. They are:

- Phase 48 , new side channel reservoir –This is located west of the Delbert D. Munt Water Treatment Plant. The reservoir is nearly full and will be a great resource in the future.
- Phase 57, which was a system improvement project as well as erecting a new water tower north of Pana and upgrading the Lakewood Booster station is completed.

Bill thanked all the members, Board members and recognized the great partnerships EJ has with Milano & Grunloh, and Taylor Law Offices. He thanked all the participants of today's meeting including Michael Love, Jeff Wilson, Effingham Event Center, & Kirby Foods. He also recognized the relationship EJ has with local banks for taking a risk on EJ including Dieterich Bank, Peoples State Bank, Midland States Bank, Clay County Bank, and the First State Bank of Beecher City. He also recognized EJ's relationships with other municipalities and counties. He thanked his wife for her support and then concluded by stating it is an honor and a privilege to serve all the EJ Water members. Thank you for helping us to succeed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

President Warfel presided over the election of directors. In lieu of reading the Nominating Committee minutes, President Warfel requested approval to dispense with the reading of the Nominating Committee meeting minutes. Upon a motion by Tammy Wright, seconded by Jim Perry, the membership unanimously voted to dispense with the reading of the Nominating Committee minutes and approving them.

President Warfel stated the nominations designated by the Committee were District 2, Mike Hall; District 3, Garry Morrison. President Warfel stated that the District 1 seat was vacant due to an invalid petition and the Board would be appointing that seat at the next board meeting. President Warfel then introduced the rest of the Board members, District 1 – Gail Garbe, Diane Aherin and Chris Hartke, District 2 – Jeff Wilson and himself, District 3 – Chuck Smedley and Jimmy Ayers.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Bill Teichmiller and President Warfel presented service awards to the following individuals:

- Chris Hartke, Board Member 20 years
- Martha Miller, retired staff after 20 years
- Dean Swingler, 25 years

Bill then noted that free water for a year will be given to 13 members, and they will be announced tomorrow. Winners of the giveaway will be contacted and announced on both social media and EJ Water’s website.

President Warfel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a motion by Jim Perry, seconded by Raymond Drees, the membership voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES

The winners were: Barbara Hume, Robert Hagerstrom, Charles Bishop, Raymond Drees, Robert Anderson, James Perry, Kyle VanDyke, Rick and Sheryl Vonderheide, and Max Tonn.

65" ONN Smart TV	Barbara Hume
55" ONN Smart TV	Robert Hagerstrom
43" ONN Smart TV	Charles Bishop
JBL Charge 5 Bluetooth Speaker	Raymond Drees
JBL Flip 6 Bluetooth Speaker	Robert Anderson
JBL Flip 6 Bluetooth Speaker	James Perry
\$100 Visa Gift Card	Kyle VanDyke
\$100 Visa Gift Card	Rick & Sheryl Vonderheide
\$100 Visa Gift Card	Max Tonn

EJ CO-OP+

OUR SERVICES

These services provide solutions in addition to delivering water and wastewater to communities that help them thrive and grow. Click the link to learn more about each service we offer!

WHOLESALE WATER

[LEARN MORE](#)

WASTEWATER SERVICES

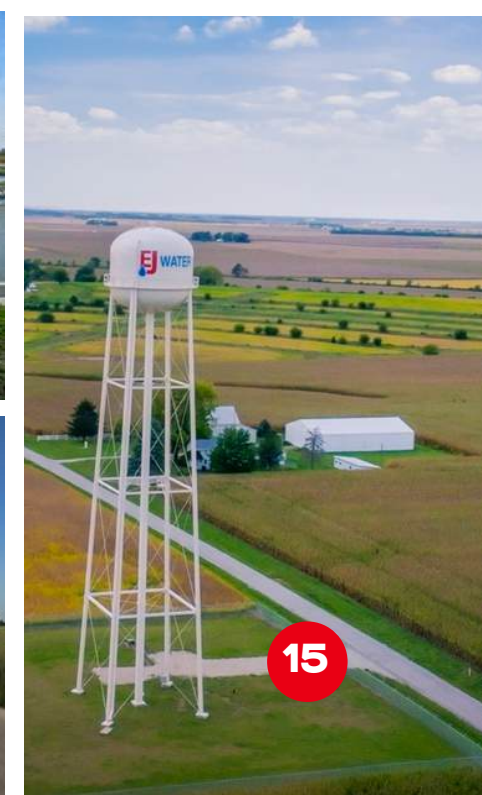
[LEARN MORE](#)

WATER LAB

[LEARN MORE](#)

CONTRACT SERVICES

[LEARN MORE](#)



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WASTEWATER SERVICES

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?
Visit our website and fill out an inquiry form!

WHY CHOOSE EJ WASTEWATER?

- ✓ EJ serves as a liaison between the community IEPA in instances of noncompliance, agency questions and on-site inspections.
- ✓ EJ provides wastewater sampling/analysis of on-site required tests like pH and Dissolved Oxygen
- ✓ Future plans include building an in-house EJ wastewater lab for sampling and analysis of Influent and Effluent for all types of parameters, including fecal coliform.
- ✓ EJ mentors Village/City Employees
- ✓ We have 137 Years of combined service amongst our operators

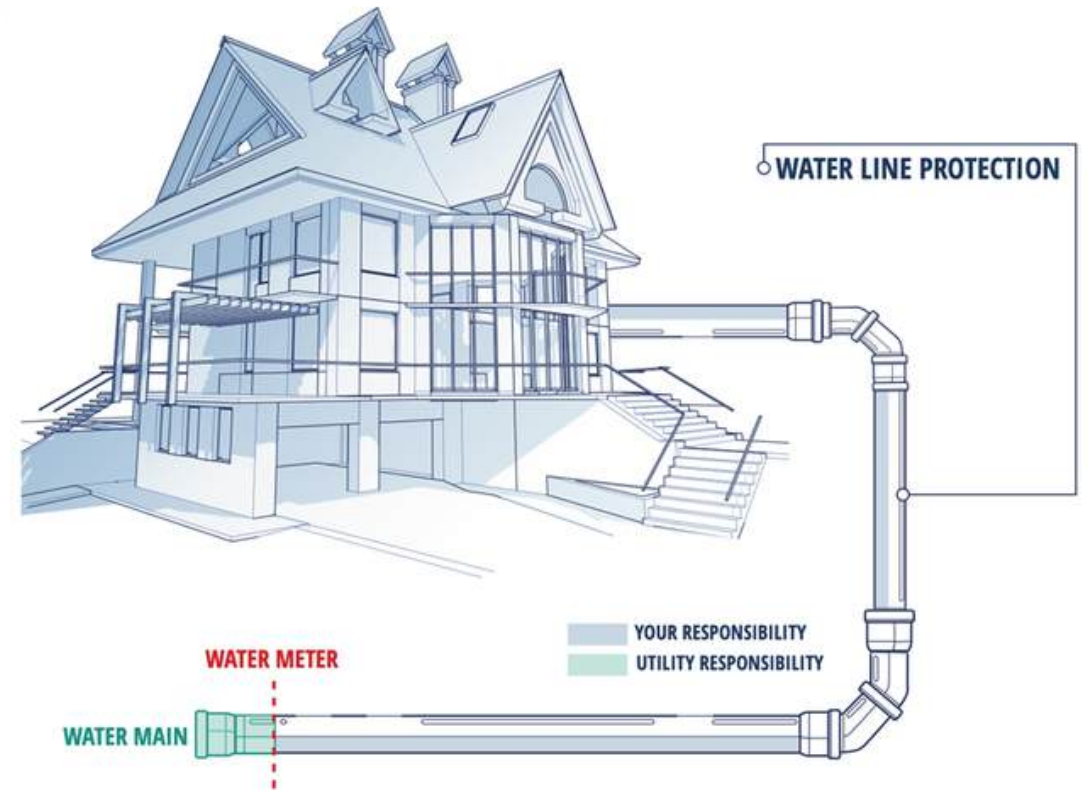
LEARN MORE

WASTEWATER FACTS

- Toilets, showers, and faucets represent 62% of all indoor water use
- Sewers were invented in 600 BC by the Romans
- 99% of wastewater is just dirty water; the other 1 percent is solids, chemicals, nutrients, fats, and other pollutants
- The largest wastewater plant in the world treats over 330 million gallons of wastewater a day

WATER SERVICE LINE PROTECTION PROGRAM

EJ Water offers a member-exclusive service that provides peace of mind and protection with water loss coverage for only **\$3.95/Month**.



What is Covered?

- ✓ Cost of water loss due to a leak
- ✓ Leak coverage
- ✓ Repair or replacement
- ✓ Leak up to 2 feet from the foundation or permanent structure
- ✓ Leaks up to 2 feet from an outside hydrant

To learn more or opt-out, visit the link below.

MORE DETAILS

DID YOU KNOW?

The average cost to repair service line: **\$700-1000** per instance

SAY **HELLO** TO YOUR **EJ WATER PORTAL!**

What the Portal has to offer:

- Monitor your account(s)
- Update your contact information
- Make one-time payments (subject to processing fees)
- Set up autopay
- Access past and current statements

[GO TO PORTAL](#) 



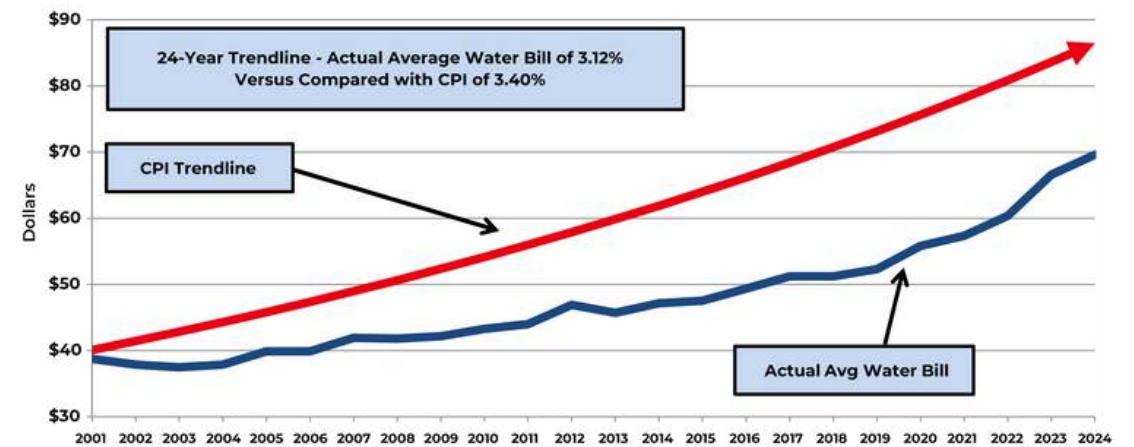
Putting your water into **PERSPECTIVE:**

EJ Water bills at a rate of less than one penny per gallon of water consumed



EJ **MAKING RATES AFFORDABLE**

EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.
Annual Average Monthly Water Bill



3 EASY WAYS TO KEEP YOUR ACCOUNT UP-TO-DATE

Is your mail delayed? Our member services team has several ways to keep your account up-to-date.

1. ACH

Request a form from our office to have your monthly bill automatically withdrawn from your bank account at no charge! Payments will be drafted from your account on your due date—next business day if due date falls on a weekend or holiday.

2. RECURRING PAYMENTS

You can set up recurring monthly payments from a credit or debit card. (Subject to card processing fees).

3. PAPERLESS BILLING

Avoid mail delays by receiving your statement via email or text message.



FUN FACT

Our \$0.58 service fee to process a one-time payment by e-check is cheaper than a postage stamp!*

*Based on current rates

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please ensure that if you utilize bill pay through your bank that your account number is accurately listed in the new format - ie: A00001234 - to ensure proper payment application

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION/PLANNING

EJ Water updated their source water protection plan in 2023. It is our goal to be intentional in sharing information regarding water quality, protection, planning, and compliance updates. Below are a couple of projects that are currently underway. If you have questions regarding the below topics, or other topics, please email ejwater@ejwater.com.

UCMR 5

Every 5 years the EPA issues a list of unregulated contaminants that are to be monitored by public water systems. These programs provide the EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the national occurrence of these contaminants in the drinking water.

This is the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For this project, EJ Water, along with other water systems, are required to collect samples and test for 30 different chemical contaminants (29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium) between 2023 and 2025. EJ's samples have had no detection of these chemicals.

Click link to learn more:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

In an effort to reduce lead in drinking water, the Federal EPA is requiring all water systems to create and maintain an inventory of service line materials. The inventory requires the water system to list all water connections and list the type of service line material on both sides of the water meter (customer side and utility side). Verification is required when documenting the type of material. EJ Water is using an online survey for this verification process – it is our hope that all members will complete the online survey to expedite this project. The survey can be accessed with the following link:

Survey Link: https://120Water.formstack.com/forms/ejwater_serviceline_survey

Click here to learn more about the inventory project:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/planning-and-developing-service-line-inventory>



**THANK
YOU!**



**TO ALL THE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO HAVE
SERVED OR CURRENTLY
SERVE OUR NATION**





**108 S. Main St.
Dieterich, IL 62424**



217-925-5566



EJWATERCOOP.COM

*Click the icons below to visit our
social media pages!*

