

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What are *Contract Communities*?**

The jurisdictions that currently buy water from Toledo: cities of Maumee, Perrysburg, Sylvania, and Waterville; Fulton County, Lucas County, Northwestern Water and Sewer District (much of Wood County), and Monroe County; the village of Whitehouse.

### **Does this mean water customers' bills are going to increase?**

The Regional Water Study by itself does not mean water rates are going to increase. The City of Toledo and the communities that buy water from Toledo are faced with decisions to consider and those decisions can certainly impact customers' water rates over time.

### **Is the \$188 million of additional capital cost to improve the Toledo water system included in the rate study?**

Yes. The additional cost of plant upgrades approved by Ohio EPA, additional treatment barriers to remove Harmful Algae Bloom toxins, and inflationary costs of construction are included in the rate study.

### **Is this the cost for a new sewer system?**

This study looked at water supply and treatment – drinking water, cooking water, etc. It does not address questions of wastewater treatment or sewage treatment.

### **The study refers to monthly cost per 1,000 cu. ft. – what's that?**

To compare water rates, it is assumed that each customer uses approximately 1,000 cubic feet per month. This equates to approx. 7,500 gallons per month. Customers can look at their water bill and see their actual usage in cubic feet or gallons depending on the community.

### **What is the difference between *Water Cost* and *Local Rate*?**

Water Cost is the cost that is charged for the supply of water (1,000 cu.ft. per month). Local Rate is an additional charge that the contract communities add for their water distribution system needs. Toledo does not have a separate local rate as their water cost includes supply and distribution.

### **Is there a time table for the City of Toledo and/or contract communities to take action?**

The City of Toledo has begun substantial improvements at the Collins Park Water Treatment Plant. If there is an option to supplement the existing water system with a new Water Treatment Plant as a back-up and part of a regional system, action is needed as soon as possible as current expenses planned at the Collins Park Water Treatment Plant may be avoided. There are other contract communities with separate studies to explore alternatives for water. The timing to build a new Water Plant – if that option is selected by any community or group of communities – anticipates design, permits and land acquisition to begin in 2017.

### **It appears that Scenario 3 is the most cost-effective for the region – why not proceed with that and what are the next steps?**

Cost of water is not the only factor in the decision to structure a regional water system. Cost is important, but so are predictability, reliability, safety, and governance. Any system would have to be flexible and manageable well into the future regardless of how the region grows and develops. Even if Scenario 3 is the option selected, the structure of the recommended action is as important as the selection of the scenario.

### **What are the possibilities for a regional system?**

There are many more than these three rate study scenarios: one new water intake in Toledo, a new water intake somewhere else, a new water treatment plant and a new water intake, a new system for some of the region, one system managed in a whole different way. Those are options that people in the region are considering and weighing.

### **Who would be responsible for operating a regional system?**

Governance of a regional water system was not a part of the study scope. The operation of a regional system would have to be determined by the policy-making bodies of Toledo and the jurisdictions that currently buy water from the City of Toledo. The purpose of the study was to determine water rates considering three different scenarios for supplying treated water to the region.