



Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What are separate charges?*

Seattle Public Utilities sets charges for specific services the utility performs for individual customers. For example, there are charges for SPU crews to install new water services (“taps”) and connect a new water main to the water system.

2. *Why are the charges being updated?*

The current charges do not reflect the actual costs for SPU to provide these services in 2026. Updating the charges to actual costs ensures SPU ratepayers are not subsidizing these services.

3. *Which charges are being updated?*

SPU plans to update the following charges:

- New water services (“taps”)
- Water main improvement services

A complete list of the current charges and the proposed 2026 charges is available at: www.seattle.gov/utilities/about/policies.



4. *When will the updated charges go into effect?*

January 1, 2026, pending the adoption of a Director’s Rule.

5. *When can I provide comments on the proposed charges?*

A notice soliciting public comment will be published in the Daily Journal of Commerce on October 27, 2025. The public comment period will end on November 17, 2025. Comments can be sent to Julie Vorhes at Julie.Vorhes@seattle.gov.

6. *How are separate charges set?*

Each charge is based on the actual cost for SPU to provide the service. In developing each charge, SPU reviews the current business process and identifies the specific costs required to provide the service, including labor, equipment, materials, overhead, and taxes.

7. *How will the 2026 charges be applied to active projects?*

If the Director’s Rule is adopted, any Development Services Office (DSO) invoice issued on or after the January 1, 2026 effective date will be based on the updated charges. DSO invoices issued prior to the effective date will remain unchanged unless the invoice is revised or reissued after the proposed effective date.

8. *Will these and other charges change in the future?*

Charges will be reviewed and updated on a recurring schedule. The charges not updated in 2026 will be revised as part of future charge updates.

