



Dalton Utilities staff accepts awards at GAWP Fall Conference.
(L to R): Marti Bryson, Lori McDaniel, Mark Buckner, Steve Bratton, LaBron Morgan and David White.

DALTON UTILITIES RECEIVES TOP HONORS FROM GAWP

Dalton Utilities received four awards at Georgia Association of Water Professional's (GAWP) Fall 2006 Conference. Dalton Utilities received GAWP's prestigious 2006 Water Distribution System of the Year and 2006 Wastewater Collection System of the Year. The Utility received these same honors in 2004 but could not be eligible for competition for two consecutive years. Additionally, Dalton Utilities received GAWP's 2006 Wastewater Laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control Award. The Utility won the same honor for their Water Laboratory in 2005.

Over 100 of the top water and wastewater municipalities in the State were eligible to participate in this annual competition and were evaluated in categories including employee resources, facilities and operations, safety, emergency response, and staff technical training.

Dalton Utilities also received First Place in GAWP's Consumer Confidence Report Award for a Large Surface Water System. Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) are annual water quality updates municipalities release to their public providing information on tap water quality to keep the community well informed about their local public drinking water supply. The GAWP Consumer Confidence Awards are judged based on readability, required technical components, and overall design.

"We are proud to recognize Dalton Utilities' outstanding efforts to deliver safe drinking water," said Jack Dozier, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. "Dalton Utilities is to be commended for setting the example for every other municipality in the state".

Financial Assistance Available for Heating Costs

For those who need financial assistance with their heating bills, several local organizations have assistance programs available to those who meet the qualifications.

- Federal funding:** Community Action Center (226-7241)
Local funding: Department of Family and Children's Services (272-2331)
 DOC-UP (278-7883)
 *Salvation Army/Project Share (278-3966)

* - Project Share is a program funded by donations from customers of Dalton Utilities, Georgia Power and North Georgia EMC. Utilities assistance funding through Project Share is administered through the Salvation Army. All requests for Project Share funds must go through the Salvation Army.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

We will be closed for business on the following days so that our employees may spend these days with their families.

Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26
Monday, January 1

We always have crews on call to address emergencies. Should you experience a service interruption, please call

Our 24-hour Outage Line at
706-278-1313.

For OptiLink issues, call
706-529-1313.

Dalton Utilities wishes all of our customers a very happy and safe holiday season!

ELECTRIC RATES

On January 1, 2007, new electrical rates for all customers will go into effect. Currently, a typical residential bill (based on 1000 kWh or kilowatt hours) is \$46.89. With the new 2007 rate, the same usage will cost \$52.26. Commercial customers using 10,000 kWh are currently paying \$783.43. In 2007, they will pay \$898.91. Industrial customers using 600,000 kWh currently pay \$26,471.25 per month. In 2007, their bill will be \$30,449.97.

WATER RATES

On January 1, 2007, new water rates for all customers will go into effect. Currently, a typical residential bill (based on 7500 gallons usage) is \$10.46. With the new 2007 rate, the same usage will cost \$11.50. Please note that rates for customers in water project areas (Murray and Whitfield counties) will not change as full operational costs have already been built into those rates.

Commercial customers using 100,000 gallons are currently paying \$84.74. In 2007, they will pay \$94.78. Industrial customers using 10,000,000 gallons currently pay \$9,609.60 per month. In 2007, their bill will be \$11,299.20.

WASTEWATER RATES

On January 1, 2007, new wastewater rates for residential, commercial and industrial customers will go into effect. Currently, a typical residential bill (based on 7500 gallons usage) is \$14.35. With the new 2007 rate, the same usage will cost \$16.16. Commercial customers using 100,000 gallons are currently paying \$180.42. In 2007, they will pay \$215. Industrial customers using 10,000,000 gallons currently pay \$23,020.80 per month. In 2007, their bill will be \$26,294.40.

NATURAL GAS RATES

There will be no changes to natural gas rates

TELEVISION RATES

Rising content costs will result in new OptiLink television rates in 2007, as well. Basic Cable charges will go from \$29.95 to \$31.95. Enhanced Cable (digital package) rates will go from \$38.95 to \$42.95, and the Supreme Cable (digital plus movie packages) rates will go from \$68.95 to \$72.95. There will be no increases to OptiLink telephone or internet charges

New Rates Go Into Effect January 1, 2007

On Tuesday, November 21, 2006, the Board of Water, Light and Sinking Fund Commissioners approved Dalton Utilities' 2007 budget. Resulting rate changes will go into effect for certain utility services on January 1, 2007. Dalton Utilities' rates are driven by the Utility's Financial Policy which assesses current rates vs. operating expenses. It also applies a percentage of earnings from investments to keep rates as low as possible. A rate is only increased to the customer if the current rate is not sufficient to cover operating expenses after investment earning 'savings' has been applied. The same Financial Policy puts a ceiling on annual rate increases to protect customers from rate "jumps." This rate-making formula does not apply to OptiLink services, as regulatory restrictions prohibit the subsidization of telecommunication services rates.

Energy prices (electricity and natural gas) and rising regulatory requirements are huge factors in the cost of providing utility services. When these costs increase, the cost to provide service does as well. Annual review of operational costs and rates is a necessary function for any business. "Due to increasing fuel and regulatory costs, the Utility has paid significantly more for electricity than we have collected in revenues from our customers over the last several years.... \$6.7 million in 2004, \$9.2 million in 2005 and \$10.4 million is projected for 2006 for a total of \$26.3 million," said Don Cope, Dalton Utilities President and CEO.

"Continuing to supplement rates that are artificially low from our investment earnings is the equivalent of a household spending more than they earn each month and making up the difference by pulling from savings. It just isn't possible to continue with this trend and provide for future growth and maintaining service," said Cope.

Keep Grease Out of Our Sewers!!

Did you know that they are also the Number #1 cause of sewer blockages? Sewer overflows and back-ups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. And cold weather only aggravates the situation by hardening grease in sewer lines even faster!

How does grease get into the sewer system?

From household drains, as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

How do we keep grease OUT of the sewer system?

YOU! Just use these simple tips to avoid grease blockages in your drains:

DO NOT pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. (Home garbage disposals do NOT keep grease out of plumbing systems. Products, such as detergents, that claim to dissolve grease only pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.)

DO scrape grease and food scraps into a can, disposable container, or ziplock bag and dispose of it with the garbage.

DO remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment and food preparation areas with scrapers and/or towels. Keep grease out of wash water as much as possible.

DO insert baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash.

What are some other ways to avoid sewer blockages:

DO NOT put solids down the toilet or drain. Rags and cloth/disposable diapers are commonly found in sewer blockages.

DO NOT throw items in manholes. In fact, you should never lift a manhole cover! We often find garbage like buckets, cinder blocks, limbs, construction materials and other large items that have been thrown into manholes. These items quickly cause blockages, which can result in the sewer backing up in your home or your neighbors!!

If you see someone putting improper materials in the sewage system or manholes, call Dalton Utilities to report it at 706-278-1313. If it's someone on your street, the next sewer backup could be in YOUR home or business!



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Mt. Rachel Star: A Dalton Tradition

Dalton Utilities lit the Christmas star on top of Mount Rachel on December 1 to officially kick off the holiday season in Dalton. The star, a long-standing Dalton holiday tradition, is owned and maintained by Dalton Utilities. Last year, the star received a complete overhaul, so that it could continue to shine brightly through many holiday seasons to come. Dalton Utilities' electric crews overhauled the wiring for the structure, and the maintenance workshop totally rebuilt the frame and replaced all the lights.

The Mount Rachel Christmas star has been a Dalton tradition since it was created in 1935 by the late Carl McCamy, former superintendent of Dalton Utilities. Mr. McCamy built the first Christmas star to grace the top of Mount Rachel out of wood. It was a 30-foot tall wooden frame with 150 light bulbs attached to a pole. The temporary structure was placed on top of Mt. Rachel each December.

According to McCamy's daughter, the late Ann Henderson, "The star was lit every year after 1935, except during the blackouts in World War II. After my father's death, my mother would light the star. It continued to be a McCamy family tradition with most of the children in my family having had the opportunity to light the star."

In 1947, the temporary wooden structure was replaced with a permanent structure made of iron which shone over Dalton until December 2005 when the latest star made its debut. The Mount Rachel Star measures 40 feet in diameter and towers 65 feet above the mountain. Over 230 bulbs give the star its glow, which can be seen several miles away. The Mount Rachel Star will remain lit throughout the holiday season, continuing a 71-year community tradition



Si usted quisiera leer la información contenida en este boletín de noticias del cliente de Dalton Utilities en español, vaya por favor a nuestro Web site a <http://www.dutil.com/home.html> para leer esta información en línea o pase a nuestras oficinas en 1200 V.D Parrott Jr. Parkway y solicite una versión traducida de este boletín de noticias