- Filtered Water Bill Forecaster -

- Raw Water Bill Forecaster -

These cost analysis programs are based on MS Excel

Program Operating Information:

'Filtered Water Bill Forecaster' and 'Raw Water Bill Forecaster' programs each provide an accurate forecast for your next bill by progressively applying meter readings across a known billing period. The programs have provision for a substantial number of entries, however any lesser number of entries may be made, with the minimum requirement being just 2.

Municipal billing structures for water supply commonly incorporate an annual access charge together with a 2 stage consumption charge. Water Bills are normally rendered 3 or 4 times per years for Consumption, with the Access charge being rendered as a component of the annual rates notice. 'Filtered Water Bill Forecaster' and 'Raw Water Bill Forecaster' each accommodate this billing format.

Forecasts for both the periodic bill and annual cost are displayed, both with and without the separate 'Access Charge'. Additionally, the annual access charge may be toggled on or off to display the 'To Date Tally' and the overall 'Average $ per Day' cost with or without the inclusion of the separate 'Access Charge'

Program integrity is secure with the white data input cells being the only user accessible areas of the program.

Average Daily Consumption is displayed for both the overall period to date and for each individual period.

Entries may be added at any time, there is no requirement to follow a regular schedule.

Quick Start:

Commence by filling out the 7 data boxes (upper left with white background). Message text is displayed as a mouse-over function for each of these data boxes. In particular, refer to the message displayed concerning available options when entering data in the first data box (cell EF4). Billing periods are typically 90 ~ 120 days but any period (90 ~ 366 days) may be nominated. If no 'annual access' charge applies, leave the data box empty, do not insert "0" (press the delete key to clear the data box if necessary).

Use only "/" for date and ":" for time as separators.
Leading zeros are not necessary, example; 1/7/10 will automatically format to 01/07/2010.
Enter time using either the 24 hour format (16:07:23) or 12 hour format (4:07:23 PM).
When using the 12 hour format, use the appropriate AM or PM designator and ensure a single space after the last digit (4:07:23 PM).

Enter the commencement date and time in cells A25 ~ B25 and the initial meter reading in cell C25.

Commence new entries in row 26 then continue using consecutive rows.

For expediency when entering data, the Tab key may be used to step to the right.

General Information:

For a more accurate bill forecast, refer to the previous bill to determine the commencement date for the current billing period, and the previous meter readings to be brought forward. If the previous bill is not available, simply start with current values.

Averages and forecasts vary more during the early stages of filling out the meter readings, however, the trend line steadies significantly as the date span increases.

The number of billing days nominated may be changed at any time (on the fly) to generate "what if" scenarios. Dates, times, meter readings and unit costs may also be varied to experiment and sample different scenarios. Error traps with prompts are provided to manage data entry and ensure program conformity.

When actual data is used, the program charts display precise and meaningful consumption patterns together with a very accurate bill forecast.

The trend line will vary in accordance with the combined effect of the following three factors;
1) The frequency of samples provided,
2) The distribution of samples across the billing period,
3) The deviation of each sample from the mean.

'Arial Narrow' fonts are required (standard with Windows).

If this Excel file has been saved using a later version of Excel than currently being used, the following caution may be displayed if saving to the same file name ... "This file was created using a later version of Microsoft Excel …." etc. This situation is not likely to occur as a new file name would normally be used, however, if there is a need to save to the same original file name, the caution may be ignored as no incompatibility exists with this program and versions of Microsoft Excel dating back to "Excel 97 SR-1". This consideration exists with all Excel files.

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* Please note if cross-referencing:
Forecast bill costs may comprise 'projected' consumption at both stage 1 and stage 2 rates even though the "To date $ Total" for consumption may not have yet reached the price demarcation point. Also, the 'Forecast Bill' and the 'Forecast Annual Cost' will not be in 'lock-step' as each will comprise a different mix of 'Stage 1' and 'Stage 2' costs, that is, you cannot simply project a 'bill period' to an 'annual period'. The program calculates both scenarios separately to obtain correct values for each.

Displayed values are rounded (5/4) and may subsequently return variations of a cent or two if later used in cross referencing.

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