

ARTICLE 16 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

6/6/2020

1. In these first 90 days of COVID-19, what has been the net effect on water use during this period compared to the last two?

2. Has the fact that the Coke plant is no longer producing product, but just distributing it, had a notable effect on water use for the town?

Response:

We don't have the data yet for residential water use for comparison purposes, so I can't give you information. Residential water use is billed quarterly. Readings which would include the period of the stay at home recommendation are just starting to come in.

Yes Coca Cola ending bottling operations has had an impact on total billable water and sewer. Coca Cola billed water use during FY2018 was 12,280,300 c.f. which dropped to 6,578,900 c.f. during FY2019; Coca Cola ended operations about mid-year. There has been no bottling use during FY2020. The decline was expected and discussed last year during the Select Board rate hearing. The Board adopted a multi-year plan that would adjust rates over a three year period rather than in one year. Sewer rates were increased this year. However, due to COVID-19 the Town will delay the next phase for a year.