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806 Bryonaire Road

Mansfield, Ohio 44903-9111

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December 28, 2007

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Office of Consumer Affairs  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

PUCO

DEC 31 2007

INVESTIGATION AND AUDIT DIVISION  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Re: Rate Increase Objection

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to object to the proposed increase by Ohio American Water in my water usage fee as outlined in their letter to me of October 19, 2007. I am currently being billed a flat rate even though I am 83 years old and live alone. I have asked Ohio American Water to install a meter on my water line; so, that I would only pay for actual water usage. Ohio American Water has refused this request.

My current bill is \$70.77 every two months. The proposed rate increase of \$4.45 per month would raise my bi-monthly bill to \$79.67 based on a flat usage rate for an average of 5,250 gallons of water per month. As a one person household, I dispute that my water usage would be 5,250 gallons of water per month.

Further, in Ohio American Water's October 19, 2007, letter, the company contends that one of the justifications for the rate increase is that they have "invested more than \$110,000 to upgrade meters in the service area...". If the company is making a point of this investment for water meter upgrade to justify a rate increase, why do they refuse to install a meter on my home?

I believe in paying a fair amount for utility service, but I am on a fixed retirement income and need to question my billing when I feel that it could be lowered by simply installing a meter to charge me for what I actually use. I do not want to be over charged to subsidize other households.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 419/589-2560. The favor of a written response to this letter is requested.

Sincerely,

  
John M. Cowell

Cc: Ohio American Water, 372 North McElroy Road, Mansfield 44905

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