

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
AQUA OHIO, INC., TO INCREASE ITS RATES
FOR WATER SERVICE.

CASE NO. 16-907-WW-AIR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on December 19, 2016

{¶ 1} Aqua Ohio, Inc. (Aqua or the Company) is a public utility defined in R.C. 4905.02 and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

{¶ 2} On May 31, 2016, Aqua filed an application pursuant to R.C. 4909.18 to increase its rates for water service in its Lake Erie and Masury service divisions, as well as the service divisions consisting of all areas formerly served by Mohawk Utilities, Inc., Tomahawk Utilities, Inc., and Ohio American Water Company. Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits, and matters relating to the Company's application, and filed its report on November 17, 2016.

{¶ 3} By Entry issued December 1, 2016, an evidentiary hearing has been scheduled to commence in this matter on January 19, 2017, at the offices of the Commission.

{¶ 4} R.C. 4903.083 requires that the Commission hold at least one public hearing session within Aqua's service territory, and that at least one session of the local public hearing be scheduled after 5:00 p.m. Accordingly, local public hearings have been scheduled at the following times and locations:

- (a) January 4, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at the Ashtabula Township Office, Meeting Room, 2718 North Ridge Road East, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004.

- (b) January 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at Harding High School, Community Room, 1500 Harding Highway East, Marion, Ohio 43302.
- (c) January 10, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at Ohio History Connection, Cardinal Classroom, 800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

{¶ 5} Public testimony will also be solicited at the start of the evidentiary hearing on January 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

{¶ 6} Aqua should publish legal notice of the local hearings in a newspaper of general circulation in all of the affected service territory once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the scheduled date of the local hearings. The hearing notice should not appear in the legal notices section of the newspaper. The notice should read as follows:

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled local public hearings in Case No. 16-907-WW-AIR, *In the Matter of the Application of Aqua Ohio Inc. to Increase Its Rates for Water Service*. These local hearings are scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity to interested members of the public to testify in these proceedings. The local hearings will be held at the following times and locations: January 4, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at the Ashtabula Township Office, Meeting Room, 2718 North Ridge Road East, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004; January 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at Harding High School, Community Room, 1500 Harding Highway East, Marion, Ohio 43302; and

January 10, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at Ohio History Connection, Cardinal Classroom, 800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

By its application, Aqua Ohio Inc. seeks a rate increase which would generate additional base revenues of approximately \$5,604,094 or 9.21 percent over current revenues for the company's Lake Erie and Masury service divisions, and those customers formerly served by Mohawk Utilities, Inc., Tomahawk Utilities, Inc., and Ohio American Water Company.

The staff of the Commission recommends a revenue increase between \$2,999,714 and \$4,469,934 or between 4.91 percent and 7.32 percent over current revenues for the company's Lake Erie and Masury service divisions, as well as the areas formerly served by Mohawk Utilities, Inc., Tomahawk Utilities, Inc., and Ohio American Water Company.

The major issues raised in this case are:

- (a) The appropriate rate base;
- (b) The determination of test-year revenues and operating expenses or costs of service including management fees, taxes, depreciation, pensions, uncollectible, and rate case expenses;
- (c) The appropriate rate of return; and
- (d) Quality of water and service and unaccounted-for-water levels.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826, or the PUCO website at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>.

{¶ 7} It is, therefore,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That local public hearings be scheduled in accordance with Paragraph 4. It is, further,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That notice of the local public hearings be published by Aqua as directed in Paragraph 6. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Megan Addison

By: Megan J. Addison
Attorney Examiner

SEF/sc

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in

Case No(s). 16-0907-WW-AIR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling public hearings in accordance with Paragraph 4. - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Megan Addison, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio