

PUCO,

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Please enter this letter in the docket for case # 07-1112-ws-air.

The "stipulation and Recommendation" docketed on 9/04/2008, appears to be an agreement between all parties intervening in the case and OAWC, PUCO. This "stipulation" does not reflect any of the 51,000 + residential customers concerns, when the agreement allows for a higher increase then what was applied for originally. Hundreds of letters and the testimonies at the 5 PUCO public hearing appear to have gone UN-NOTICED. There are numerous concerns of poor water quality, yet nothing in the "agreement" address' this issue above and beyond the last "stipulation and agreement" in case #06-0433-ws-air except for in the prairie township area. One would think if the last one (agreement) helped the quality but in no way cured the condition, that the PUCO and the OCC would come up with a better plan than just increase the rates to a higher than asked for increase.

I have to laugh, because the frustration is too overwhelming, that we as Ohio residents have 2 watchdog groups (the PUCO and the OCC) to oversee the utility company's and yet they are granting higher than applied for increases. The economy is down-turning and Ohio residents are feeling the pinch. The state of Ohio is 7th in the nation in foreclosures, and 11th in un-employment. I wonder what the figures are for foreclosures in the OAWC service areas? I have to commend Governor Ted Strickland for not going to raise taxes in the state to balance the budget, but I do not agree totally with his plan to cut all budgets across the state by 4.75%. There are several agencies that should not be cut, e.g. State patrol, education, park and rec., instead the cuts should be PUCO 36.86% (does this figure ring a bell?) and the OCC 50%. If neither agency will stand up to cooperate greed nor for the residents of the great state of Ohio then why are we continuing to pay for them? OAWC customers pay their taxes to support these agencies, they pay for the service or lack of service for water/sewer, pay for the cost of the increase to apply for the increase (\$400,000.00), the cost is not just the 30% to our OAWC bills, it is in the thousands per person. It really makes me wonder if money has exchanged hands between the PUCO and the OAWC, or are they just in-bedded with them?

I have talked to several elected officials about this increase and have been told they will check into it but they do not like to stir the PUCO to much. Is the PUCO that powerful that are elected officials are scared of them? This indicates even more that the budget need's cut dramatically to get the attention. I would also like to remind these elected officials I am a registered voter and we need accountability now! There are 51,000 + residential customers of OAWC, this equates to a possibility of 102,000 + voters and tax payers. These Ohio constituents are watching closely the outcome of this increase and will vote accordingly when the elected officials come around for re-election. This means if our elected officials do nothing now, they will be doing nothing after their next election. Government needs to be on the side of the residents not cooperate greed. No where in this great "stip. & Rec." is any recommendation for OAWC to try to cut cost or to spread this increase over several years to minimize the impact to our residents and our economy.

An increase like this coupled with 2 other increases the last couple of years will send the communities served by OAWC into a downward spiral. The property values will drop as no one will want to purchase into a community that has water bills 2-3 times the amount

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of surrounding communities. The extra hardship will create more foreclosures in these areas. These communities will become rental communities. Then again OAWC will come back for yet another increase stating less revenue, this will be due to the vacant homes. Where will this end?

It is real obvious that no one from the PUCO or the OCC live in any OAWC service area!

OAWC suggest the average consumer bill is now 7 ccf. Let me put a chart together with present rates and the suggested (pending approval) rates. Then I will present Columbus water and Westerville water into the picture.

7 ccf OAWC bill

	Present	pending
water	22.45	35.35
service charge	9.45	9.55
sewer	42.12	57.82
reverse osmosis	9.28	8.35
total bill 1 month	\$83.26	\$111.03

22 ccf Columbus bill (3 months - quarterly billing) from Feb. 2008 bill

Clean river fund 1 eru	7.74
sewer	75.16
storm water 1 eru	11.88
water	53.66
total bill 3 months	\$148.42

7 ccf Westerville from may 2008 bill

sewer 1st 2 ccf 13.94

sewer over 2 ccf = 5ccf 21.15

water 1st 2 ccf 4.45

water 1 ccf 1.52

water next 12ccf = 4 7.96

total bill 1 month \$49.02

To bring into comparison:

Columbus bill of quarterly 22ccf = \$148.42

Westerville bill x 3 month 7 ccf x 3 = 21ccf \$147.06

OAWC bill x 3 month 7 ccf x 3 = 21ccf \$249.78 OAWC's now's rates

OAWC bill x 3 month 7 ccf x 3 = 21ccf \$333.09 OAWC & PUCO's proposed rate

OUTRAGEOUS!!!!!!!!!! Profit is not a crime but rape is. Mix in the inferior product and service.

ACCOUNTABILITY NOW! NO INCREASE!

Thank you



Fred Popper

cc.
Honorable Ted Strickland
PUCO
OCC
Jim McGregor
David Goodman
Larry Flowers