

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
AQUA OHIO, INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO
ASSESS A SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
CHARGE.

CASE NO. 20-532-WW-SIC

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on April 22, 2020

{¶ 1} On March 5, 2020, Aqua Ohio, Inc. (Aqua) filed an application for authority to collect a system improvement charge (SIC) for water service in its Lake Erie Division, Masury Division, and the service areas formerly served by Ohio American Water Company, Mohawk Utilities, Inc., and Tomahawk Utilities, Inc.

{¶ 2} R.C. 4909.172 governs the procedure for consideration of an application for authority to collect a SIC.

{¶ 3} Aqua states that it is a public utility and a waterworks company, as those terms are defined in R.C. 4905.02(A) and 4905.03(G).

{¶ 4} On March 9, 2020, the Governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety.

{¶ 5} As a result of the Executive Order, beginning March 13, 2020, the Commission reduced on-site staffing, and most employees began working from home to reduce exposure to COVID-19.

{¶ 6} On April 2, 2020, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in these proceedings. No party opposed the motion to intervene. The

Commission finds that the motion complies with the requirements set forth in R.C 4903.221 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11, and should, therefore, be granted.

{¶ 7} In its application, as Exhibit A, Aqua submitted proposed legal notices to be provided to affected customers. Subsequently, on April 9, 2020, Aqua filed a correspondence letter updating the language of its proposed legal notice detailed in Exhibit A. The amended legal notice offers alternative means for a customer to receive a copy of Aqua's application in light of COVID-19. Additionally, the application is posted on the Commission's Docketing Information System website at <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us>. All interested persons are directed to input case number 20-532-WW-SIC into the Case Lookup box to view Aqua's application or to contact the Commission's Docketing Division to request a paper copy. The attorney examiner finds that the proposed legal notices, as amended on April 9, 2020, comply with the applicable requirements and should be approved.

{¶ 8} The legal notices should be published in newspapers of general circulation in each county in the service area affected by the application. Publication shall be effected as soon as reasonably possible and in no event later than 30 days from the date of this Entry.

{¶ 9} R.C. 4909.172(B) provides that the Commission shall allow for the filing of comments on an application for a SIC. Therefore, any interested person may file comments regarding this application. Any such comments are to be filed with the Commission no later than July 3, 2020.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That OCC's motion to intervene be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the legal notices proposed in Exhibit A of the application, as amended by Aqua's April 9, 2020 correspondence, be approved for publication in accordance with Paragraphs 7 and 8. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That interested persons wishing to file comments regarding the application shall file those comments no later than July 3, 2020. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Lauren L. Augostini

By: Lauren L. Augostini
Attorney Examiner

MJA/hac

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

4/22/2020 2:54:39 PM

in

Case No(s). 20-0532-WW-SIC

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting OCC's motion to intervene, legal notices be approved for publication, and comments are to be filed no later than July 3, 2020 electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Lauren L. Augostini, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio