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w-354 sub 344

JUN 26 2015

From: Mount, Gail
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Mount, Gail
Subject: FW: Comments on proposed water & sewer increase by Carolina Water Service, Inc.,

Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

w-354, Sub 344

-----Original Message-----

From: Casselberry, Gina
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2015 8:56 AM
To: 'Gumbel'
Subject: RE: Comments on proposed water & sewer increase by Carolina Water Service, Inc.,

Mr. Gumbel,

Thank you for your email concerning the request by Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina (CWSNC or Company) for a rate increase. A copy of your letter and this response will be given to the Chief Clerk of the Commission for inclusion in the official file. The Public Staff is responsible for representing the interests of the using and consuming public in utility matters, and we will participate on the public's behalf in this case.

In this rate case proceeding, the Public Staff will review the books and records of the Company and present its views on the Company's request to the Commission. We will give consideration to your comments as we conduct our investigation.

Respectfully,

Gina Casselberry
Utilities Engineer
Public Staff - Water and Sewer Division
919-733-0890

-----Original Message-----

From: Gumbel [mailto:gumbel@ec.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2015 10:17 PM
To: Casselberry, Gina
Subject: Comments on proposed water & sewer increase by Carolina Water Service, Inc

Gina,
I received the notice of Carolina Water Service's application for increased rates. I use them for sewer service in the Carolina Pines area of Craven County. I moved in my present home in August 2005.

Here's a history of my sewer rates:

Sep 05 - Jul 09 \$33.13
Aug 09 - Mar 11 \$42.06
Apr 11 - Apr 14 \$40.14
May 14 - Jul 14 \$56.45*
Aug 14 - Mar 14 \$44.70
Apr 15 - present \$45.06

*This was the rate increase that was improperly approved. I commented on it before it was approved noting that it was excessive and that rules were being "bent" to accommodate the

request for increase.
It was rolled back to
\$44.70 which was still excessive.

If I use the US Government's CPI inflation calculator I find that \$33.13 inflated from 2005 to 2015 is \$40.34. If I inflate the same \$33.13 from 2009 to 2015 it's \$36.72. The \$45.06 I'm paying now is an increase well beyond the rate of inflation from 2005 and more than double the rate of increase in the CPI if measured from 2009. There is no way for a utility to justify rate increases like that, investment or no investment. If the rate is allowed to increase to the proposed \$53.56 the increase as measured from 2009 will be more than triple the compounded CPI increase.

I believe the rate should be rolled back to the Apr 11 - Apr 14 rate of \$40.14 so it's more in line with inflation. Another increase in rates means nothing more than an increase in profits and executive bonuses for the Carolina Water Service. Please reject this excessive increase.

John Gumbel
New Bern

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