



Control Number: 50721



Item Number: 95

Addendum StartPage: 0

Anticipated July 15, 2020

1991

Date Current Rate Change Notice Delivered

Date of Last Rate Change

*Prior to providing notice, the utility shall file a request for the assignment of a docket number for the application.

PUCT DOCKET NO. 50727 MAY -7 AM 9:15

RATEPAYER COMMENTS/REQUESTS TO INTERVENE

If you wish to PROTEST the proposed rate change, you must submit this form and 10 copies to:

Filing Clerk
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Unless protests are received from at least 10% of ratepayers or from any affected municipality, or the Commission Staff requests a hearing, no hearing will be held, and the rates will be effective as proposed.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION (to be completed by customers submitting protests)

First Name: LINDA Last Name: JOHNSON
Phone Number: 817-319-3888 Fax Number: email: rightondeadline@gmail.com
Address, City, State: 3921 Cross Bend Dr., Arlington, TX 76016
Location where service is received: 334 County Road 1624, Clifton, TX 76634
(if different from the mailing address)

Please fill out the following:

I wish to PROTEST the following proposed rate action/s:

☒ I wish to be a COMMENTER. I understand that: I am NOT a party to this case; my comments are not considered evidence in this case; and I have no further obligation to participate in the proceeding. Public comments may help inform the PUCT of the public concerns and identify issues to be explored. Please provide comments below. Attach a separate page, if necessary.

see accompanying letter

☐ I am requesting to INTERVENE in this proceeding. As an INTERVENOR, I understand that: I am a party to the case; I am required to respond to all discovery requests from other parties; I may be required to attend hearings, and if I file testimony, I may be cross-examined in the hearing; if I file any documents in the case, I must provide a copy to every other party in the case; and I acknowledge that I am bound by the Procedural Rules of the PUCT and the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

Signature of Protestor:

Linda Sp...

Date: 5-2-2020

Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al
1-888-782-8477

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May 2, 2020

From: Linda S. Johnson
3921 Cross Bend Drive
Arlington, Texas 76016

To the PUC Water Commission:

I inherited the house at 334 County Road 1624, Clifton, Texas, after my father's death in 2017. It is in the Lakeline area served by Crystal Clear Water.

I recently received the notice of the water rate hike proposed by the company. My rate, which is the minimum because we are in the process of redoing the house, is \$19.09 a month. By my figuring, my rate will jump over 300% to \$82.37 – for minimal usage.

In his letter to his customers, Robert Payne, the owner of Crystal Clear, argues that “there is not anything today that costs the same as it did 29 years ago,” when the 1991 rate hike took place. True, but if you look at the Consumer Price Index for that period, you will see that for Dallas, Texas, \$100 in 1991 is the equivalent of \$182.86 today. I suspect for Bosque County, the 2020 figure would not be quite \$182.86. (<https://www.in2013dollars.com/Dallas-Ft-Worth-Texas/price-inflation/1991?amount=100>)

Also, consider the makeup of the Lakeline neighborhood. Many are retirees on fixed incomes, some reside in trailer homes, and overall, you could describe the housing as “modest.” Let's say you are a retiree with a Social Security check of \$1,000 a month: *Suddenly almost 10% of your income is going to water if you use the minimum amount.* Add in the separate trash service, which I priced at \$55-\$60 a month a year ago, and that's about 15% of your income spent if you use the minimal. I also looked up average pay for McLennan County, the closest I could find to Bosque (www.payscale.com/research/US/Location=Waco-TX/Salary). It is \$31,990.40 a year gross and, of course, is less when subtracting the standard deductions.

Please keep in mind that this is just for water -- not sewer (all septic tanks here) and not trash pickup. Compare that to my water bill in Arlington, Texas, for which I pay about \$68 a month in non-summer months and which includes sewer and twice-a-week trash pickup.

Additionally, think about the effects on the neighborhood with such an increase. If a homebuyer is weighing one neighborhood against another and Lakeline has a reputation for expensive water, that will hurt Lakeline housing sales and result in falling home prices.

The neighborhood would like to know what plans for improvements are included. My Lakeline neighbors complain of rust in the lines and lack of pressure and worry about whether the water is safe to drink.

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Right now, I have seen nothing about upgrading the system. So it is as if you would pay much more for no service improvements in return.

In short, the proposed water rate increase is far more than the inflation rate supports, will strain many residents' budgets, and comes with no expressed plans for system improvements.

Therefore, I ask that the commission/commissioners reject this rate increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda Stallard Johnson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Linda Stallard Johnson