



Control Number: 50944



Item Number: 369

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PUCT DOCKET NO. 50944

RATEPAYER COMMENTS/REQUESTS TO INTERVENE

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

2020 AUG 19 AM 9:57

**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: Ronald and Jeanne Last Name: Briggs

Phone Number: 903 786 8452 Fax Number: _____

Email Address: randjbriggs@netscape.net

Address, City, State: 674 Russwood Dr, Pottsboro, TX 75076

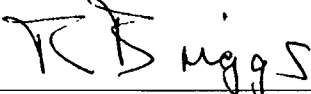
Location where service is received: _____
(if different from the mailing address)

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.

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 Protestant:  Date: 8/12/2020

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

**Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones may contact the PUCT's Customer Assistance Hotline
at
512-936-7136**

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Ronald and Jeanne Briggs

674 Russwood Drive

Pottsboro, Texas 75076

903-786-8452 (R) 972-690-3442 (J)

randjbriggs@netscape.net

8/12/2020

PUC of Texas
1701 North Congress Av.
PO Box 13326
Auston, TX 78711-3326

Your reference: Docket 50944

Dear Commissioners:

We protest in the strongest possible terms this request by Monarch Utilities for a rate increase. Our grounds are as follows.

Monarch appears to have a policy of regularly requesting rate increases whether they are justified or not. This is in stark contrast to pensions paid by the Texas Teacher Retirement system which have remained essentially fixed for multiple years. We are both retired teachers.

Inflation rates have been very low so these do not justify an increase

Monarch offers an investment figure of \$35 million as partial justification. Any system requires ongoing capital investment for maintenance. This should have been incorporated in their existing rates. Also, they offer no indication of how large their total revenue increase would be relative to this figure. I suspect this total revenue increase is substantially larger than their claimed investment.

The quality of the water provided by Monarch is ABYSMAL and has not improved for at least the last 10 years. Although notionally it is "safe to drink" it tastes horrible because of the very high mineral content, and mineral deposits ruin faucets and appliances in a very short time. Nobody drinks this water and we have replaced all our faucets and our hot water heater twice in the 15 years we have lived here. No rate increase should ever be granted until this quality problem is addressed.

It is my understanding that Monarch is part of a large corporation, Southwest Water Company, owned by JP Morgan as a Wall Street investment vehicle. Laws established long ago to help small-scale, rural water supply systems are being used to line the pockets of investors rather than serve the needs of local communities. It is the responsibility of the PUC to represent consumers and counter this abuse.

Thank you for OPPOSING this rate increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B Briggs." The initials "R B" are written in a stylized, cursive font, followed by the name "Briggs." in a similar cursive style.

Ronald and Jeanne Briggs