



Control Number: 50944



Item Number: 440

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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:

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

2020 SEP 18 AM 10:03

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: Richard Last Name: Vonder Embse  
Phone Number: 830-438-1025 Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: vicki.vonderembse@yahoo.com  
Address, City, State: 31273 Loughorn Trail, Bulverde, Texas 78163-2966  
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:

Richard L Vonder Embse Date: September 15, 2020

Para obtener información en Español, puede llamar al  
**1-888-782-8477**

Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones may contact the PUCT's Customer Assistance Hotline

**512-936-7136**

440

September 15, 2020  
31273 Longhorn Trail  
Bulverde, TX 78163-2466

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

Dear Sirs:

I would like to comment on the rate increases proposed by Monarch Utilities I L.P.

Three years ago, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) approved various rate increases (for both the water meter and water usage) that were spread out over the next three years (2017, 2018, and 2019). The annual rates were (Up from \$40.95):

2017: Meter (5/8 inch): \$40.95, Water Usage (Per thousand gallons-range 0-2000): \$2.50  
(Proposed rate increases were still being negotiated until assessed in Nov 2018.)

Nov 13, 2018: Meter (5/8 inch): \$53.20. Water Usage (Per thousand gallons-range 0-2000):  
\$3.25

Jan 24, 2018: Meter (5/8 inch): \$57.57, Water Usage (Per thousand gallons-range 0-2000):  
\$3.51

Nov 13, 2019: Meter (5/8 inch): \$74.44, Water Usage (Per thousand gallons-range 0-2000):  
\$4.52

My understanding it that these increases were to cover the cost of previous capital improvements installed in the Rim Rock Ranch subdivision. Now Monarch Utilities is proposing further increases to our meter and water usage rates. What are these new rates to offset? (Additional capital improvements to the Rim Rock Ranch subdivision and/or Operation and Maintenance (O&M) increases.) I hope the Rim Rock Ranch increases only apply to expenses incurred in Rim Rock Ranch and that costs associated with other subdivisions are not added to our rate increases.


There are two types of expenses. #1: Capital Improvement and O&M. Capital Improvement implies that new capabilities are added where that capability did not exist. For example: A new water filtration system is installed where none existed before. Also, Capital Improvement does not cover the replacement of a like defective item (replacing a defective pump or motor with a like item). #2: Operation and Maintenance (O&M): O&M covers operating expenses (salaries, taxes, etc.) and Maintenance (replacing defective items with like items).

Concerning the different water usage rates assessed for various levels of usage (0-2000, 2001-10,000, 10,001-20,000, over 20,000). I see that rates per thousand gallons increase significantly as you go from one tier to the next. I understand that these various tiers and their associated

rate increases are to encourage conservation efforts by property owners. The cost (per thousand gallons) to provide water is probably constant whether one thousand gallons or ten thousand gallons is provided. Who retains the extra funds (over and above that needed to provide water at the higher tiers) received? Are they provided to the State of Texas or does the water company retain these funds? Since the water is a natural resource of Texas, the extra monies should be provided to the State of Texas to be used to continue encouraging conservation of all Texas resources.

Next comment: Three years ago, why did the PUC allow Monarch Utilities to assess a "Canyon Lake WSC Pass Through" fee (\$10.67 monthly) to the monthly water bills of all Rim Rock Ranch (RRR) property owners. To my knowledge, RRR property owners do not receive water via the Canyon Lake pipe system. As far as I know, the RRR water comes via wells located in the RRR subdivision. Request that this fee be deleted from the Rim Rock Ranch property owners monthly water bills. And, that the fees we paid over the past three years be refunded to the RRR property owners.

Final comment: According to the Monarch Utilities pamphlet (page 14), on August 19, 2022 (Phase 3) the meter fee for 5/8" pipe will decrease from \$91.31 to \$54.15. Is this an error? Is the decrease due to all past capital improvement costs being paid off?



Richard L. Vonder Embse