



Filing Receipt

Filed Date - 2025-06-27 01:46:45 PM

Control Number - 58124

Item Number - 754

REF: PUCT DOCKET NO. 58124
Ratepayer Comments/Request To Intervene
June 27, 2025

To Responsible Party(s),

I am taking this opportunity to PROTEST and request the opportunity to INTERVENE in this proceeding.

On June 19, 2025 Texas residents served by Aqua Texas were notified of a proposed rate increase which would double our current water bills. This notice was issued without any justification of need, nor with identified intent of use from the increased funding to be received. A one-hundred percent rate increase with no identified benefit to the customer is unconscionable.

As a four (4) year customer of Aqua Texas, I can speak from experience on their corporate inability to operate their facilities effectively. It's more like the "bare minimum" of operational standards. They do not appear to have any preventative maintenance program for their field equipment, more a policy of "wait till it breaks". The quality of water delivered barely meets the lowest of Texas standards (which they do miss on occasion), resulting in every home requiring costly full-home water filtration systems and/or Reverse Osmosis systems to be able to drink it and avoid annual replacement of faucets, water heaters and other plumbing fixtures ruined by the corrosive water from Aqua. It has been a regular occurrence of low, or no water pressure throughout our neighborhood. We even had the system shut down one time in a cold snap because it froze completely and we were without water for more than two (2) days. This situation forced the homeowners into action with Aqua (which was approved) to remediate the situation, or it could have extended for days!

Aqua has also issued homeowner notifications on numerous occasions to notify us that they failed to submit required TCEQ water samples, required TCEQ performance reports and ultimately failed to meet TCEQ water chlorination standards, or worse - had to issue "boil notices" on short notice. Per charted comparisons with Texas state water quality standards, the water provided by Aqua Texas barely meets drinkable standards.

All of these points are made to identify the fact that Aqua does not responsibly manage their current financial status. Throwing more good money at the problem likely will not solve anything. Is that expected behavior from a 'for profit' corporate entity?

Texas Senate Bill 7 was just signed into law which will, among other steps, provide up to one (1) billion dollars, statewide to water system providers to implement and/or improve their water delivery infrastructure. In November voters will be asked to approve a twenty (20) billion dollar bond, over ten years, towards improving Texas' water supply. With these financial supports in place, why does Aqua seek to double our current (already very high) water supply rates?

It is recognized that Texas is experiencing an unanticipated population growth which taxing our water supply systems (not to mention our public highways). However, the infrastructure cost burden new communities should be born by those who will benefit from them, not existing residents/customers. This should be painfully obvious in a corporate entity which survives for the sole reason of profitability.

Aqua Texas (Aqua America, their corporate entity) has a proven track record of unreliable water delivery, an incredibly low-standard preventative maintenance program, routine failure to meet TCEQ standards and endless level-3 water restrictions and outages. I strongly believe that throwing more money at an ineffective operation is never a good approach. Furthermore, a water supply rate increase should only be considered when Aqua Texas has proven by performance and ability (reliability), that they have earned it. Then, and ONLY then it should be one which is reasonable and customary – not extortion. Certainly not 100% of the current rate, combined with removal of the Federal Water Credit to be kept by Aqua and their go-forward ability to charge-back ALL “improvements” going forward.

I respectfully request your intervention on this matter to represent us and negotiate in good faith with Aqua Texas to implement a reasonable increase with a guarantee on their service levels, water supply and quality of the water provided going forward.

Respectfully,

Brad & Briana Simpson

9541 Jadine Lane

Justin, TX 76247

Email: brad.w.simpson@gmail.com

briana.r.simpson@gmail.com

Cell: (817)320-5512