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MAR 13 2023

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

From: [KY Public Service Commission Public Comments](#)
To: [PSC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00432 - Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 11:07:26 AM

Public Comments for Case 2022-00432 submitted by [REDACTED] on Friday,
March 10, 2023 at 11:07 AM

Name: Peter Wdowiarz
Address: 101 Mallard Ct
City: Nicholasville
State: KY
Zip Code: 40356-8712

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]

Home phone: [REDACTED]

Comments: It is my position that we residents of Equestrian Woods, Nicholasville KY are being abused by the Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Co. (BW) with their proposed extreme rate increase. The reasons I feel this is abusive are because of the following: • Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Co. (BW). Provides very little services. They do NOT process Solid Waste. Each of us has our own Septic Tank that breaks down the Solid Waste to Grey Water. This septic Tank is maintained by the Homeowner • BW does NOT pump the Grey Water to their “System”. Each of us Home Owners has a “Holding Tank that collects the dirty water discharge from the Septic Tank. This is a large concrete tank with a 230VAC 1HP Electric Submersible Pump. These pumps range from \$700-\$900. We also have a pump control Panel that controls the pump via three Water Level Floats – Low, High and Alarm. These Panels cost around \$500. None of this includes labor, and all is the responsibility of the Home Owner. In the past 20 years, I have replaced my pump twice, the Floats in the tank once, and the Electrical Contactor in the Control Box once. • BW’s “System” is simply a larger version of what each Home Owner has – they have Holding Tanks, and pumps that discharge the dirty water from 40 homes to a large septic field. Again – they do not process waste or deliver the dirty water to their system. We provide the power to get the dirty water to their tanks. • These proposed sewer rates are 3 to 4 times more expensive than our water bills. If we are out of town and do not even generate any sewage water, we still pay the same high rate. • Because BW is applying a “unified rate” (ALL customers pay \$100) customers like us pay for services we do not receive. The above points are mentioned to show how little BW actually does when compared to other sewer service systems that take raw sewage from the home owner: from “Driveway to Waste Water Plant” We do most of this process ourselves before it even gets to BW. And for that we get an almost 300% rate increase! This is abusive. From my point of view BW is charging us excessive rates to fund their corporate expansions and large salaries to “Manage” these “Unmanned” remote septic fields.

From: [KY Public Service Commission Public Comments](#)
To: [PSC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00432 - Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 5:51:56 PM

Public Comments for Case 2022-00432 submitted by ([REDACTED]) on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 5:51 PM

Name: Barry Ellison
Address: 51 Persimmon Ridge Drive
City: Louisville
State: ky
Zip Code: 40245
Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]
Home phone:

Comments: Regarding Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company proposed sewer rate increase: When Bluegrass Water took over wastewater treatment in our neighborhood - Persimmon Ridge in Shelby County Kentucky in November 2019 our sewer rate was \$35.00mo, having been increased from \$26.30mo In August 2019, a 33% increase. Effective August 1, 2021 Bluegrass Water was granted an increase taking our rate to \$85.97mo., a 245.63% increase. And just 20 months later they come looking for another 15.59% increase to \$99.37mo. A total potential increase for Bluegrass Water of 283.91% over a 20 month period. That is outrageous. I respectfully ask the Kentucky Public Service Commission to reject this request entirely. Thank you . Barry Ellison

From: [KY Public Service Commission Public Comments](#)
To: [PSC Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2022-00432 - Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 2:01:53 PM

Public Comments for Case 2022-00432 submitted by [REDACTED] on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2:01 PM

Name: Andrew Smith
Address: 102 W Old Coach Road
City: Nicholasville
State: KY
Zip Code: 40356

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]

Home phone:

Comments: Writing in regards to the application from Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company to raise rates from \$27.43 to \$99.37 per month. I understand the cost that has been used to upgrade systems, however this dramatic of a raise in rates is extreme. Therefore, I object and implore the KSC to address this issue.

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: KY PSC Utility Inquiry
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:44:00 AM

Case No. 2022-00432

Thank you for your comments on the application of Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2022-00432, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2022-00432 \(ky.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:02 AM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission <pscfilings@ky.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 7:59 PM
To: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED] on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 7:58 PM

Name: Margie mullins
Address: 152 Gemini trail
City: Georgetown
State: Ky
Zip Code: 40324

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]
Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass water

State the nature of your concern: Look how the people in Georgetown ky getting taken advantage of we pay 12.50 a month they approved a 694 percent increase most of us are on a fixed increase, I can't afford this can you do something margie mullins [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [We](#) pay Kentucky American water 49.17 a month, and the blue grass water is a sewer ,we pat 12.50 a month and they want a 694 percent increase, the increase was approved how do we stop this

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: Yes

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: KY PSC Utility Inquiry
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:43:00 AM

Case No. 2022-00432

Thank you for your comments on the application of Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2022-00432, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2022-00432 \(ky.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 7:59 AM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission <pscfilings@ky.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 12, 2023 11:53 PM
To: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED] on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 11:53 PM

Name: William Daniel
Address: 204 Gemini Trail
City: Georgetown
State: KY
Zip Code: 40324

Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]
Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass water

State the nature of your concern: Our sewer company here at 204 Gemini Trail Georgetown KY 40324 Has ask for an increase in our sewer rates of 694 % which is just outrageous. We realize that a rate increase is warranted, but we would ask that any increase be reasonable or realistic. A 100 % increase would be realistic, that would double our monthly bill all at once. A 694% increase would be a hardship especially on the older people on a fixed income. Even with a family still working it would be a hardship with the current economic conditions and higher prices on everything especially at the grocery store. Please do not allow such a huge increase in our sewer rates .

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: Yes

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bluegrass Water Rate Increase Case # 2022-00432
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:41:00 AM

Case No. 2022-00432

Thank you for your comments on the application of Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2022-00432, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2022-00432 \(ky.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:01 AM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: FW: Bluegrass Water Rate Increase Case # 2022-00432

From: Ed Heller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 11:58 AM
To: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Subject: Bluegrass Water Rate Increase Case # 2022-00432

[REDACTED]

March 11, 2023

Subject: **Bluegrass Water Rate Increase Case # 2022-00432**

cc: Office of Rate Invention-Kentucky Attorney General

Dear Public Service Commission members:

We are residents at 106 Mallard Ct, Nicholasville, KY 40356 which is in the Equestrian Woods subdivision. We have resided here since 1998. We are currently paying Bluegrass Water LLC \$27.43 per month to pump the sewage to them. Bluegrass Water LLC is proposing a 268% increase in that rate, which would make our monthly payment almost \$100.

Our sewage system is a Effluent Simplex System With Double Variable Float Switches and is a non-

discharging, septic system. We have two holding tanks in our yard and sewage pump that serve to pump the sewage into static leach fields two blocks away on a leased farm. This Bluegrass Water system is NOT a sewage treatment plant with large open tanks, settling ponds, agitating systems, large pumps, filtration systems, any chemical treatment plants, or chemical testing and monitoring. Many of Bluegrass Water's systems contain larger sewage treatment plants. We incur substantial personal costs to maintain this septic system in our yards. For example, historically, every five years, we incur an expense of \$2,000 to repair and replace a large sewage pump. There are only forty households with this system, so consequently, we are very small when compared to the bigger systems that they own.

In our personal situation, there are only two of us here and our water bill is typically about \$40 per month. Given the proposed rate increase that would make our monthly sewer bill 2.5 times more than our water bill. In comparison, Nicholasville and Lexington residents pay a percentage-based rate on their water bill (based on their consumption). This unified rate proposal is grossly unfair given the small community and small operating and maintenance cost of our system. As a homeowner, this rate increase is concerning in how it could influence the future sale of our home to prospective buyers.

It would appear that Bluegrass Water LLC is constantly increasing their filings (September 2020-\$6M, October 2020-\$9M, February 2023-\$16M). This is a definite trend and it leaves us to wonder if we are funding their various acquisitions. Is it possible that Bluegrass Water LLC has made poor buying decisions of neglected, deteriorating plants in Kentucky and that we are bearing the costs for upgrades to those plants?

We are aware that the lawyers for Bluegrass Water LLC have petitioned the PSC to *ignore* the requests of all customers to intervene. In contrast, the rate increase letter that we received from Bluegrass Water LLC stated that "you may submit a timely written request for intervention to the PSC) within 30 days. We are suspicious, of what exactly, the motives of the Bluegrass Water LLC and their lawyers are.

This large rate increase begs the question of how the other sewer company was able to make our systems work well for over 28 years with consistent, reliable service? We never had any interruption of service or any problems over all of this time. We are an older couple, who understand inflation, with low sewage output, and this rate increase would be a large monthly expense for us to absorb.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed and Ann Heller

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [PSC Public Comment](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: KY PSC Utility Inquiry
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:34:00 AM

Case No. 2022-00432

Thank you for your comments on the application of Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2022-00432, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at [View Case Filings for: 2022-00432 \(ky.gov\)](#)

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:50 AM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission <pscfilings@ky.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:37 AM
To: PSC Consumer Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>
Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by ([REDACTED]) on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 10:36 AM

Name: Hoyt Knoth
Address: 230 Harting Ridge Rd.
City: West Paducah
State: Ky
Zip Code: 42086
Phone number where you can be reached: [REDACTED]
Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water
State the nature of your concern: In reference to rate increase at Marshall Ridge sewer lagoon. Bluegrass Water has requested a rate increase of 15.6% that would increase our sewer rate to \$99.37 per month which is 50% higher than the national average. At this rate it will cause hardships for families in our neighborhood. Since acquisition of the Marshall Ridge sewer lagoon system by Bluegrass Water the only maintenance performed at the lagoon has been to maintain the grass. Complaints have been made to Bluegrass Water about the odor coming from the lagoon to no avail. It must be understood the rate of \$99.37 is for sewer lagoon ONLY and does not include a fee for water which is with Paducah Water Works at a separate fee. The sewer fee of \$99.37 which is 50% over the National average appears to be gouging

and should not be approved.

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: Yes
