

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: "Mason, Mary"
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 3:05:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)

RECEIVED

By Kentucky PSC at 3:15 pm, Aug 01, 2018

Dear Ms. Mason:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

For your future reference, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

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The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2018-00208.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych

Director of Communications
Kentucky Public Service Commission
502-782-2564 (direct) or 502-564-3940 (switchboard)
502-330-5981 (cell)
Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: Mason, Mary [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 12:09 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Re: Case 2018-00208

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposed rate increase with case number 2018-00208. My family and I reside in Middlesboro, KY. Although I understand that rate increases may be necessary at times, I am

unsure of the logic behind a rate increase in excess of 30%. My husband and I are both educated and are fortunate enough to have jobs that are adequate for our needs; however, that is not the case for a large majority of the city. The rate increase would place a huge financial strain on my family and all families with in the city of Middlesboro. I feel that for a rate increase so high, there needs to be an explanation to the citizens as to why.

Thanks,



Kaye Mason | Preceptor Coordinator
PA Program

Lincoln Memorial University

Office: 423.869.6716 | Fax: 423.869.6672
DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine
6965 Cumberland Gap Parkway
Harrogate, TN 37752
www.LMUnet.edu

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From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: ["Bo Green"](#)
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 3:00:00 PM

Dear Mr. Green:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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From: Bo Green [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 8:16 AM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Case No. 2018-00208-WSCC City of Middlesboro Water Increase

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned citizen and a concerned member of our City Council Government. The rate increase proposed by the Water Company is detrimental to our town. Many of our citizens live on fixed incomes and this rate increase would be impossible to pay.

My other concern is how do we know that the Water Company is operating efficiently and studying their costs. As a business owner, I cannot simply raise prices due to competition. We must focus on maintaining our cost. As the water company is a monopoly, how do we know that this is the case for them? Are there operating costs analyzed from an independent outside observer?

In closing, please know that our demographics simply do not support the need for a 32% water cost increase. Our median HOUSEHOLD income for Bell County is \$22,603 while the per capita 12 month income is only \$13,654. A population facing those economic numbers simply cannot pay for a HIKE of 32%.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Bo Green

green construction

PO Box 858

640 S. 23rd St.

Middlesboro, KY 40965



From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: "Michael"
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:59:00 PM

Dear Mr. Mace:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 6:49 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Case Related Question

I am writing in concern to case 2018-00208. I understand that Middlesboro City Water Company is going to raise our water bill over 35% starting August, 2018. Has anyone taken into consideration of the residents in this town, most are on welfare or like us on social security. A raise of that magnitude will cause a great hardship for us. Our social security raise doesn't even cover the cost of our insurance, we do nothing but go backwards. A major question is how do we afford this necessity of life?

I have lived in this town the majority of my life and have seen nothing but loss, loss of industry and jobs, loss of growing city, now a ghost town and now loss of affordable water.
I request you reconsider this unreasonable hike in rates.

Regards,
Michael Mace

Sent from my iPad

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:59:00 PM

Dear Mr. Farmer:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 11:10 AM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: 2018-00208

I would like to say that I am against the rate increase that water service of Kentucky is requesting. The rate is too high for the people in the area of Middlesboro, this is a low income area with most on fixed income. The increase would be a hardship for most.

Thank You
Alan Farmer
2008 west Chester Ave
Middlesboro, Ky 40965
[REDACTED]

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: ["Grandey, Larry"](#)
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:58:00 PM

Dear Mr. Grandey:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2018-00208.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych

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Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: Grandey, Larry [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2018 7:44 AM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: case number 2018-00208

I just wanted to state that I am opposed to a rate increase for the wsck water company in Middlesboro Kentucky.

Larry Grandey
2002 Cumberland Ave
Middlesboro Kentucky 40965
[REDACTED]

Kentucky Court of Justice Confidentiality Notice

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From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: ["Trinna Lawkins"](#)
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:57:00 PM

Dear Ms. Lawkins:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2018-00208.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: Trinna Lawkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 3:07 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Water Service Corp of KY rate increase

Case number 2018-00208

I am a residential customer of the Water Service Corp of Ky in Middlesboro, KY. I am writing in regards to a proposed rate increase by the Water Service Corp of KY. On Monday July 16 I called the company, asking for info about the percentage of increase the company is seeking, and reasons the company gives for the rate increase. On that day I was on the phone for 20 minutes, most of it on hold. I was eventually told that the department I reached had no information on the rate increase, but would have someone call me with the info. No one called. I called again today, July 23, and was told that the rate increase had been filed with the Public Service Commission. I was provided with no information about the amount of the increase or the reasons for the increase.

I have lived in several different locations in KY and in other states. The water/sewer rates in Middlesboro are significantly higher than in other locations I have lived in. I would like information on the percentage of increase the company is asking for, and the reasons for the increase the company is giving. Following are most of the water bills I have paid this year.

February 2018 \$83.45

March 2018 \$48.22

April 2018 \$59.97

May 2018 \$60.86

June 2018 \$61.77

July 2018 \$76.22

Please consider the expensive rates that customers are already paying before granting an increase to Water Service Corp of KY.

Thank you for your time.

Trinna Lawkins

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: ["Bob Justice"](#)
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:57:00 PM

Dear Mr. & Ms. Justice:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

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Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: Bob Justice [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 12:37 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Case 2018-00208

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you about the proposed 35% rate increase request by Utilities Incorporated in Middlesboro Kentucky. This is outrageous behavior on the part of this utility to raise its customers rate by a third and they really can't justify this burdensome increase. My wife and I are a retired couple on social security and a 35% increase along with the never ending KU increases would be a financial hardship on us.

We strongly urge the PSC to reject this outrageous increase request by Utilities Inc. They are a big corporation, a monopoly and clearly don't care a flip about their customers to make such a greedy request. We urge you to reject their entire request!

Thank you for your time.

Bob & Wilma Justice
Middlesboro, KY

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: ["Lana Lamb"](#)
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:56:00 PM

Dear Ms. Lamb:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych

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502-330-5981 (cell)
Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: Lana Lamb [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 12:00 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Utilities Increase

I'm writing in regards to the proposed rate increase, 2018-00208 for Middlesboro. This increase will negatively affect this area due to the large number of people who are living on a fixed income and are already struggling to keep up with their bills. When you have to choose between medication, utilities or eating, an increase is the last thing you need. I speak from personal experience. We haven't seen anything about the need for infrastructure repair or any other valid reason for this increase. Please, for myself and the people of Middlesboro, will you look into this matter?

Respectfully,
Lana Lamb

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: [Carter, Lucas B \(EEC\)](#)
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:46:00 PM

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2018-00208.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych

Director of Communications
Kentucky Public Service Commission
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Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: Carter, Lucas B (EEC)
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 3:17 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Subject: Case 2018-00208 Water Service Corp of KY

To Kentucky Board of PSC Commission;

I am writing in regards to case 2018-00208 related to the increase Water Service Corp of KY has requested by your board for the Middlesboro Citizens. As a concerned citizen, ratepayer, City Council member I fully oppose ANY increase, I know their intent is to get a portion of what is requested and based on prior request you have granted them less than they have ask for but I think this time **NO INCREASE** should be granted. Companies like this make such request because it has been so easy for them to obtain in the past. Let's look back in in 2014 you give them 4 percent increase, in 2011 you give them 3 percent and in 2009 you granted them 29 percent. In less than 10

years they have got nearly 40 percent in INCREASES. Now I would like for you to review our area demographics, we have the one highest poverty rates in the state of KY, majority of our population is on fixed income (SSI, Welfare) We have an abundance of Public Housing. The Decline in the Coal industry has put a domino effect on our local economy take a look at our unemployment rates. Our Citizens cannot afford any more increases. If an increase is granted it will be another stepping stone for people to continue to move 1 mile across the state line into Tennessee, again hurting the future growth of our region as well as Local Municipalities. These companies have made poor business decisions and are asking the public service commission to make the rate payers of Middlesboro to pay for their mistakes. Please deny the increase request as your mission states that you are to foster the provision of safe and reliable service at a reasonable price and setting fair rates. I feel that they have been given more than that. As you can see in the files they want to keep salaries and benefits kept confidential. The purchase of fully loaded pickups is not needed and are purchased far too often.

Sincerely, Lucas B Carter (Middlesboro City Council)
1009 Chester Ave Middlesboro KY 40965

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: your comments in case 2018-00208 - Water Service Corp. rates
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 3:06:00 PM

Dear Mr. Bramble:

Thank you for your comments on the application of the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky for a rate adjustment.

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2018-00208. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych

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Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: cpbjr@twc.com [mailto:cpbjr@twc.com]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2018 11:16 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Cc: Nelson, Rick (State Rep.) (LRC) [REDACTED]
Subject: Reference Case number 2018-00208

I am writing concerning the proposed rate increase the Water Service Corporation of Kentucky has proposed for the Middlesboro, Kentucky customers. The citizens of Middlesboro live in one of the poorest counties in the nation. The Wall Street Journal said this about Bell County "The typical county household earns only \$22,443 a year, less than half the income the typical American household earns. In addition, 38.0% of the county's 27,950 residents live in poverty, a far higher share than the 15.5% of Americans."

Most citizens live on a fixed income, whether it be SSI or retirement. Any rate increase would be deviating to our community, especially one of 32 percent. A small increase due to inflation or upgrades I can understand, but not this much.

We the citizens of Middlesboro also have a problem on how this was announced, hurried on the back page of the paper. Thirty years ago this would have sufficed, but in 2018 half the people don't waste what money they have on a paper that doesn't have a lot of news in it. This announcement needs to be mailed as a special notice or posted on Facebook for most people to see.

The Water Service Corporation of Kentucky has done nothing to deserve this high of a rate increase, really they don't deserve one at all. I understand they are in business to make money, but there's a difference between making money and ripping people off. And they are trying to rip us off. I encourage you not to approve this rate increase. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Charles Bramble Jr

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*Water Service Corporation of Kentucky
2335 Sanders Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-6196