Bruner, Brandon S (PSC) on behalf of PSC Executive Director From:

To: Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:26:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:03 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission cfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 12:33 AM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Monday, October 19, 2020 at 12:32 AM

Name: Allison Mack

Address: 5910 Oakwood Dr

City: Paducah State: KY

Zip Code: 42003

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility Company

State the nature of your concern: My husband and I have lived in the Great Oaks subdivision in Paducah KY since 2006. Over the years we have seen our share of utility increases, but we were shocked when we opened a letter from Bluegrass Water informing customers of a proposed rate increase from \$28 a month, to \$96 a month. I'm not even sure what words can

) on

be used to express the absurdity of a rate increase of that magnitude. How the company thinks families that live paycheck to paycheck, and are living through a pandemic, can possibly afford a monthly increase that high. There is no way the company has considered their customers or they would have never requested a rate hike that high. Something needs to be done to stop this, and get the company to reconsider. I honestly don't know how we will afford a payment increase that high at this time. It would add to an already difficult situation in the middle of an economic crisis. I appreciate anything that can be done to help the customers at this time.

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:27:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:02 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 6:09 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by October 18, 2020 at 6:08 PM

Name: Billy Bard Address: 681 Slater Rd

City: Wickliffe State: KY Zip Code: 42087

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility Company

State the nature of your concern: Request for intervention on case #2020-00209

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:

Subject: RE: Request for intervention Case #2020-00290

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 2:02:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: Debbie Bard

Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 7:30 PM

To: PSC Electronic Filings Mailbox <pscfilings@ky.gov>; PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>;

PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov> **Subject:** Request for intervention Case #2020-00290

Request for intervention Case #2020-00290

October 18,2020

To the Kentucky Public Service Commissioners: Michael J. Schmitt, Kent A. Chandler, and Talina R. Mathews:

This letter is in regards to the recent request by the Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company to allow an increase in their

changes to the Center Ridge Community at Kentucky Lake. This is approximately 20 miles outside of Murray, Kentucky. The proposed change is from the current rate of \$22.79 per month to \$105.84 per month. This is a 364.4% increase.

The basis for their request seems unfounded for the following reasons. The prior owner made what upgrades to our system through a grant and Bluegrass purchased the system from them. As part of the grant, it required that each resident have a meter. As of now, we just pay a monthly rate without any meters being read. Most homeowners are only there on weekends and holidays and use the very little water. Each homeowner has their own septic system, so no sewer would be involved in their justification for this increase. This increase seems to be unwarranted and extreme considering the Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company has made no major improvements.

Please consider this letter as a request that their application be denied. This will only hurt the state of Kentucky in the amount of revenue from tourism dollars spent by the homeowners and their guests. Such a large increase will only devalue our property and cause current homeowners to sell and leave to another location or state.

Sincerely,

Brian Bard Debbie Bard 103 Larkspur Lane Sikeston, MO 63801

Center Ridge property 167 Whisper Drive Murray, KY 42071

To:

Subject: RE: Request for intervention Case #2020-00290

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 2:02:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: Bruce Bard

Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 8:16 PM

To: PSC Electronic Filings Mailbox <pscfilings@ky.gov>; PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>;

PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov> **Subject:** Request for intervention Case #2020-00290

Request for intervention Case #2020-00290

October 18, 2020

To the Kentucky Public Service Commissioners: Michael J. Schmitt, Kent A. Chandler, and Talina R. Mathews,

Please consider this letter a plea for intervention and rejection of the application submitted by Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company to adjust rates for service. The company proposes that due to a large amount of improvements to water infrastructure, and plans to improve in the future, they propose to increase our monthly water bill by 364.4%. This is not only unfounded and greedy, but also not practical in this neighborhood, and based on misleading claims made by the company. We request that their application be denied.

Our current rate for water is \$22.79 a month. However, the company is now proposing that we pay \$105.84 a month. The basis for this request seems unfounded for the following reasons .In this particular subdivision (Center Ridge) our water is maintained through a shared well. Recently, prior to Bluegrass Water owning the services, the Homeowner's Association for the subdivision purchased (via volunteer donations, of which we donated to this) a backup generator to ensure that the well is always running, despite power interruptions. The prior owner made upgrades to our system thru a grant and Bluegrass purchased the system from them. As part of the grant, it required that each resident have a meter. As of now a monthly rate is being charged without any meters being read. As a homeowner we are only there on weekends and holidays and use very little water. We are not there thru the winter months and use no water. We have our own septic system, so no sewer would be involved in the justification for this increase. This increase seems to be unwarranted and extreme considering the Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company has made no major improvements.

Please consider this letter as a request that their application be denied.

Billy Bard

Barbara Bard

681 Slater Rd

Wickliffe KY 42087

Center Ridge Property located at:

7 Dixie Drive

Murray KY 42071

To:

Subject: RE: case number 2020-00290

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:32:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

----Original Message-----

From: Cindy Stivers

Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2020 9:40 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: case number 2020-00290

Helo,

I am a resident of Persimmon Ridge neighborhood and live at 402 Sycamore Hills Lane. You have likely received numerous emails voicing concerns about the proposed rate hike from \$35 to \$96 per month. Many of those may be much more eloquent than mine in terms of why you should or should not do that, but I simply want to say that I absolutely can NOT afford that. My husband and I live paycheck to paycheck, and when I say paycheck to paycheck I mean that every penny we make is accounted for and there is not another \$61a month to allot for this so unexpectedly. This is the type of thing that people have to plan for when they have a mortgage, insurance, car payments, kids in college, large medical bills......

So I thank you for taking mine and everyone else's concerns to heart and doing the right thing -

Have a great day!

Cindy Stivers

To: Subject:

Case No. 2020-00290

Subject Date:

Monday, October 19, 2020 4:42:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. If you would like to request intervention for this case, please respond with the corrected case number requesting to intervene.

The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:35 AM **To:** PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: Requested intervention of Proposed Rate Increase for Case Number 2019-00104 for

Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company (Golden Acres Subdivision)

From:

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 11:21 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@kv.gov>

Cc: David Forbis

Subject: Requested intervention of Proposed Rate Increase for Case Number 2019-00104 for

Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company (Golden Acres Subdivision)

Public Service Commission Commonwealth of Kentucky Frankfort, Kentucky

RE: 2019-00104

Golden Acres Subdivision

I wish to request an intervention and review of the proposed rate increase made by Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company with regard to the Golden Acres Subdivision in Calvert City, KY.

Our sewer treatment plant was in very good condition when Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company took over our plant a few months ago. We do not see evidence of any major improvements to the treatment plant and any improvements to be made to warrant the proposed 147.5% rate increase.

A few days ago, I received a notice in the mail about a proposed rate increase of our sewer rates for our subdivision's system. We are currently paying \$39.57 per month. The proposed increase is set for \$96.14 per month. Many of us in our subdivision are older, retired and on a fixed income. This large of an increase can have a dramatic effect on our finances. Please consider this when considering their request for this large of an increase. Many of these residences are only two person households.

Also, when reviewing their application to the KY PSC, I noticed on page three, number 6, that they seem to be implying that are/will be providing sewer <u>and water</u> services to our subdivision. I contacted our water supplier, North Marshall Water District and they have not heard of any such discussions with Bluegrass Water....hmmmm.

Wasn't and still not sure if this was an oversight, a play on words, or my misunderstanding, but to me it appears plain and the way I have interpreted it is they are implying that they are/will be providing our water services in order for you to help approve their increase requests.

6. Beginning in April 2019, Bluegrass filed applications to acquire the system facilities—and thereafter to provide sewer <u>and water</u> utility service—for 20 communities in Kentucky:

Community County Case No. 2019-00104

Airview Hardin
Brocklyn Madison
Fox Run Franklin
Great Oaks McCracken
Golden Acres Marshall

Kingswood Bullitt

Lake Columbia Bullitt
Longview/Homestead Scott
Persimmon Ridge Shelby

A rate of \$96.14 for sewer service service alone is far too high and will be detrimental to the value of the homes in our subdivision. Please do not approve the proposed rate increase.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, David Forbis 16 Golden Acres Loop Calvert City, KY 42029

To:

Subject: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290 Due to False Information by CSWR

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 2:15:00 PM
Attachments: False Information Reported.pdf

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:37 AM **To:** PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290 Due to False Information by

CSWR

From: Gary Esterle <

Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 8:13 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290 Due to False Information by CSWR

Attached is a document outlining false Information on Kingwood sewer system sworn testimony by Central States Water Resources employees as recorded on Ky PSC Case No. 2020-290 App. Exh. 8-A to F

Gary Esterle 555 Kingswood Dr, Taylorsville, KY 40071 Kentucky Public Service Commission Case #2020-00290

Subject: False Information on Kingwood Sewer System sworn testimony by Central States Water Resources employees as recorded on Ky PSC Case No. 2020-290 App. Exh. 8-A to F

<u>Testimony of Josiah Cox</u>, President of Central States Water Resources and Bluegrass Water Utility Co. to Kentucky Public Service Commission on September 28, 2020 for purpose to increase rates for sewer.

Bluegrass Water Utility is requesting approval for a rate hike of 147.5% from Kingswood customers. In Mr. Cox's sworn testimony, he states the large increase is necessary for the following reasons:

App. Exh. 8-A Page 6

Mr. Cox inserted a video of the issues at each facility at time of purchase. Kingswood is addressed at the time of 10:30 where he shows the following; high grass and rust, improperly stored chemicals and damage to the exterior fence. (Attachment Exh. A - pictures of the issues captured from video)

On pages 40 & 41 (App. Exh. 8-A) he states the problems at time of purchase of being; damaged fence, damaged pipe, overgrowth and clarifier skimmer not reaching edge of chamber. (Attachment Exh. A - pictures filed with testimony)

On pages 42 & 43 (App. Exh. 8-A) he addresses the corrective actions they have taken in the past year at the Kingswood plant which included cleaned and repaired equipment in the blower house, repaired or replaced diffusers, clarifier repaired, replaced damaged valves, adjusted the position of the skimmer, replaced damaged walkway, and placed a backup generator on site for emergency power. (Attachment Exh. B - pictures filed with testimony)

The grass was high at this time due to the landscaper who was cutting the grass for the previous owner stopped cutting at time of purchase. It was three weeks before Bluegrass started cutting. The front got so bad that I cut it twice during this time since I live next to the plant and did not like this appearance. The damage pipe he refers to has not been repaired since it is no longer in use at the plant.

As you can see by the pictures taken October 15, 2020 (Attachment Exh. C), the damaged fence was not repaired just torn down the rest of the way and laying in the grass for the past year. The original improperly stored chemicals are not only still there but additional ones are present today. The backup generator he said was added is not a generator at all but a Hydro Jet Cleaner for clearing sewer lines that has been stored on the property since purchase.

What little that has been done in the past year is regular maintenance and <u>should not be considered an improvement</u> requiring any additional funds.

<u>Testimony of Jacob Freeman</u>, Director of Engineering for CSWR on September 28,2020, shows on App. Exh. 8-C, page 21 that the Kingswood facility currently <u>meets all limits</u> for effluent quality. He states on page 22 what he considers needed improvements to the Kingswood facility and cost. They are:

Cleanup blower house and equipment \$15,000.

They have already cleaned this building because they use it to store all the chemicals and equipment needed for the other plants inside there. The workers are there regularly loading supplies from the building into their trucks then leaving. This action required no additional cost.

Install Mission Alarm, wiring and mag meter \$11,000.

Mr. Cox stated in his testimony that this has already been installed (App. Exh. 8-A Page 42). This will save Bluegrass Water the cost of manpower to monitor the plant daily and will have a positive ROI as per Mr. Thomas's statement App. Exh. 8-B page 9. Cost of installation or monitoring should not be passed on to the customers.

Replace some diffusers in aeration tankage (assumed) \$10,000.

Mr. Cox testified that some diffusers have already been repaired and replaced. Since Mr. Freeman stated the plant currently meets all limits for effluent quality, I would (assume) all diffusers are working correctly. No cost now and replacement would be routine maintenance in the future.

Replace blower (assumed) \$12,500

The blower house currently has two working blowers. No cost now and replacement would be routine maintenance in the future.

<u>Lift Station Check valves replaced - failed \$2,500</u>

This is routine maintenance.

Air header replacement due to lack of air to aeration \$10,000

Since Mr. Freeman stated the plant currently meets all limits for effluent quality, I would think the aeration is working correctly. The previous owner had the header and all air piping replaced several years ago. I can give you the name and phone number if you want to check this. Also, you can see in the picture (Attachment Exh. C that no air valve is fully open so there must be adequate air supply. The aeration system has been working correctly for the past 22 years and it was not identified as a problem on the engineering report when purchased. No cost necessary.

Smoke Test system (Might be pressure, to verify) \$20,000

Bluegrass Water Utilities did this already in 2019. All homeowners were notified and we observed them doing the smoke test to our system. Why do this again? No cost necessary.

SUBTOTAL \$81,000

Construction Design and Investigative Services \$48,100

What is this? Since Jacob Freeman is already employed by CSWR and is qualified to do this what is this cost for?

TOTAL \$129,100

<u>Testimony of Brent G. Thies</u>, Controller for CSWR on September 28, 2020, states on App. Exh. 8-D pages 6 & 7, that Bluegrass Water proposes that residential customers across its systems be charged a unified tariff rate for sewer service.

This is not a fair practice if they are rolling in the cost for improvements to bring the facilities up to current limit standards for effluent quality. Neighborhoods who have diligently maintained their systems and paid a premium on their lots at time of purchase for a quality and reliable sewer system should not bear the responsibility of having to pay for those who did not. This would be the same as trying to make all the homeowners in a neighborhood pay for the repairs on a home that the owner did not maintain through the years. If some sewer plants require a significant amount of funds to bring their system up to current standards, those homeowners should be assessed a one-time charge to be paid off over time. These are one-time charges not something that will have to be done every year. By rolling it into a fixed monthly payment for life, Bluegrass will make enormous profits in the years to come at the expense of their customers. That is okay for businesses like Amazon where their customers have a choice to purchase or not but not for required utility services.

The monthly rate should be for the general everyday expense of maintaining the facility and a reasonable profit for the owner. Our current monthly rate of \$38.84 has achieved that for the previous owner since 1998. While the cost of supplies and services has increased over the years so did the number of homes connecting to the sewer system as the neighborhood grew.

I feel that since the managers of Central States Water Resources and Bluegrass Water Utility Company are so clearly fabricating facts and withholding truths, they should be held to their commitment made when purchasing the facility "Under the agreement, Bluegrass Water will continue to charge the same rates to customers as previous system owners." As stated on CSWR's page https://www.centralstateswaterresources.com/2019/09/30/central-states-water-resources-acquires-several-kentucky-wastewater-systems/

Central States Water Resources and Bluegrass Water Utility Company are currently seeking approval from PSC to purchase additional plants. If these need extensive repair will they again request another rate hike?

Joshua Cox has a history of doing this reported by the St Louis Post-Dispatch (MO), June 13, 2006 where his company, Hillcrest Utility Operating Co, proposed a rate hike from around \$25 a month to nearly \$150 a month for 250 homes in southeastern Missouri. The Missouri Public Service Commission raised questions about the truthfulness of the company's president: Josiah Cox, whether the 14 percent interest rate on a loan made to Hillcrest to fix up the failing water and sewer system is the best deal for ratepayers. They point out that the company that holds the loan to Hillcrest is owned by the same people who hold a majority stake in Hillcrest: Robert and David Glarner, the St. Louis developers behind the Northwest Plaza redevelopment.

Beyond costs to ratepayers, the Office of Public Counsel even presented evidence that Cox may not have disclosed all of his future income and assets during a personal bankruptcy in 2014, raising questions about whether a bankruptcy trustee could reopen the case and put the utility holding company at risk.

"This has not been a very transparent or cooperative relationship so far," said Cydney Mayfield, deputy counsel for the Office of Public Counsel. "When you're working with regulated entities, that transparency and flow of information is critical."

Gary Esterle

555 Kingswood Drive, Taylorsville, KY 40071



Attachments

Attachment Exh. A

Photos of problems at the Kingswood facility at time of purchase presented by CSWR



Attachment Exh. B

Pictures of repairs made since purchase presented September 28, 2020 by CSWR





Damaged walkway sections replaced to ensure safety

Backup generator on site for emergency power.

This is not a generator. Equipment just stored on site. Hydro Jet Cleaner Mod. # 747-FR2000



Reworked clarifier functioning properly

Attachment Exh. C
Pictures taken by Gary Esterle October 16, 2020



Fence not repaired just torn down and laying in grass



Same chemicals and more improperly stored



Hydro Jet Cleaner for clearing sewer lines



See no repairs to walkway



No air jet valves in full open position.



No repairs to blower house needed

To:
Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:52:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:18 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:03 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Friday, October 16, 2020 at 2:02 PM

.____

Name: Gilbert T Jeffries Address: 251 Columbia Lane

City: Shepherdsville State: Kentucky Zip Code: 40165

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Lake Columbia Utilities

State the nature of your concern: My concern is with the rate increase that Bluegrass Utilities want to raise my rate from \$50.32 to 96.14 a month. I have already been paying 50.32 for over

on

20 years. Which is already to high. Case 2020-00290 Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To: Subject:

KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date:

Monday, October 19, 2020 3:52:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:20 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission cfilings@ky.gov

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:14 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 2:14 PM

Name: Heather Woosley Address: 2554 Zoneton Road

City: Shepherdsville

State: KY

Zip Code: 40165

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Blue Grass Utility Operating Company

State the nature of your concern: Case# 2020-00290 I am submitting this formal complaint and want it to be known that I oppose the the hike in fees for our Blue Grass utility bill. If this hike were to go into effect, it would be my highest utility bill I pay. We are a family of 5 and have just made a house move and my husband, a job move. We are fortunate enough to still be working in these hard times of the Corona Pandemic but the raise in monthly fee would have

us dipping into our savings just to make ends meet every month. I have young children in school and I have to pay for them to eat at school and at home. This is taking over \$50+ dollars from our table each month and with a family of 5, that is a matter of if we eat for a couple days or not. I could not imagine the families that have lost their jobs right now due to Covid and then getting told their bill will increase. Please do not let this company take advantage of us.

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:
Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:54:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 8:33 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 7:36 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:36 PM

.____

Name: James Scott Spencer Address: 189 Columbia In east

City: Shepherdsville

State: Ky

Zip Code: 40165

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Utility Operating Conpany

State the nature of your concern: We cannot afford an increase. We already pay more than anyone we know. We shouldn't have to pay for improvements from across the state.

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: Yes

on

To:

Subject: RE: Case #2020-0290 (Bluegrass Water UOC rate increase for Airview Estates Service Area

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 2:16:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:39 AM **To:** PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: Case #2020-0290 (Bluegrass Water UOC rate increase for Airview Estates Service Area

From: James W. Morris

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:39 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Case #2020-0290 (Bluegrass Water UOC rate increase for Airview Estates Service Area To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to request the Public Service Commission intervene and deny Bluegrass Water UOC's application to raise the sewer bill in the Airview Estates service area in Elizabethtown, KY. I am a property owner in this neighborhood and my interest is in maintaining my personal finances and looking out for the welfare of my tenants.

Bluegrass Water UOC is requesting to increase the current rate of \$41.36 to \$96.14, an increase of 132.4%. At the proposed rate, the privilege of flushing a toilet will cost more than \$3.00 per day. This is approximate to the annual property taxes for a home in this neighborhood. I believe this rate increase was pre-planned by this company when they purchased this system as it is happening one year and one month into their new ownership. It is shameless and does not serve the community but rather victimizes the residents.

As we all understand, property taxes cover things such as fire, police, school, and ambulance but Bluegrass Water UOC wants the same approximate amount for maintaining a simple (open) sewage treatment pond and the existing pipes. I believe Bluegrass Water UOC's application serves as an example of the most callous indifference a private company can show for the people who have no choice but to use their "service". Referring to the

residents of Airview Estates as "customers" in this case is laughable. I feel like "hostages" is more appropriate.

No member of this community had a say in the selling of this utility to Bluegrass Water UOC but now we, collectively, are expected to fund their business decisions. Bluegrass Water UOC knew the condition of this neighborhood's sewer infrastructure when they purchased it so costs of future upgrades and operating costs should have determined their decision rather than a future intention to wring the money from the residents.

I believe many residents will simply decide to stop paying. Sewage is a utility and frankly should be in the public domain, operated using public funds. This arrangement is feudal, where the lord (Bluegrass Water UOC) demands an arbitrary price from the serfs who have no say whatsoever in the matter.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I sincerely hope the PSC intervenes and denies Bluegrass Water OUC's application and in doing so helps to ensure ethical, fair treatment of the residents.

Kind regards,

James Morris

To: Subject:

RE: Case #2029-00290

Date:

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:52:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: Jim Orr

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 9:53 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Case #2029-00290

I would like to file an appeal regarding the rate hike Bluegrass Waste Water Company is proposing for the Persimmon Ridge subdivision. The increase from \$35 to \$96 is outrageous. That is a 174% increase! Please look into this.

To: Subject:

KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date:

Monday, October 19, 2020 4:28:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:01 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2020 7:27 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by (Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 7:26 PM

Name: Judy Ryan

Address: 135 Hunters Trace

City: Frankfort State: KY

Zip Code: 40601

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water

State the nature of your concern: I reside at 135 Hunters Trace and strongly oppose the rate increase for monthly sewer charges for Bluegrass Water Utility. The proposed increase is outrageous. While the company may need to make repairs and updates to the current system, the increase from \$55.85 to \$96.14 is way too high. I respectfully request the PSC to intervene

on the Bluegrass Water Utility's proposed rate increase. Thank you. Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:50:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 3:01 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission cfilings@ky.gov

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:54 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 2:53 PM

Name: Karen Turner

Address: 281 Columbia Lane E

City: Shepherdsville

State: KY

Zip Code: 40165

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility

State the nature of your concern: Case # 2020-00290 Writing in regards to the outrageous proposed sewer bill rate increase. We were told when they took our contracts that our bills would not change. Within 1 year they have proposed over 100.00 per month increase. We have families without employment d/t Covid. Elderly people on fixed income who have lived in the area on their properties for years. Not a Great time to introduce such a "hike" in the bill

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: Yes

To:

Subject: RE: Case 2020-00290 Request for Intervention

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:32:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.kv.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From:

Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2020 3:18 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov> **Subject:** Case 2020-00290 Request for Intervention

Name: Kay DeVincentis

Address: 131 Whispering Pines Circle, Louisville, KY 40245

Place of residence: Persimmon Ridge Subdivision

Case: 2020-00290

I received my notice of a proposed rate increase in my residential sewer rate for Persimmon Ridge subdivision. My current rate is \$35.00 per month. My proposed rate is \$96.14 per month, **an increase of over 174%!**

I understand that costs may go up each year for capital improvements but an increase this large is **unacceptable**. Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, Inc. (Bluegrass Water) took over as our provider September 30, 2019. Bluegrass Water stated in its purchase application that the rates for each

utility initially will remain unchanged, but that it will eventually apply to the PSC for a unified rate for all their systems. Any changes in rates will have to be approved by the PSC.

I ask that the PSC **deny this massive rate increase** for all service areas as being excessive.

Sincerely, Kay DeVincentis

To: PSC Executive Director
Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:32:35 PM

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 3:31 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission cfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 3:14 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted on Friday, October 16, 2020 at

3:14 PM

Name: Kristy Meyer

Address: 161 Columbia Lane is

City: Shepherdsville

State: KY

Zip Code: 40165

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company

State the nature of your concern: Case #2020-00290 They want to raise our price. This is not okay since people have lost some time at work due to COVID. Also, they said at the beginning when they took over, that they would not raise our prices. I get that things need to fixed but not as much as they are asking to increase our prices. I know other people have complained also that are being affected. Please reconsider the price jump at this time and reconsider what you want to raise the price too. We have been paying the same amount back here for awhile and obviously it is working so I don't think anything needs to be done.

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:

RE: 2020-00290

Subject: Date:

Monday, October 19, 2020 4:20:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: Lori McStoots

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:24 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: 2020-00290

Members of the Public Service Commission,

My name is Lori McStoots. In August my family moved into the Persimmion Ridge community, 114 Persimmion Ridge Drive. One month later our neighbor received a notice of sewer rate increase and informed us about it. As we have not received notice as of today, I have turned to other neighbors who have shared more information on the reason and process for approval of the hike.

Several points concern me over the hike. First, Bluegrass gave their customers one months notice that the increase was proposed and set before commission. Is that a reasonable time for the customers dispute the rate hike? Also the amount of increase of 192% for our neighborhood and up to 300% for others all at once. And from my understanding that is for 18 months. What happens 18 months from now, another hike? While COVID does pose a threat, why are we were not allowed a public forum to dispute the hike or the hear first hand why these increases are necessary?

Having recently moved from Birmingham, AL, I am familiar with unreasonably high sewer rates. Our problems there stemmed from a county commissioner who tried to raise money for improvement via bonds and accepted bribes to influence the bond deals. This mismanagement lead to our exorbitant rate. Our utilities commission's answer was to set a scheduled rate increases once a year based on usage fee based on water usage minus a 15% credit for water not put into the sewer, ie watering grass. In recent years is rate increases have been at about 7% a year and average sewer bills run about 100 a month. The rates proposed by Bluegrass are in line with rates of one of the most mismanaged sewer systems in our country.

Having looked up your mission online I see that you have a clear role in this matter. "The mission of the Kentucky Public Service Commission is to foster the provision of safe and reliable service at a **reasonable** price to the customers of jurisdictional utilities while providing for the financial stability of those utilities by setting **fair and just rates**, and supporting their operational competence by overseeing regulated activities." My request and the request of all of the residents in the affected communities is to please do your job and help us come to a reasonable, just, and fair resolution to this matter.

Sincerely, Lori McStoots

To:
Subject: RE: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:52:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 8:37 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:55 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 9:55 PM

·

Name: Michael C Hitzler Address: 108 Prater Dr City: GEORGETOWN

State: KY

Zip Code: 40324

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company

State the nature of your concern: Intervention case#2020-00290. I am requesting your intervention in this case. I have received a letter stating a rate increase of 220.5%. This is

ridiculous and should not be approved.

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:
Subject: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:51:00 PM

Attachments: image002.png image003.png

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 10:04 AM **To:** PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290

From:

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:12 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Cc:

Subject: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290

Dear Public Service Commission Representative,

Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company has just informed the homeowners of Kingswood Subdivision that they are asking for an increase for our sewer bill of 147.5%. This would take our monthly rate from \$38.84 to \$96.14. They state that since purchasing the facility in 2019, they have had to invest significant funds for improvement. This is not true. I walk in the area almost every day.

They purchased eight (8) facilities in 2019. Their engineering report, filed before purchase, states that "No deficiencies were identified for the Persimmon Ridge plant or the Kingswood plant." https://psc.ky.gov/.../20190531BW_MtnConftTreatment_for...

The full engineering survey has since been redacted but it also showed at the time of purchase that there were no issues with our plant and it was more than adequate to handle the number of homes it serviced.

Six of the treatment plants they purchased show they needed significant work including a complete rebuild. I do not think it's fair to make us pay for other neighborhoods who have not maintained their system as we have done since 1998.

With the sale of our sewer system Bluegrass Water Utility stated our rates would not change. Please see screen shot below taken from this link- https://www.centralstateswaterresources.com/2019/09/30/central-states-water-resources-acquires-several-kentucky-wastewater-systems/?fbclid=lwAR1fDAotO-g2YQLksOJev4-y5pZ_zluG-djWVMNr8sLRCe_zSBfYVBFSz68

Central States Water Resources Acquires Several Kentucky Wastewater Systems

ST. LOUIS — Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, a division of Central States Water Resources (CSWR), has acquired the operating assets of several wastewater systems across Kentucky after the Kentucky Public Service Commission approved and finalized the sale of the wastewater systems.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring access to clean and safe drinking water and reliable wastewater systems to Kentuckians across the state," said Josiah Cox, President of Bluegrass Water and CSWR. "We believe our innovative approach will transform these Kentucky communities in need of reliable water resources."

Under the agreement, Bluegrass Water will continue to charge the same rates to customers as previous system owners.

The sewer companies acquired by Bluegrass Water are: Airview Utilities, Brocklyn Utilities, Fox Run Utilities, Kingswood Development Inc., Lake Columbia Utilities, LH Treatment Company, Marshall County Environmental Services, and Persimmon Ridge.

We strive to keep our neighborhood property values high and very marketable for those wishing to sell. A sewer bill increase of this magnitude is outrageous, unacceptable, and would be a big deterrent for prospective buyers.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue and to deny Bluegrass Water this unrealistic rate increase. Thank you,

Nick and Holly Richardson 737 Kingswood Drive Taylorsville, KY 40071

To:

Subject: FW: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 2:08:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:40 AM **To:** PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290

From: Richardson, Holly <

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:41 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: Request For Intervention Regarding Case #2020-00290

Dear Public Service Commission Representative,

Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company has just informed the homeowners of Kingswood Subdivision that they are asking for an increase for our sewer bill of 147.5%. This would take our monthly rate from \$38.84 to \$96.14. They state that since purchasing the facility in 2019, they have had to invest significant funds for improvement. This is not true. I live next to the facility, I am retired and I walk my dogs in the area almost every day. The only improvements they have made is to nail a few fence boards back up and place gravel on the driveway.

They purchased eight (8) facilities in 2019. Their engineering report, filed before purchase, states

that "No deficiencies were identified for the Persimmon Ridge plant or the Kingswood plant." https://psc.kv.gov/.../20190531BW MtnConftTreatment for...

The full engineering survey has since been redacted but it also showed at the time of purchase that there were no issues with our plant and it was more than adequate to handle the number of homes it serviced.

Six of the treatment plants they purchased show they needed significant work including a complete rebuild. I do not think it fair to make us pay for other neighborhoods who have not maintained their system as we have done since 1998.

This increase for the 126 homes would give them an increase of \$86,637.60 per year. Talking with their employees, the only improvement they plan for our facility is a remote monitoring system.

I am also a committee member on our homeowner's association. We strive to keep our neighborhood property values high and very marketable for those wishing to sell. A sewer bill of this magnitude would be a big deterrent for prospective buyers. The Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District charges its customers the same as their monthly water bill. My monthly water bill averages less than \$60. To have a flat rate of \$96.14 is way too high.

I do understand that anytime a company buys another company they want to quickly increase their profits but an increase of 147.5% is robbery in my opinion since we have no options but to be connected to the plant.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue and to deny Bluegrass Water this unrealistic rate increase.

Thank you,

Nick and Holly Richardson 737 Kingswood Drive Taylorsville, KY 40071

То:

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:53:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:16 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 1:30 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by (October 16, 2020 at 1:30 PM

Name: Rick and Pam Ledford Address: 135 Columbia Lane City: SHEPHERDSVILLE

State: KY

Zip Code: 40165

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company

State the nature of your concern: Case # 2020-00290 I'm writing this complaint against Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company for the outrageous proposed rate increase for our sewer bill. While we certainly understand that infrastructure must be maintained and upgraded to be viable, this could not come at a worse time. With job losses due to COVID-19, it is

unreasonable to expect people to be able to afford this type of increase. Our service area is Lake Columbia Estates, with a proposed 91.1% increase. While this is not the hardest hit area (Center Ridge is facing a 364.4% increase!!), it's still an extreme amount. Perhaps if the rate increase was deferred to a later time or even graduated, it would not be such a hardship to all. Thank you. Rick and Pam Ledford

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:
Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:51:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:46 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 2:42 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by October 16, 2020 at 2:41 PM

on Friday,

Name: S. Frank Platek Address: 732 Hogrefe Road

City: Independence

State: KY

Zip Code: 41051

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company

State the nature of your concern: Rejection of Case 2020-00290 Proposed Water Rate Increase October 11, 2020 Public Service Commission Post Office Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40602 RE: 2020-00290 Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company Proposed Rate Increase To the PSC Members, My wife and I received notice on October 7th, 2020 that Bluegrass Water Utility

Operating Company (BWUOC) is requesting a rate increase for all of their customers. The rate increase proposed depends upon the service location. Our home at 76 Lakepoint Lane in New Concord, Kentucky with water only service (no sewer) provided through Center Ridge Water service would suffer a 364.4 % rate increase if the requested rate increase is approved as submitted. Our monthly, flat rate water bill would increase from \$22.76 to \$105.84. There is little information provided by BWUOC supporting the reason for such an outrageous and immediate rate increase other than a BWUOC statement claiming to have invested \$2.5 million in "urgently needed improvements"...to ALL their water systems. We are not aware of improvements to the Center Ridge System. Are the people on the Center Ridge system having to pay for more than improvements to the Center Ridge system? If special system upgrades are planned including capital improvements to the processing plant, water lines or a badly needed emergency backup electrical generator system, then it would be beneficial to note any planned changes. BWUOC should include the estimated cost per customer and a plan to cover those costs with a statement that once improvement project(s) are completed, the monthly water rate will return to reasonable, "regular" rates. Without an understanding of WHY such outrageous rates are requested, it is hard to support any such request. My wife and I are only at our residence on Lakepoint Lane four to eight days per month throughout the year. While we understand not being full time residents is our decision, we have always paid the monthly rates whether we are there or not, hence accepting a flat monthly rate. If BWUOC is planning to install water meters and charge for actual usage we would need to know that and the proposed water usage cost. As BWUOC is requesting enormous rate increases for all of their communities and local providers, this appears to be an outrageous action taken which will impact all customers of all systems with the Center Ridge System receiving the highest rate increase for any of BWUOC systems. In fact, all other systems appear to be sewer systems. The Center Ridge System was just recently purchased by BWUOC and such a proposed rate increase clearly needs justification. My wife and I have a full time residence in Northern Kentucky with metered water needed for the residence, garden, lawn and pool. We average approximately \$95 per quarter for water (no sewer included). Our rate here is considerably less than the proposed Center Ridge rate increase. The proposed rate increase by BWUOC looks to be far beyond any city in the state we know. BWUOC would needs to support this outrageous rate increase. All residents on the Center Ridge system will be greatly affected by even a fraction of the proposed rate increase but there are also a large number of lower income residents on the Center Ridge system that would definitely be impacted by this huge, unsupported rate increase. With the current Covid-19 Pandemic, the additional proposed rate increase on already stretched budgets just adds insult to injury. If this rate increase request is designed to influence the KY PSC, with the plans to take a considerably lower rate increase thus "winning" an increase they truly wanted, then this would appear to be deception on the part of BWUOC. If BWUOC truly has plans to share with the customers justifying such a rate increase with an end date and return to reasonable rates after any proposed capital improvements, then their petition needs to reflect this. As a resident and customer of the Center Ridge Water System, now part of Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, we find this rate increase request to be unsupported, grossly inflated of any reasonable rate increase request and clearly an unjustified hardship for the residents if approved by the KY PSC. We adamantly oppose the proposed rate increase and ask the KY PSC to reject this request. Identified capital improvements, if needed, could be addressed in a reasonable rate request which would be far more palatable and fair to the customers. Sincerely, S. Frank Platek Roxann E. Platek WKY residence: 76 Lakepoint Lane, New Concord, KY 42076 NKY residence: 732 Hogrefe Road, Independence, KY 410151

To: Subject:

KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date:

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:53:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 8:34 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 7:52 PM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:52 PM

.....

Name: Seth and Melissa Tackett Address: 111 Buckettown Rd

City: Richmond State: KY

Zip Code: 40475

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company

State the nature of your concern: Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company has proposed a 140% price increase for 2 properties that we own in the Brocklyn community of Richmond, Ky. We own 106 Hager drive which is a 4 plex and also 122 Bolton Avenue, a single family home. We feel that this price increase is ridiculously high and absolutely not necessary. We

are requesting an intervention and denial of this proposed rate increase. Than You Seth and Melissa Tackett

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To: Subject:

Rate Change 2020-00290

Date: Rate Change 2020-00290 Monday, October 19, 2020 4:22:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:07 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: Rate Change 2020-00290

From: Gilbert Jeffries II <

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 8:27 AM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: Rate Change 2020-00290

I have been on the Lake Columbia Sewer Plant for over 20 years. When I first connected to the sewer plant I paid \$1500.00 to tap on. The plant has had at least 10 more connects added to the plant. It now has 34. Charlette LeFavarve is the original owner. She give it to Larry Smithers and Martin Cogan free and clear. Which owns several other sewer plants. At first our rate was \$15.00 a month. After a while Larry Smithers and Martin Cogan tried to raise the rates to \$99.00 a month in 2000. Rate went to \$50.32 after intervention with PSC.

For over 20 years the rate has been 50.32 which seems to be to high already. Now Bluegrass Water bought out several sewer plants from Larry Smithers and Martin Cogan. The same owners of Bullitt utilities that blew up and they abandoned. Larry Smithers and Martin Cogan took our money for over 20 years and did very little if any upgrades or maintenance to the sewer plants. It rates we already pay is high enough. Also I would like to say several houses have now went up for sale. With this rate hike the resale value and taxes paid will need to be lower. because no one wants to pay this high price for sewers.

These two guys also used to own Airview. It also has been neglected. Thanks Tom Jeffries 251 Columbia lane Shepherdsville Ky 40165.

To:

Subject:Request to Intervene, Case 2020-00290Date:Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:50:00 PMAttachments:Letter to PSC request to intervene.pdf

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 10:03 AM **To:** PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: Request to Intervene, Case 2020-00290

From: Tony Thompson

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 11:56 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer < PSC.Info@ky.gov **Subject:** Request to Intervene, Case 2020-00290

Executive Director Public Service Commission P.O. Box 615 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40602

Re: Motion to Intervene

Dear Director:

I own a home located at 115 Lakepoint Ln., in New Concord, Kentucky, 42076. The home is serviced with water by the Center Ridge Water District, owned and managed by Bluegrass Utility Operating Company, headquartered at P.O. Box 790379, in St. Louis, MO. 63179.

I was recently apprised of the fact that the Center Ridge Water District has filed an application to increase its water rates, effective 10/31/2020. The proposed increase amounts to an astounding 364.4% rate hike. I feel that this is an extreme increase for several reasons that I will list.

- Service is not metered so all customers pay the same regardless of actual usage.
- Many if not the majority of homes served by this District, are vacation and summer homes, with minimal usage in many months.
- It is my understanding that the Water District is privately owned, with no representation of its customers.
- Owner evidently just recently purchased this Water District this past year. They claim that the System needs improvements of millions of dollars, after making the purchase but prior to requesting a rate increase. It seems that most good business principles would secure its funding before making the purchase.
- Being aware of the socio-economic makeup of the Center Ridge District, I can say without any hesitation that a 364% increase in water rates will devastate the community served. Many people will have no choice but to terminate water service and either move from the community or bring in water from another source. Real estate values will be drastically impacted by this action if approved. No one in their right mind would consider investing in property where the monthly charge for water is over \$100 per month, regardless of usage.

I intend to request a copy of the application and supporting documents from the utility owner, meanwhile I would like to adamantly file my opposition to this proposed rate increase. Should the Commission seriously consider granting this increase, then I would request that the utility be

required to install meters and begin charging based on usage instead of a flat rate. I would be more than happy to bear the cost of the meter, should this requirement be considered.
Sincerely,

Tony Thompson

To: Subject: Date:

RE: case # 2020-00290 request for intervention Monday, October 19, 2020 2:03:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: Traci M

Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 4:34 PM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov> **Subject:** case # 2020-00290 request for intervention

Request for Intervention Case# 2020-00290

RE: Bluegrass Utility Operating Company, LLC application for an adjustment to rates and Approval of Construction

On October 5th, residents of Persimmon Ridge received a letter from Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Co., LLC indicating a proposed rate increase of 174% from \$35 monthly to \$96.14 along with several other locations being raised to this same amount.

It is questionable, at best, to think that each of these neighborhoods warrant the same overall monthly costs regardless of the condition the facility is in or the number of residents in each location.

Our understanding is that rate increases are only to be based on the work done – and that should be based on the work done to our facility alone. A rate should not be increased based on future projections of work to be performed.

We are requesting a denial of such enormous rate increases without substantiated proof of the work done.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Hedden-Morreau

Jack M. Jones, JR

280 Persimmon Ridge Drive

Louisville, KY 40245

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Thank you, Traci

To:
Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:55:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry <PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 10:15 AM

To: PSC Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>

Subject: FW: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

From: KY Public Service Commission < pscfilings@ky.gov>

Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 9:11 AM

To: PSC Consumer Web Inquiry < PSC.Consumer.Inquiry@ky.gov>

Subject: KY PSC Utility Inquiry

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

Friday, October 16, 2020 at 9:11 AM

.....

Name: Troy and Michelle Stovall Address: 151 Lake Song LN

City: Murray State: KY Zip Code: 42071

Phone number where you can be reached:

Home phone:

Utility Name: Bluegrass Water (2020-00290)

State the nature of your concern: Good morning, I hope this message finds you well during these turbulent times. If this message needs to go elsewhere, would you politely forward to whomever is in charge of rates:) I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent notice of rate increases. A small gradual annual increase is understandable, so as system is

on

maintained properly, etc. However, being the owner of a rental business myself, I cannot get behind a 300% increase of a God given resource. Please consider the retirees and elderly whom both make up a large portion of this neighborhood. Also, I ask that you consider we are in the midst of a pandemic and those residents in other categories (a lot of small business owners) are financially strained from missed employment and other effects of the shutdown. And lastly and politely, I ask that you consider fulfilling the contract on those who paid a year forward (while still owned by Center Ridge Water District), and start the new pricing when that billing cycle is over. That only seems like the honest and fair thing to do. Thanks for your time and stay well! Troy and Michelle Stovall

Have you contacted the utility about the problem: No

To:

Subject: RE: Case #2020-00290 Glen Nunn Request for Intervention

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:53:00 PM

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, 2020-00290, in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?Case=2020-00290.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Best Regards,

Brandon Bruner Administrative Branch Manager Filings Branch General Administration

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601

From: glenn nunn

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:26 PM **To:** PSC Executive Director <PSCED@ky.gov>

Subject: Case #2020-00290 Glen Nunn Request for Intervention

This is in response to proposed rate increase of water rates from \$22.79 to \$105.84 per month. We feel this is ridiculous price increase as this is for water only no sewer and minor improvements have been made. This is a small subdivision of mainly weekend only cabins and trailers used only a few times a year at most and usually only for weekends then. Only a handful of people live here year round, most are on fixed incomes and cannot afford an enormous rate increase. Before Bluegrass bought the water district, the homeowners themselves, through voluntary donations, which we contributed, bought a generator to use during power outages as this is a shared well and was to be maintained by the water district owner. The previous owner got a grant to update our system and we have been pleased with upgrades and this was done with a flat rate of \$22.79 per month.

Please intervene as this increase is just greedy and unjust.

*Angela M Goad Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*John G Horne, II Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Kathryn A Eckert McBrayer PLLC 201 East Main Street Suite 900 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

*Katherine Yunker McBrayer PLLC 201 East Main Street Suite 900 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507

*Larry Cook Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Bluegrass Water Utility Operating Company, LLC 1650 Des Peres Road, Suite 300 St. Louis, MO 63131

*J. Michael West Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204