

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2023

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

116 Cherry Hills Lane
Louisville, Kentucky 40245
March 8, 2023

Dear Sir:

I am writing regarding a rate increase proposal just submitted to you by Bluegrass Water UOC, LLC of Des Peres, Missouri.

Approximately 18 months ago Bluegrass Water purchased the company which provided sewage service to our community. Our residential monthly sewage rate at that time was \$35.00. Almost immediately Bluegrass raised the rate, with your apparent approval, from the \$35.00 per month to \$85.97, an increase of \$50.97, or 145.6%. With little or no question, Bluegrass knew at the time of the purchase what they intended to do in terms of rate increase; there weren't any surprises with the purchased company which necessitated the rate increase or their normal due diligence prior to the purchase would certainly have revealed such.

Now, approximately 18 months after the purchase, and after the absurd rate increase, Bluegrass has now submitted a proposal to the Public Service Commission for an additional rate increase of \$13.40 per month, or 15.6%. This then equates to a total increase in the monthly rate in approximately 1 ½ years of \$64.37 per month, or almost 184%! This is, as stated, absurd and a clear and calculated intent of this company to take advantage of the public which they serve, and a public which has no defense other than the public agency (Kentucky Public Service Commission) which, as a part of their stated mission, is to provide oversight over utility rates for the public for whom they were formed to serve.

Regarding stated mission, 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."

This company apparently has a history of purchasing companies and then raising the rates for the customers of those companies by exorbitant amounts.

Certainly this could, and should, be verified by those who have oversight over these public service companies and the quality and price of the services they provide.

I respectfully implore you not to grant this proposed increase by Bluegrass Water and, if anything, roll back a portion of the grievous increase which was approved by the PSC last year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Art Akers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

William (Art) Akers