



# COMMISSION NEWS

## Arizona Corporation Commission

### Public Information Office

Heather Murphy, Public Information Officer  
Phone (602) 542-0844 FAX (602) 364-0925  
e-mail [hmurphy@azcc.gov](mailto:hmurphy@azcc.gov)

May 3, 2007

## **ACC ANNOUNCES RATE CASE PUBLIC COMMENT SESSIONS** **Commissioners Plan May 16 Visits to Sun City & Sun City West**

PHOENIX – In preparation for an August evidentiary hearing set for the Arizona-American wastewater rate case, the Arizona Corporation Commission is scheduling a public comment session for customers on the Sun City and Sun City West systems. Arizona-American Water Company has asked the Commission to approve wastewater rate increases for both systems.

The company contends that the costs of maintaining, operating and testing its wastewater systems have increased and it is seeking Commission approval to raise rates. The current rates were last adjusted in June 2004.

**Wednesday, May 16 at 10:30 AM**  
**Public Comment for Sun City Customers**  
Fairway Recreation Center Auditorium  
10600 West Peoria Avenue  
Sun City

**Wednesday, May 16 at 2:00 PM**  
**Public Comment for Sun City West Customers**  
Palm Ridge Recreation Center  
Summit Room, Hall A  
13800 West Deer Valley Drive  
Sun City West

Wastewater rates vary but are based on the amount of water used by the customer, recognizing that a certain portion of that water goes down the drain and needs to be treated. The average Sun City customer today pays approximately \$10.98. Arizona-American proposed to increase the average Sun City wastewater bill to \$15.01 per month. The Commission staff is in the process of auditing and analyzing the company's records and will form its own recommendation.

The current average wastewater bill for Sun City West customers is \$20.56. Arizona-American has proposed to increase the average bill to approximately \$33.60 per month. Again, the Commission staff is undertaking a thorough review of the company's application and will issue its own recommendation. The staff testimony is currently scheduled to be filed by June 13, 2007.

In April 2007, Arizona-American filed an application for an increase to its water rates for the Sun City system and proposes to implement a surcharge to cover costs of improving fire flow for public safety. Commission review of this new application (docket number W-01303A-07-0209) is in the very early stages.

The effect of the requested increase on individual customers' bills may vary from the effect on an average customer's bill. Customers may contact the company to inquire further about the effect on their individual bill if the company's request is granted.

The Commission will determine the appropriate relief to be granted based on the evidence of record in the proceeding. The Commission is not bound by the proposals made by the company, staff, or any intervenors.

The Arizona Corporation Commission is in the process of evaluating the merits of the case in preparation for a courtroom-style administrative hearing. Companies, organizations and individuals that have formally intervened will have an opportunity to question the company and argue their position at the August 23, 2007 hearing in Phoenix, starting at 10:00 AM. An administrative law judge will preside over the hearing to assess the validity of each party's position.

Before the hearing begins, the Commissioners want to hear from members of the public who would be affected by the decision. There are three ways to offer public comment:

- By attending a formal public comment session,
- By sending a letter and 13 copies to the Commission's Docket Control Center
- By using the Commission's website to open and save a comment form and e-mailing the form to the Commission.

## **About Public Comment Sessions**

Public comment sessions are formal proceedings and all comments will be transcribed by a court reporter. The Commissioners may limit the duration of each individual's comments to allow everyone a fair opportunity to speak.

No date has been set for the Commissioners to make a final decision on the case. The August 23 hearing in front of the administrative law judge could last several days. The judge then waits for any final briefs to be filed, for the transcripts to come in and begins working on a recommendation for the Commissioners to consider. This can take six to eight weeks or more, depending on whether the parties are ordered to submit summary briefs. Consumers should, however, be aware and anticipate that this case could result in an increase to their bills.

## **Public Comment by Mail**

If you cannot attend in person, the Commission encourages the timely submission of written comments. Submit an original *and 13 copies* of your comments to the Docket Control Center and they will be distributed to the Commissioners and key staff members. Be sure to reference the docket numbers to ensure that your comments are properly catalogued and referenced.

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Docket Control Center  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Docket Number: WS-01303A-06-0491

## **Electronic Public Comment**

You may also comment through the Commission's Utilities Division website. Be sure to include the docket numbers listed above. For instructions on filing electronic public comment, click on <http://www.azcc.gov/divisions/util/consumerservices.htm>.

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