

file in dec. 66847
W-01445A-02-0619

ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISS
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM



0000002107

4760

Investigator: Carmen Madrid

Phone: (602) 542-0848

Fax: (602) 542-2129

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2004 - 34824

Date: 4/21/2004

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed/In Favor

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Robert

Downing

Account Name: Robert Downing

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street: 317 Van Dyke Street

Work: (000) 000-0000

City: Bisbee

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85603

is:

Utility Company: Arizona Water Company

Division: Bisbee

Contact Name: Margaret Francis

Contact Phone: (602) 240-6860

Nature of Complaint:

Received correspondence regarding a newspaper article out of the Bisbee Observer where Arizona Water Company want to charge a property owner \$44,000 to connect them to the water line. Also the person writing the correspondence is against the rate hike application.

Utilities' Response:

n/a

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

4/21/04 Customer's comments noted. Opinion will be sent to Docket Control to be put into the official docket. Closed

Date Completed: 4/21/2004

Opinion No. 2004 - 34824

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

APR 22 2004

DOCKETED BY

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

2004 APR 22 A 8:38

RECEIVED

317 Van Dyke Street
Bisbee, AZ 85603-1622
April 13, 2004

Connie Walszak
Customer Services Supervisor
Utilities Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2927

RECEIVED

APR 16 2004

**AZ CORPORATION COMMISSION
DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES**

Dear Supervisor Walszak:

The enclosed clipping from the Bisbee Observer, dated March 25, 2004 and authored by one Dee Marchese may be of interest to the Commission. A written, negative comment by Arizona Water Company President Garfield on my complaint about "high" construction costs during the Docket W-01445A-02-0619 prompted me to send this clipping along, simply for the private water monopoly's file.

The excessive charges complained about by Marchese echo exactly what I had learned from another subdivision developer and forwarded to the commission. While Garfield pooh-poohed my facts, here is yet another complaint. I do not know Marchese but I did contact her tonight and advised her of her right to complain to "our protectors in rate matters". I have left the Planning and Zoning Commission here in Bisbee since commenting during the rate case and intend to support what other reasonable citizens write in any practicable way.

I was disturbed that your utility commission seemed to reduce the Arizona Water Company hike from 50% to about half that, but knew that the new rate is very close to what the Bisbee City Manager told me your staff estimated as the probable increase a few days after the news item announced the intended rate hike. One Commissioner would have liked incremental increases, but the utility apparently wanted the whole thing right away.

There obviously is little use in telling anyone that yet another rate hike on something like electricity to run your oxygen concentrator or some other handy item as well as pay dearly for potable water, priced to keep usage down by commission design, will hurt those of us on fixed income. Then one reads a different complaint of excessive-appearing construction charges you have to wonder why this exists. The area not served by Arizona Water in this complaint may well stay barren county land up for tax sales.

I also regret feeling the need to sign petitions for two candidates as replacements for commission incumbents, but others and I have done just that. Hope springs eternal. Please, do not send me any haughty denials from Arizona Water. I would buy their stock if they were not a closed water baronage and if they shared their profits reasonably in dividends. I really do not hate this monopoly, but I honestly do not like their pricing.

Sincerely,

Robert Downing

Encl: Clipping "Bisbee Observer"

Opinion

columns, letters & guest editorials

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Bisbee Observer is a community newspaper committed to providing a voice for local citizens. The views expressed herein are not necessarily held by the management or owner of the Bisbee Observer. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Please limit them to no more than 350 words. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced, and must be signed by the author and include telephone number and address (they will not be printed). Anonymous letters and long letters of thanks will not be published. Address letters to: The Editor, The Bisbee Observer, 7 Bisbee Rd., Suite L, Bisbee, AZ 85603. Letters may be sent by FAX to 432-4192. Our e-mail address is mail@thebisbeeobserver.com. Deadline: Tuesdays at noon.

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF A LIVE PERFORMANCE!

To the Editor:

Prepare yourselves for a harmonic convergence of two celestial sound machines! On March 28, at 3 p.m., the Bisbee Community Chorus will host the Tucson Girls Choir in a concert at the Lowell School Auditorium. This free event will be a fantastic opportunity for Bisbee's youth to connect with the joy of a live performance. See you there!

DAVID DOWNEY
Bisbee

THE HIGH COST OF WATER

To the Editor:

I recently purchased an acre of property in the Mountain Ranch Estate (west of Highway 92, above the Pizza House). I asked and got a price from Arizona Water Company to bring the water up to my property line. It's about 620 feet from the water source to my line. I received a price of \$44,000. I think that price is outrageous. There are several lots up there that haven't been built on for the same reason. I don't know if people are just greedy, and they're waiting for someone else to pay the price for the water and they just hook up for nothing. Even if I had the money to bring up the water, I wouldn't, for it's just not fair. There are three other lots that will benefit. If we could get together and agree to pay equally,

it would only cost us \$11,000 each.

I think the way it's set up now stinks. It should be set up that if I pay for the line, then anyone who hooks into it should have to pay me a portion of what it costs me. If anyone out there has a better solution, I am open for it.

Thanks for the space.

DEE MARCHESE
Bisbee

OPEN LETTER OF THANKS

To Mayor Beauchamp, City Council and Bisbee Police Department:

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of Bisbee, I would like to thank all of you for approving the donation of a used vehicle to be the main prize for our Family Fun Day on June 5.

The ability to raffle off this vehicle will help us considerably to raise much needed funds for our ongoing programs serving the youth of Bisbee ages 6 to 18.

We are very grateful for this donation and look forward to having a successful raffle as a result of being able to offer this very valuable prize. Thank you for help in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. BUTLER
Bisbee Boys & Girls Club Board
president
Bisbee