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From: FRED W. SCHENCK <
To: ACC_DOMAIN.ADMIN_PO(MGleason)
Date: 11/12/03 1:37PM
Subject: Water Rate Comment

Public comment submitted to Mike Gleason, Arizona Corporation Commissioner by Fred Schenck, a resident of Sun City, Arizona living at 20014 N. Lakeforest Drive in that community via e-mail to: mgleason@cc.state.az.us.

Dear Mr. Gleason,

I want to thank the Arizona Corporation Commission for providing a forum for public comment on the rate determination for the Arizona-American Water Company and I want to apologize for being unable to attend the November 12, 2003 meeting.

I do not have the specific information needed to determine if the rate that the Arizona-American Water Company has requested is appropriate but your letter appearing in the Daily News-Sun suggests that it may be excessive. I hope that the ACC will make the correct judgment in that regard and not allow excessive profits to leave the United States economy to aid a foreign corporation.

What I would like to suggest to you and your fellow commissioners is that in addition to fair compensation for the maintenance and operation of the water and sewerage services, that the individual consumer's charges be structured to encourage water conservation and discourage excessive use. We live in a desert and are presently in a period of drought that may last for many years. The ACC has an opportunity to encourage water conservation that I hope they will take full advantage of.

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The present rate structure represents that much of the costs to maintain and operate the services provided by the Arizona-American Water Company are fixed and therefore independent of water flow. I suggest adding a totally separate volume usage surcharge over that water amount needed to sustain a household. The surcharge amount collected would be completely rebated to those consumers who use less than the sustenance amount in proportion to the amount of water that they conserve.

I would propose that this surcharge and rebate program exist completely outside of the rate structure determined by the ACC to justly compensate the Arizona-American Water Company for providing water and sewer services. It would be implemented by the Arizona-American Water Company to show as a charge or credit on each customer's monthly bill. It should be revenue neutral to the Arizona-American Water Company and all surcharge amounts collected for overuse should be fully refunded to those customers that conserve. By making it revenue neutral it would not have an impact on the just compensation for water and sewer service. It would adjust automatically for any overall conservation of our precious water resource should it occur. As less is collected in surcharge, less would be distributed to those that conserve water.

Such a plan should have the effect of reducing our per capita water consumption by encouraging the installation of water-saving devices, xeriscaping, and thoughtful water use. I hope that the Commission will consider this suggestion. Should you have any questions regarding my suggestion, please contact me. Thank you.

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Sun City, AZ 85373-1113

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