

SW-02519A-06-0015



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISS
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Al Amezcua

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Arizona Corporation Commission

Opinion No. 2006 55148

Date: 9/8/2006 DOCKETED

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

SEP 12 2006

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Michael

Wittig

DOCKETED BY

Account Name: Michael Wittig

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street: [REDACTED]

Work: (000) 000-0000

City: [REDACTED]

CBR: [REDACTED]

State: AZ Zip: [REDACTED]

is: E-Mail

Utility Company: Gold Canyon Sewer Company

Division: Sewer

Contact Name: Bob Dodds

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Received e-mail from Mr. Wittig. Docket No. SW-02519A-06-0015.

[REDACTED]

To: Utilities Div - Mailbox
Subject: Docket Number SW-02519A-06-0015 Algonquin / Gold Canyon Sewer

To: AZ Corporation Commission
From: Michael Wittig

[REDACTED]

Date: 1 Sept 2006
Subject: Algonquin / Gold Canyon Sewer Co rate increase request

re: Docket Number SW-02519A-06-0015

Commissioners,

Although I could write a long letter I think it is in our best interest to keep this brief. I have two issues to report. First I want to make the Commission aware of the lack of substantial improvement regarding odor control. The second is my opposition to the rate increase due to the first problem.

Odor Control -- The sewer plant has always had odor control problems since I moved to this area in Sept 2001. Pinal County gov't reps maintained that there was nothing they could do. The sewer plant operators were not easily able to be contacted to notify of the issue. When the expansion was announced the sewer co reps made claims that the odor problem will be fixed. The truth is it has not since the expansion was completed. They have within the last year tried to blame the source of odor was manholes at the local shopping center. This

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however is not true. When I play golf on the adjacent Mountain brook golf course the 11th through 13 holes have a sewage smell when a breeze comes from the SE. That smell would not be present from the lakes on the course or the shopping center where those holes are relative to the wind direction. The only source is the plant. They have asked us to keep logs and report t odor problems to them. It is ridiculous to deflect responsibility any longer. It is time for this ownership group to solve the odor problem.

Rate Increase -- Many of my neighbors were opposed to the expansion of this plant. Since they have never been able to control odor I did not have faith that they would be able to improve the situation during the expansion. I would have preferred to join the Apache Junction Sewer District. I was told by Pinal Co Commissioner Smiths office that there was no way that the county could prevent the expansion from taking place. So the sewer co on their own decided to expand. Therefore they should inherit the risk of the profitability of the expansion. And they certainly inherited a need to address the odor as part of the expansion. Since the plant is expanded and the odor not controlled I believe it has been a waste of money. I don't believe the customers should be held liable for the cost of expansion -- the business and the investors of a poorly performing company should. The expansion was not necessary and the odor p problem still exists.

Yet this company is asking the current residents -- those that are not benefiting from the expansion to pay for it. The community that were unable to stop the expansion and were forced to accept it with the hope of a solution to the odor problem. Now an underperforming plant regarding odor control and fiscal responsibility. An expansion that should only be financed by impact fees from new customer hook ups, not the existing customer base.

The Commission may also want to address the sub contracting of this job. It has been reported in local newspapers that bids for this project were not open but instead contracted to companies that may have ties to the parent ownership of this plant. If this is true then ethical issues regarding the cost of the expansion exist. However this issue is not the basis of my position.

To reiterate I want to go on record against any rate increase for the Algonquin Gold Canyon sewer plant until the odor problem is corrected. Only then can any increase be justified.

Thank you,

Michael Wittig
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

n/a
End of Response

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

9/7/06 Docket No. SW-02519A-06-0015
Response was e-mailed to Mr. Wittig.

Good afternoon Mr. Wittig,

This e-mail is to acknowledge that the Arizona Corporation Commission ("ACC") is in receipt of your e-mail dated September 01, 2006 regarding Gold Canyon Sewer. Your comments to the rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the ACC to be made part of the record.

The concerns raised in your letter about the odor have been addressed. First of all they have corrected the problems with their facility during the expansion project completed in October 2005. Part of the expansion project was to eliminate all odors from the facility by covering every tank or open basin in the facility and connecting all the covered tanks to a two-stage wet scrubber that removes odors. The Company was here in place long before the Bashas was built and have met the requirements from ADEQ for distance to other

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businesses or residential homes. Yes, Bashes did have strong odor odors in the parking lot even after we completed the odor control, Gold Canyon staff investigated the odor problems coming from the Bashes privately owned sewer system which consist of a collection system, grease traps and a lift station. Gold Canyon staff discovered that every clean out and grease trap caps were never installed. We discovered around 26 clean outs and numerous grease trap lines open to the atmosphere venting sewer and grease odors into the parking lot. We contacted the Bashes' owner, Pinal County and ADEQ for an on site inspection of the Bashes parking lot problem. Once the problem was reported the Bashes owner corrected all the problems except for the lift station wet well cover which is still letting odors escape at time. After the repairs the odors have mostly disappeared from the parking lot and they have a completely aerobic process that does not produce methane.

The Company has had many tours of the facility and nobody has ever noticed an odor during these tours by the ACC, ADEQ, RUCO or several other agencies who has been to the plant.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me toll free at (800) 222-7000.

Sincerely,

Al Amezcua
Consumer Service Specialist
Utilities Division
End of Comments

Date Completed: 9/8/2006

Opinion No. 2006 - 55148
