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Docket Control Center
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Sept. 15, 2003

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
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Dear Sir,

This letter is in reference to docket W-01445A-02-0619.

The water rate increase of 66% as proposed by Arizona Water Company for Sierra Vista are extreme.

The questions I ask are:

1) Why should Sierra Vista be charged an increase of 66% if the wells in these areas already meet the new Federal Standards.

2) Why should Sierra Vista's increase be higher than the proposed 29.5% increase for the Eastern Group when their water has 26 ppb of arsenic (which is above the new Federal Standard)? Also, the Apache Junction area with 16,000 customers is far more able to withstand the increase than Sierra Vista's 5,000. The 5,000 customers in Sierra Vista should not have to pay for a problem the company has in the Apache Junction area.

Arizona Corporation Commission
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Extreme water rate increases may also affect property values where Arizona Water Company provides service. In Sierra Vista areas, property values would go down while ~~and~~ other areas may increase because people will

seek homes in locations where water rates are reasonable. Arizona Water Company is a monopoly because homeowners are not able to change water companies to get better rates. Arizona Water Company as well as other water companies need to be regulated.

In conclusion, I feel that an increase should be made according to the needs of the area.

Sincerely,

Susan Burkham

Susan Burkham
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