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Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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Re: Docket # W-01445A-02-0619

AZ CORP COMMISSION
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Dear Sirs:

I have been a Bisbee resident for 74 years, and my family and I have been paying for the delivery of water since 1929, as have 15,000 to 20,000 other people for 75 years. As the City's population has declined since 1973 to 6500, I was in business and owned several buildings. Any credible company of any size, especially a utility company, would be expected to set aside a portion of their profit to pay for future improvements and repairs and replacement of old water lines. Bisbee residents have always been charged much higher rates for water than other cities and towns in this state. In the mid 1950's the water company raised the rates, saying they were not making enough money. At that time City Councilman Art Blunt offered to purchase said company. Supposedly, Arizona Water Company was losing so much money in Bisbee that they hired attorneys to fight the takeover. Would anyone in his right mind want to keep a company that was losing money?

The citizens of Bisbee cannot afford a 50.4% increase in water rates and do not see that such can be justified by the Arizona Water Company. Perhaps a 1-2% raise would be reasonable? What happened to the company's 100 years of profit made in Bisbee? Why can't that be used to pay for repair and replacement of older lines? Any other non-monopoly business cannot just raise their prices to compensate for their own mismanagement, so why should Arizona Water Co. try to do so? This is why the Corporation Commission was instituted, to protect citizens from monopoly-type businesses. Mr. Bill Garfield is quoted in the July 3 edition of The Bisbee Observer, saying that water mains are always expensive in Bisbee. Well, if water line must be dug up for repair or replacement, it was already dug in the first place and filled with loose dirt, so why should it cost more to do this than in any other town? It would behoove the citizens of Bisbee to voice their concerns to the Corporation Commission on this issue.

Thank you,

John Economy
P.O. Box 4365
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

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