

W-20435A-09-0296

W-20435A-09-0298



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ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMM

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM RECEIVED

270

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone:

2009 JUL 31 P 3: 59 Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

AZ CORP COMMISSION DOCKET CONTROL

Opinion No. 2009 80670

Date: 7/28/2009

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed N/A Not Applicable

Complaint By: First: Lou Anne Last: Kirby

Account Name: Lou Anne Kirby

Home: ()

Street:

Work:

City: Sonoita

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85637

is: E-Mail

Utility Company: Sonoita Valley Water Company

Division: Water

Contact Name: Southwest Utility Management, Inc.

Contact Phone: (520) 623-5172

Nature of Complaint:

(Docket No. W-20435A-09-0296)

I have reviewed the Sonoita Valley Water Company response to your Letter of Deficiency and find that in the attachment detailing wells owned by Sonoita Valley Water (one of three companies joined under the name Sonoita Valley Water Co.) only 3 wells are listed. One of those is listed as having been drilled "pre-1982" with a casing depth of 503 feet and 4 inch casing. I believe this is the well drilled in June, 1995 by BJ Drilling of Benson, Arizona. Prior to 1995, there was no well of that depth on the site.. The 1995 well was the one in use when Mr. Buck Lewis acquired the system and that well is not listed among the current wells on the site. I provided documentation of this well in the form of a newspaper clipping attached to my previous comments.

The lists of wells include only those wells that are currently producing water and presumably in use and omits at least three other wells that are now or nearly dry.

I believe this is a serious omission, given that the proposed rate increase is based in part on a supposed need to drill a new well to a depth of 1000 feet with an 8: casing on the same site. I think the fact that so many dry wells exist on that site should be considered in deciding to approve a rate increase for more wells on the same site. Since wells are a matter of public record in Arizona it should not be difficult for the company to provide accurate information.

I further believe that no need exists to drill a new well at this time since the company pumped 4.6 million gallons of water from the three existing wells in the test year of 2008, and delivered only 1.9 million gallons of water to the rate payers on the system. My conclusion is that plugging the leaks and if necessary, replacing distribution pipes would be a more prudent use of the funds.

End of Complaint

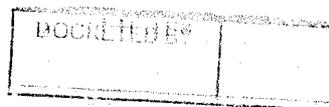
Utilities' Response:

na

End of Response

Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

JUL 31 2009



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

I emailed customer the following:

RE: Sonoita Valley Water Company

Dear Ms. Lou Anne Kirby;

Your email dated July 17, 2009 regarding the Sonoita Valley Water Company rate application sent the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") office will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center to be made part of the record. The Commission will take your comments into consideration before a decision is rendered in the Sonoita Valley Water Company case.

The concerns raised in letters received from customers will assist the Commission in the investigation and review of the rate application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers. Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Commission 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) 535-0148 or directly at 520-628-6555.

Thank you,

Richard Martinez
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II
Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Division

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I emailed this OPINION to Trish Meeter @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Sonoita Valley Water Company Docket No. W-20435A-09-0296. FILE CLOSED.
End of Comments

Date Completed: 7/28/2009

Opinion No. 2009 - 80670
