

W-02327A-09-0284



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ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISS

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Richard Martinez

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2009 81366

Date: 8/21/2009

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

First:

Last:

Complaint By: Ken

Chamberlain

Account Name: Ken Chamberlain

Home: [REDACTED]

Street: [REDACTED]

Work: Arizona Corporation Commission

City: Sierra Vista

CBR: DOCKETED

State: AZ Zip: 85650

is: 8/26/2009

Utility Company: Antelope Run Water Company

Division: Water

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

Contact Name: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

(Docket No. W-02327A-09-0284)

Regarding the hearing on Antelope Run Water Company's request for an emergency water rate increase (Docket No. W-02327A-09-0284

I would like to express some concerns regarding this hearing and appreciate you considering them.

A- Regarding the first issue on the docket; "Antelope Run Water Company has requested the Arizona Corporation Commission determine if an emergency increase/surcharge of approximately \$43.51 per customer, per month should be granted. Such surcharge would increase the average monthly customer bill, based on 8000 gallons of usage, from \$19.50 to \$63.01."

I agree that a water price increase is needed. There has not been an increase in the 20 years since I have been a customer. My concern is the vagueness of this pricing. Does this mean my last water bill using 32,000 gallons which costs me \$47.24 would then cost me 4x\$63 which would be \$252?

B- Regarding the second issue of the docket; "According to the requests, the Company's water system has severe water pressure and pumping problems with much must be addressed."

This is not true, It was a problem 10-15 years ago, but has been corrected and is currently very reliable with very good pressure

C- Regarding the statement, "The company asserts that it does not have the funds necessary to effectuate needed repairs".

Are there truly needed repairs? It is my belief "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". Secondly, if Antelope Run is in such dire financial straits that it does not have access to capital, maybe it should be sold to or merged with a company that does. A company charging its customers to recapitalize is unheard of except in co-ops. Antelope

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Run deserves a rate of return on capital investments, but not if the customers provide the capital. Would the company be willing to pay dividends to its customers for providing the needed capital?

D- Lastly, changing the management to Tucson's Southwest Utility further increases cost because of the 75 mile commute just to read the meters. Was the motive for Antelope Run water Company's change in management to Southwest Utility to justify the request before your commission to Increase operating costs and rates?

It seems that a flat rate increase of \$15 per month with a flat 10% increase per every 1,000 gallons would be fair and reasonable.

Thank you for your attention.  
Ken Chamberlain, [REDACTED]

\*End of Complaint\*

**Utilities' Response:**

na  
\*End of Response\*

**Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

I emailed this OPINION to Trish Meeter @ ACC Phoenix Office to have this docketed towards Antelope Run Water Company -Docket No. W-02327A-09-0284. FILE CLOSED.  
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\*End of Comments\*

**Date Completed: 8/21/2009**

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