

Pekin's water rates increasing

ADVERTISEMENT

FREE RESUME BUILDER
edit | print | save

The Web's #1 self-help resume builder
practically writes your resume for you!

Chronological Resume Functional Resume

writeCLICKresume

By Ed McMenamain
Pekin Daily Times
Sat Apr 17, 2010, 08:00 AM CDT

PEKIN, Ill. -

Pekin-area residents' water bills will increase by more than 20 percent as soon as next month.

The Illinois Commerce Commission passed a rate hike of \$41,373,528 for Illinois-American Water's Pekin system on Wednesday. The commission's members voted unanimously to cut about \$19.6 million from the water company's request for \$61 million in additional annual revenue.

"Knocking \$20 million off was a step in the right direction but not nearly enough as far as were concerned, especially in this economy," said Citizens Utility Board spokesperson Jim Chilsen. "CUB and other community advocates said the company could justify no more than half of the original \$61 million that they asked for. We're always looking for ways to reduce the rate hike as much as possible or wipe it out."

Illinois-American Water spokesperson Karen Cotton said the hike is needed for investments "we're making in our infrastructure."

"State-wide we're making infrastructure investments of about \$150 million," she said. "And that's in the years of 2009 and 2010. In Pekin we're investing approximately \$3.5 million, and that improves replacement water mains, hydrants and meters."

She said the increase funds improvements to "water service and fire protection" at the Riverway Business Park, as well as the installation of "permanent stand-by power at two well sites."

The last increase was granted in August 2008.

"We take the commission's oversight of our water utilities seriously," she said.

"We can't set rates without them."

She

In the
com

made in the company's cost of capital, management fees, regulatory expenses associated with filing rate cases, income tax estimates and operating expenses.

Illinois-American Water provides service to 317,000 customers in service districts that stretch from southern Illinois to Chicago.

Proposed Ameren rate increase

On Wednesday, the ICC will also likely rule on a gas and electric rate increase requested by Ameren Illinois Utilities.

Ameren initially requested an overall increase in annual revenue of \$226 million last year, but has since revised that figure to \$130 million. The ICC Administrative Law Judge recommended a \$56 million increase.

"That's what the commission is considering," said ICC spokesperson Beth Bosch. "But they can make their own changes to it."

Childon said CUB and the Illinois Attorney General office conducted a state-wide campaign arguing that that's still not good enough.

"We're arguing for a \$6 million rate cut," he said.

In 2008, the ICC approved a \$162 million rate hike request by Ameren.

Residents can officially object to Ameren's rate case by calling the ICC's Consumer Comment line at 1-800-524-0795 or writing to Illinois Commerce Commission, 527 E. Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701. Comments can also be submitted online at <http://www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/comment/>. The case numbers are 09-306 for gas and 09-309 for electric.

Related Stories.

Comments (1)

ilianna

2 days ago

[Report Abuse](#)

You must be logged in to report abuse.

[Report Abuse](#)

Just for reference, 306 is electric and 309 is for gas.

Login or register to post a comment:

Login

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password](#)

Login



Register

Email: _____

First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the [terms of use](#)

I am over 13 years of age

NOTE: Your inbox must accept emails from "no-reply@gatehousemedia.com"

Register

A banner for "PRAIRIE STATE OUTDOORS" with the text "Illinois' Premier Outdoors Web Site" and "www.prairiestateoutdoors.com". To the right, it says "Think your 'big' buck is worth These guys thought so!" and shows a row of five photos of men with large antlers. A silhouette of a buck is also visible.

