



CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

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CUB STATEMENT ON AQUA ILLINOIS' PROPOSED \$19.2 MILLION RATE HIKE

Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Executive Director Sarah Moskowitz released a statement today about Aqua Illinois' \$19.2 million rate hike request before the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC):

A rate hike of up to \$30 a month is painfully excessive--and will be a hardship for Aqua customers. CUB has long had concerns about poor service quality and high rates from Aqua. There have been several examples of service concerns--including unacceptable levels of lead in drinking water in University Park in 2019, a water outage in Lake County in 2023 and the recent boil order in the Danville area. At the same time, Aqua's aggressive strategy of buying up municipal systems, along with winning legislative approval to add a "Qualifying Infrastructure Plant" surcharge to bills has needlessly increased costs for customers. Aqua's parent company has raked in \$828 million in profits over the last two years, which begs the question of why the water utility needs to burden its customers with a punishing rate hike. CUB is reviewing Aqua's rate-hike filing, and, along with other consumer advocates, we will do everything we can to reduce this proposed increase.

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The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is celebrating its 40th anniversary as Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds. In 2024, CUB is celebrating its 40th anniversary of consumer advocacy work. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB's award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.