



**For Immediate Release**

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## Illinois Commerce Commission Approves Significantly Lower Rate Increase than Requested by Aqua

Chicago, IL....The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Wednesday issued an order approving approximately \$6.549 million in additional revenue for Aqua Illinois, Inc. (Aqua) for the delivery of water service, and approximately \$757 thousand in additional revenue for sewer service. These increases are 37.9% less than the \$10.542 million the company requested for water service and 48.1% less than the \$1.458 million the company requested for sewer service.\*

In addition to Aqua's rising cost of providing water and wastewater service, the Commission took into consideration the company's need to repair and replace aging infrastructure throughout its service territory. This order results in an 11.87% rate increase for water service and a 9.81% increase for sewer service, significantly less than the 19.10% rate increase the company originally requested for both water and sewer.

In limiting the rate increases, the ICC made adjustments to Aqua's proposed cost of non-regulated operating expenses, capital structure and cost of debt, employee benefits, pension expenses, and cash working capital. Additionally, the Commission reduced Aqua's revenue requirement to reflect recent changes to the federal corporate income tax rate, ensuring that Aqua's federal tax savings are passed on to customers.

As a result of today's action, a residential water customer will pay approximately \$6.24 more per month, but the impact on an individual customer's bill will vary depending on the meter size and amount of water consumed. The new rates are expected to take effect on March 15, 2018.

The Commission issued its decision in the case (Docket No. 17-0259) after consideration of evidence compiled during an eleven-month review process, which began with a rate filing by the company on May 1, 2017. That evidence included detailed technical analysis by Commission staff, as well as input from consumer advocates including the Citizens Utility Board and the Attorney General, and comments from ratepayers.

Aqua is a public utility that provides water and sewer service in thirteen counties throughout Illinois, including Kankakee, Vermilion, Will, Boone, Knox, Lake, Cook, DeKalb, Kane, Ogle, Winnebago, McHenry, and Champaign. Aqua is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aqua America, Inc.

More information regarding the rate case may be found in the fact sheet that follows or [here](#) on the ICC website.

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### ***About the Illinois Commerce Commission***

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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\*The Commission also approved consolidation of Aqua's six water divisions and four sewer divisions into one water division and one sewer division, respectively.

## Fact Sheet

Docket 17-0259

- Aqua serves approximately 73,000 customers in thirteen Illinois counties.
- Aqua's last rate changes occurred in February of 2012 for five of its six water divisions and all its sewer divisions; Kankakee Water Division rates were adjusted in March of 2015.
- Aqua requested an increase of \$10,541,823 for water and \$1,458,158 for sewer – a 19.1% increase for both water and sewer customers.
- Total water rate increase approved is \$6.549 million annually, an 11.87% increase.
- Total sewer rate increase approved is \$757 thousand annually, a 9.81% increase.
- Reductions to the revenue requirement include changes in the federal corporate income tax.
- A residential water customer could see their bill increase by approximately \$6.24 per month.\*
- Rate changes are expected to be reflected beginning March 15, 2018.

\*Actual bill impacts will vary depending upon monthly usage and meter size.