



For Immediate Release
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ICC Approves New Consolidated Water and Sewer Rates for Utility Services of Illinois

The Illinois Commerce Commission today approved new water and sewer rates for Utility Services of Illinois, Inc. ("USI"). USI was formed in 2013 to effectuate the merger of the 23 separate wholly owned public utility subsidiaries of Utilities, Inc. ("UI") certificated in Illinois into a single entity, which the Commission approved in Docket No. [13-0618](#).

Under the approved merger, the existing rates of each of the Illinois Utilities remained in effect for the customers located in divisions of USI corresponding to the service areas that were served by the former UI operating subsidiaries. More than half of those utilities had not filed for a general rate increase since 2010, and the rates for six of those companies were established during the period from 1987 through 2004. For most of the predecessors that filed for rate increases after 2010, the current rates were designed to recover expense levels based on test years that included costs incurred in 2010.

The Commission approved the Company's consolidated rate structure. The new consolidated rates are expected to produce a 36.67% increase in overall water revenues and a 31.97% overall increase in sewer revenues. However, the impact on individual customers will vary depending upon the former division of which the customer was a part and the amount of water the customer uses.

USI provides water service to approximately 12,000 customers and almost 3,000 availability customers via almost 50 wells and more than 1.39 million ("mm") linear feet of water distribution mains. USI also provides wastewater service to approximately 4,000 customers via more than .240 mm linear feet of wastewater collection mains and seven wastewater treatment facilities. USI serves customers in 12 different counties throughout Illinois, including Jo Daviess, Kane, Lake, LaSalle, Marshall, McHenry, Peoria, Stephenson, Vermilion, Will, and Winnebago.

The Commission also made adjustments and reductions in the areas of deferred maintenance expense, cash working capital, insurance expenses, and accumulated deferred income taxes, among others.

The Commission set the return on equity at 9.25% and the overall rate of return at 7.88%.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission's mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: the Consumer Services Bureau provides educational information on utility issues, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utility Bureau focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; the Transportation Bureau includes trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC's five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.