

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
 OF TIDEWATER UTILITIES, INC. FOR )  
 A GENERAL RATE INCREASE IN WATER ) PSC DOCKET No. 13-466  
 BASE RATES AND TARIFF REVISIONS )  
 (FILED NOVEMBER 25, 2013) )

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSIONS**

TO: ALL CUSTOMERS OF TIDEWATER UTILITIES, INC.:

A Hearing Examiner of the Delaware Public Service Commission will conduct public comment sessions concerning the above-captioned matter (as further explained below) at the following times and locations:

<b>DATE &amp; TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7pm	DE Public Service Commission Hearing Room 861 Silver Lake Road, Suite 100 Dover DE 19904
Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 7pm	Cape Henlopen High School Theater 1250 Kings Hwy Lewes, DE 19958
Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 7pm	VFW Post 3792 5695 Summit Bridge Road Townsend, DE 19734

**Tidewater Utilities, Inc. General Rate Increase Application**

On November 25, 2013, Tidewater Utilities, Inc. ("Tidewater" or the "Company") filed an application seeking approval of: (a) a general rate increase in its water base rates; and (b) miscellaneous tariff revisions. The total revenue increase requested by Tidewater in this matter is approximately \$3,903,338 (14.42%). Tidewater asserts that this increase is necessary due to increasing operating expenses and significant capital investment in utility plant.

The following is a comparison of Tidewater's present rates and proposed new rates from metered water on a quarterly basis:

<b>Metered Consumption</b>	<b>Rate per Thousand Gallons - Present</b>	<b>Rate per Thousand Gallons - Proposed</b>
0-5,000 Gallons	\$7.9469	\$9.1389
5,001-20,000 Gallons	\$8.0493	\$9.3790

Over 20,000 Gallons	\$8.1517	\$9.6254
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The following is a comparison of Tidewater's present rates and proposed new rates for facilities charges per quarter:

Meter Size	Present Rates	Proposed Rates
5/8" - 3/4"	\$52.86	\$61.17
1"	\$88.11	\$101.94
1-1/2"	\$158.64	\$183.54
2"	\$246.75	\$285.48
3"	\$475.89	\$550.59
4"	\$740.28	\$856.50
6"	\$1,445.28	\$1,672.17
8"	\$2,256.06	\$2,610.21

The following is a comparison of Tidewater's present rates and proposed rates for public fire hydrant charges per quarter:

	Present Rate	Proposed Rate
Fire Hydrant District Charge	\$15.09	\$17.84

A customer with public fire protection using a 5/8" water meter with usage of 15,000 gallons of water per quarter would see their bill increase from \$188.18 to \$218.49 if the full increase is authorized.

The following is a comparison of Tidewater's present rates and proposed rates for private fire protection charges per quarter:

Meter Size	Present Rates	Proposed Rates
1"	\$28.67	\$22.19
2"	\$100.35	\$77.67
4"	\$425.28	\$329.22
6"	\$950.90	\$736.08
8"	\$1,691.55	\$1,309.44

The Commission has permitted the Company to collect temporary rates effective February 6, 2014, under bond and subject to refund pursuant to 26 Del. C. §306(c). The rates in effect on a temporary basis provide for an increase not to exceed the lesser of fifteen percent (15%) of the Company's annual gross intrastate operating revenue or \$2,500,000.

The Commission approved temporary rates on an "across the board" basis, which is consistent with Commission practice for implementing temporary rate increases with the exception of Private Fire Protection for which there is no interim rate change since the Company is seeking a rate decrease for this class.

The Hearing Examiner will conduct evidentiary hearings, to be scheduled at a later date, concerning this Application. The

Commission will make its decision on this matter on the basis of the record evidence taken at the public evidentiary hearing. The Commission may approve or reject the proposed increase or tariff revisions.

Anyone planning to attend the public comment session should consult the Commission's website prior to the event for any changes or cancellations in the time, place, or date. You may also review documents on the Commission's website at <http://dep.sc.delaware.gov/water.shtml>. If you would like to review the documents related to this matter at the Commission's office, please contact Monica Hall at [monica.hall@state.de.us](mailto:monica.hall@state.de.us) to arrange a time for your review during normal business hours. You may also review copies of documents at the office of the Division of the Public Advocate located at the Carvel State Office Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 820 North French Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. Please call (302)577-5077 to arrange for a time to review the documents at that location.

If you wish to request copies of documents in this matter, please submit a Freedom of Information Act request form. This form may be found at <http://smu.portal.delaware.gov/cgi-bin/mail.php?foia-request&subj=PSC>. There is also a link to the Freedom of Information Act request form on the Commission's website, <http://dep.sc.delaware.gov>. The Commission will respond to your request in Accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, 29 Del. C. ch. 100.

If you have a disability and wish to participate or to review the materials in these proceedings please contact the Commission to discuss any auxiliary aids or services you might need to help you. You may contact the Commission in person, by writing, by telephone (including text telephone), by internet email, or other means.

If you have questions about this matter you may call the Commission at 1-800-282-8574 (toll-free in Delaware) or (302)736-7500 (voice and text telephone). You may also send questions by email addressed to [p.sc@state.de.us](mailto:p.sc@state.de.us) with PSC Docket No. 13-466 in the subject line.