

My name is Shanon Hawk, and I have lived at my home on Horseshoe Drive in Cole County, for the past 15 years.

My neighbors and I first learned of this potential rate increase through correspondence from Aqua Missouri dated June 7, 2005. I subsequently met with my neighbors and we decided to oppose the rate increase. On June 28, 2005, I mailed our letter opposing the increase to the Public Service Commission and Office of Public Counsel. Our opposition letter contains signatures from every homeowner in our neighborhood, as well as the signature of our State Representative, Mark Bruns.

In the late 1950's, our subdivision was established and in over 20 years approximately 18 homes were built. In this subdivision, a sewer system was built and laid out by the contractors. From 1959 to 1991, the care of the sewer system and lagoon was assumed by the men and women of this small neighborhood. Every household paid \$5 per month toward the upkeep and we always had a surplus of money to run an efficient system. In 1991, the PSC granted Helms Environmental Services the ability (against our will) to take over our sewer system. We were told that it was necessary to take control away from the neighborhood because the sewer system needed to be dug out. They immediately raised our monthly bill to \$17.20 per month. Since that time, the lagoon has passed from Helms to Capital

**FILED**

SEP 19 2006

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

Local  
Public Hearing number 2  
Date 8-30-06 Case No. WR-2007-0020  
Reporter WR-2007-0021  
SR-2007-0023

Utilities and now it is maintained by Aqua Missouri (f/k/a Aqua Source). We were originally told that if Helms did not maintain control of the lagoon it would revert back to us. We also suspect that when Helms ultimately sold the system, it may have received financial compensation for this sale. We are interested to know how someone else could sell control of our system when we were never compensated when it was originally taken from us nor given the opportunity to take over control when Helms sold it.

In <sup>1994</sup>1996, Aqua Missouri again raised our monthly rate to \$22.53 per home pursuant to PSC approval. Now the people of my neighborhood, many of whom live on fixed incomes, find themselves facing yet another rate increase. When Aqua Missouri first filed for a rate increase in this matter, it was to raise our rates by 116%. Obviously everyone felt that was unrealistic. My neighbors have had several conversations with me and most of them believe that a minimal increase is understandable given inflation and the cost of gasoline, <sup>& the new fed requirements</sup> etc. What makes it so hard for them to swallow any kind of increase is the fact that they feel they were: (1) misled when the sewer system was originally taken from us; (2) we've already had a few rate increases; and (3) and most importantly, 14 years later, our lagoon has never been dug out.

In conclusion, I would just like to add that our neighborhood alone, which has 18 homes, pays Aqua Missouri a total of \$405.54 per month, for a total of \$4,866.48 per year. Given that our lagoon is only getting routine maintenance, which is chemicals once per month, periodic testing, and the grass cut, we estimate that it costs Aqua Missouri less than \$1,500 per year to maintain our lagoon, leaving them with a <sup>An est. \$3400</sup> ~~huge~~ profit. For all of the reasons I have outlined, the residents of Lehman Acres Subdivision do not support any rate increase for Aqua Missouri at this time.

Lehman Acres Subdivision  
Contact Person: Shanon Hawk  
5610 Horseshoe Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

LPH Ex2  
part 2/2

WR-2007-0020  
WR-2007-0021  
GR-2007-0023

June 28, 2005

Public Service Commission  
ATTN: Water/Sewer Dept.  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Re: Aqua Missouri Notice of Rate Increase

Dear Sir or Madam:

We, the undersigned members of the Lehman Acres Subdivision (LAS), together with our elected officials, strongly urge the Public Service Commission (PSC) to disapprove the nearly 116% rate increase requested by Aqua Missouri for the continued maintenance of our sewer system. On June 7, 2005, we (LAS) received from Aqua Missouri letters notifying us of the company's request of the PSC for this outrageous rate increase.

In the late 1950's, our subdivision was established and in over 20 years approximately 18 homes were built. In this subdivision, a sewer system was built and laid out by the contractors. From 1959 to 1991, the care of the sewer system and lagoon was assumed by the men and women of this small neighborhood. Every household paid \$5 per month toward the upkeep and we always had a surplus of money. The sewer system worked more efficiently than other systems taken care of by city or county governments.

In 1991, the PSC granted Helms Environmental Services the right (against our will) to run our sewer system. They immediately raised our monthly bill to \$17.20 per month. Since that time, the lagoon has passed from Helms to Capital Utilities and now it is maintained by Aqua Missouri (f/k/a Aqua Source). No one has ever paid us anything for the construction we did on this system, which is still the same system to date. It was our understanding that if Helms did not maintain control of the lagoon that it would revert back to us. We also suspect that Helms ultimately sold the system, and may have received financial compensation for this sale. We are interested to know how someone else could sell control of our system, but we were never compensated when it was originally taken from us.

In 1996, Aqua Missouri again raised our monthly charges to \$22.53 per home pursuant to PSC approval. Now they are again seeking an increase, but this time it is

nearly 116% per home, per month. Why would they need such a significant increase? We are hereby requesting a hearing of the PSC on this rate increase. In addition, we will be seeking the following information: (1) information about the transfer of the lagoon from Helms Environmental Services to Capital Utilities; (2) an itemized accounting of the work performed and expenses incurred by Aqua Missouri and/or Capital Utilities since the time that the maintenance of the lagoon was taken from LAS; and (3) a detailed explanation from Aqua Missouri of what circumstances could possibly merit a nearly 116% increase in our monthly sewer rates.

We have drafted a worksheet that estimates the cost of maintaining our sewer system based on the time and expenses LAS paid to maintain the sewer system each year. A copy has been attached for your review.

We respectfully request that you consider our objection to this rate increase, grant a hearing, and assist us in obtaining the information from Aqua Missouri that we have outlined above. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lehman Acres Subdivision  
& Political Representatives  
(signature pages attached)

Cc: Office of Public Counsel  
Jeff Davis, Chairman, PSC  
Senator Carl Vogel  
Representative Mark Bruns

Enclosures

Interested parties of Lehman Acres Subdivision who oppose Aqua Missouri's proposed rate increase:

Pat Mergen  
Signature

Pat Mergen  
Printed Name

Robert Mergen  
Signature

Robert Mergen  
Printed Name

Andrea V. Koetting  
Signature

ANDREA KOETTING  
Printed Name

Mitch Koetting  
Signature

Mitch Koetting  
Printed Name

Mary Rademan  
Signature

Mary Rademan  
Printed Name

Bernard J Rademan  
Signature

Bernard Rademan  
Printed Name

Josephine A Radmacher  
Signature

Josephine A Radmacher  
Printed Name

James H. Linhardt  
Signature

JAMES H. Linhardt  
Printed Name

Alvina Boehmer  
Signature

Alvina Boehmer  
Printed Name

Janet K. Snyder  
Signature

Janet K. Snyder  
Printed Name

Paul L. Snyder  
Signature

Paul L. Snyder  
Printed Name

Robert E Meyer  
Signature

Robert E Meyer  
Printed Name

Leann M. Meyer  
Signature

Leann Meyer  
Printed Name

Marvin P. Berendzen  
Signature

MARVIN P. BERENDZEN  
Printed Name

Theo J. Radmacher  
Signature

THEO J. RADMACHER  
Printed Name

Gerald W. Jeffries  
Signature

Gerald W. Jeffries  
Printed Name

Stella G. Jeffries  
Signature

Stella G. Jeffries  
Printed Name

Irmine Jurgensmeyer  
Signature

IRMINE JURGENSMeyer  
Printed Name

Helen Busch  
Signature

Helen Busch  
Printed Name

Dale Duncan  
Signature

DALE DUNCAN  
Printed Name

Sharon Duncan  
Signature

Sharon Duncan  
Printed Name

Shirley P. Laux  
Signature

Shirley P. Laux  
Printed Name

Lawson C. Smith  
Perry Smith P.O.A  
Signature

LAWSON C. SMITH  
Printed Name

Rose M. Pharris  
Signature

Rose M. Pharris  
Printed Name

Mary A. Nelson  
Signature

MARY A. NELSON  
Printed Name

Mark Bruns by JB  
Signature

Mark Bruns - 113<sup>th</sup>  
Printed Name

Sharon M. Hawk  
Signature

Sharon M. Hawk  
Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name

Signature

Printed Name



Lehman Acres Subdivision  
Worksheet of Estimated Expenses to Maintain Lagoon

Charges to Residents:

18 households x \$22.53 (monthly charge) = \$405.54 (per month)

\$405.54 x 12 months = \$4,866.48 (per year)

Service Provided by Aqua Missouri:

Chemicals for treatment of the lagoon once per month: \$50.00

Labor for employee: \$20.00/hour

\$50.00 x 12 months = \$600.00

\$20.00 x 12 months = \$240.00

Total:                      \$840.00

Labor for Weed-eating and Mowing:

\$20.00/hour x 18 times per year = \$ 360.00

+ \$ 840.00

Annual maintenance cost:              \$1,200.00

Annual cost paid by residents:      \$4,866.48

Actual annual maintenance cost: -\$1,200.00

Surplus collected by Aqua MO:      \$3,666.48