

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING
ON LIBERTY UTILITIES (BLACK MOUNTAIN SEWER) CORP.'S
APPLICATION FOR A DETERMINATION OF THE FAIR VALUE OF ITS
UTILITY PLANTS AND PROPERTY AND FOR INCREASES IN ITS RATES
AND CHARGES FROM UTILITY SERVICE BASED THEREON.
(DOCKET NO. SW-02361A-19-0139)

Summary

On June 27, 2019, Liberty Utilities (Black Mountain Sewer) Corp. (“Liberty Black Mountain” or “Company”) filed an application with the Arizona Corporation Commission (“Commission”) for a determination of the fair value of its utility plants and property and for increases in its rates and charges for utility service based thereon. Liberty Black Mountain asserted that for the test year ending December 31, 2018 (“TY”), Liberty Black Mountain had adjusted operating income of \$397,226, an original cost rate base (“OCRB”) and fair value rate base (“FVRB”) of \$14,408,605, resulting in a rate of return of 2.76 percent. The Company proposed rates and charges that would produce an overall revenue increase of \$878,785 or approximately 35.53 percent, to produce a 7.31 percent rate of return on Liberty Black Mountain’s FVRB.

Liberty Black Mountain’s proposed rates and charges would result in the following monthly bills for a residential customer served by a 5/8” x 3/4” meter,

	Current Rates	Proposed Rates
Liberty Black Mountain	\$79.20	\$104.94

NEITHER THE COMMISSION’S UTILITIES DIVISION (“STAFF”) NOR ANY INTERVENOR HAS YET MADE ANY RECOMMENDATION REGARDING LIBERTY BLACK MOUNTAIN’S APPLICATION. THE COMMISSION IS NOT BOUND BY THE PROPOSALS OF THE COMPANY, STAFF, OR ANY INTERVENORS. THE COMMISSION WILL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE RELIEF TO BE GRANTED IN RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY’S APPLICATION BASED ON THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN THIS MATTER. THE FINAL RATES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION MAY BE HIGHER, LOWER, OR DIFFERENT THAN THE RATES PROPOSED BY COMPANY OR BY OTHER PARTIES.

If you have questions concerning how the Application may affect your bill or other substantive questions about the Application, you may contact Liberty Utilities (Black Mountain Sewer) Corp. at its offices, 12725 W. Indian School Road, Suite D101, Avondale, Arizona 85392; 1-844-367-2027; Email: CustomerServiceAvondale@libertyutilities.com.

How You Can View or Obtain a Copy of the Application

Copies of the application are available from Liberty Utilities (Black Mountain Sewer) Corp. at its offices, 12725 W. Indian School Rd., Suite D101, Avondale, Arizona 85392, and on the Internet via its website, www.libertyutilities.com; at the Commission’s Docket Control Center at 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona, and the Commission’s office at 400 West Congress Street, Suite 218, Tucson, Arizona, during regular business hours; and on the Commission’s website (www.azcc.gov) using the e-Docket function.

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Hearing Information

The Commission will hold a hearing on this matter beginning **May 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Commission’s offices, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona. Public comments will be taken on the first day of hearing.

Written public comments may be submitted by mailing a letter referencing **Docket No. SW-02361A-19-0139** to Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, or by submitting comments on the Commission’s website (www.azcc.gov) using “Cases and Open Meetings” and “Make a Public Comment in a Docket.” If you require assistance, you may contact the Consumer Services Section at 602-542-4251 or 1-800-222-7000.

If you do not intervene in this proceeding, you will receive no further notice of the proceedings in this docket unless you sign up to Follow the Docket. However, all documents filed in this docket are available online (usually within 24 hours of docketing) at the Commission’s website (www.azcc.gov) using the e-Docket function. **Information on how to Follow a Docket is available on the Commission’s website by clicking on “Cases and Open Meetings” and “Follow a Docket.”**

About Intervention

The law provides for an open public hearing at which, under appropriate circumstances, interested persons may intervene. An interested person may be granted intervention if the outcome of the case will directly and substantially impact the person, and the person's intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case. Intervention, among other things, entitles a party to present sworn evidence at hearing and to cross-examine other parties' witnesses. **Intervention is not required for you to appear at the hearing and provide public comment, to file written comments in the record of the case, or to receive emailed notice of each filing made in the case by following the docket.**

Information about what intervention means, including an explanation of the rights and responsibilities of an intervenor, is available on the Commission's website (www.azcc.gov) by clicking on "Cases and Open Meetings" and then clicking on "Intervene in a Case." The information includes a Sample Intervention Request and a Fillable Intervention Request Form.

To request intervention, you must file a written request to intervene, either (a) by filing a hard copy request (meeting filing requirements) with Docket Control (Docket Control, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007), or (b) by eFiling the request. Your request **must be filed or eFiled no later than February 14, 2020**. Instructions and restrictions for eFiling are available on the Commission's website at <http://azcc.gov/hearing/efile-for-utilities-instruction>. You also **must** serve a copy of the request to intervene on each party of record, on the same day that you file the request to intervene with the Commission.

Your request to intervene **must** contain the following:

1. Your name, address, and telephone number;
2. The docket number for the case in which you are requesting to intervene;
3. A short statement explaining:
 - a. Your interest in the proceeding (e.g., a customer of the regulated company involved, a property owner in an area to be affected by the case, etc.),
 - b. How you will be directly and substantially affected by the outcome of the case, and
 - c. Why your intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case;
4. If a hearing has not been scheduled, whether and why you believe a hearing is needed;
5. A statement certifying that you have sent a copy of your request to intervene to the regulated company or its attorney and to all other parties of record in the case; and
6. If you are not represented by an attorney who is an active member of the Arizona State Bar, and are not representing yourself as an individual, sufficient information and any appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with Arizona Supreme Court Rules 31, 38, 39, and 42, as applicable. This only applies if you are NOT representing yourself and you are not a licensed attorney.

The granting of motions to intervene shall be governed by A.A.C. R14-3-105, except that all motions to intervene must be filed on or before February 14, 2020.

ADA/Equal Access Information

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, as well as request this document in an alternative format, by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Kaci Cannon, E-mail KCannon@azcc.gov, voice phone number 602-542-3931. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.