

# What is the Process for Changing Base Rates?

It is not a simple process, and there are a number of checks and balances to allow for an open and rigorous review of proposed rate adjustments. The process takes eleven months and there are many steps along the way.

## Who is involved:

- The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is responsible for regulating private utility water and sewer rates in IL.
- The Illinois Attorney General (AG) and Citizens Utility Board (CUB) represent customers in the rate case and aggressively advocate on their behalf.
- Intervenors in the rate case are groups with a vested interest in the outcome: other water utilities, municipalities and large customers, etc.

## 1 Rate Change Filing\*

Initiates the 11-month process

- The Company files its case with the ICC. Filing typically consists of over 1,200 pages of minimum filing requirement schedules, almost 1,500 pages of general information, over 800 pages of testimony and exhibits. Filing supported by over 4,000 pages of work papers.

## 2 Case Participation

ICC Assignments & Intervenors

- An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and Accounting, Finance, Rate Design, and Water ICC Staff assigned. AG and intervenors petition for intervention.

## 3 Discovery\*

First 4 months after the filing

- Staff, AG and intervenors submit informational requests to the company.
- Over 500 requests for information submitted to the Company. Informational requests can exceed 1,000 in number.

## 4 Testimony & Witness Cross-Examination

Next 2 months after the filing

- Staff, AG, and intervenors file direct testimony, followed by Company rebuttal, Staff, AG, and intervenor rebuttal, and, finally, Company surrebuttal testimonies. Cross-examination of witnesses follows the testimony filings.
- The Company bears the burden of proof to support its rate request.

## 5 Public Involvement

Provided for in the Public Utilities Act

- Interested parties may request the filing, becoming intervenors in the case.
- All customers have an opportunity to provide input into the rate-making process. This regulatory oversight and transparent process supports all customers having an opportunity to be heard.
- Public comments become part of the record.

## 6 Briefing & Final Order

Remaining 5 months

- Parties submit briefs and proposed orders (PO). ALJ drafts ALJPO. Parties submit briefs on the ALJPO.
- Commission votes on and issues Final Order by 11-month "drop dead" date.

