

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE
LA VALLE MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY**

The La Valle Municipal Water Utility (Utility) has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) to increase water rates. The increase is necessary due to a 134.41 percent increase in gross plant investment and a 58.00 percent increase in operating expenses since the last water rate case was completed in 2017.

If the request is granted, the increase in water rates will be implemented in two steps. The proposed Step I increase of \$19,381 would take effect following the issuance of the Final Decision. The Step II increase of \$99,246 is compared to the current rates and is an additional increase of \$79,865 over Step I rates. The remaining Step II increase of \$79,865 would be implemented when the Utility notifies the Commission that the construction of Well No. 2 authorized by the Commission in docket 3080-CW-100 is complete, and the well is placed in service.

Currently, the Utility's total public fire protection (PFP) cost of \$41,808, which includes the additional storage, pumping, and distribution costs required to provide the high flows and pressures needed to fight fires. The Utility currently collects \$41,808 from the Village of La Valle (Village) for providing PFP water service to the Village. This municipal PFP charge is based on 100 percent of the Utility's total PFP cost. The Village collects the funds to pay for the municipal PFP charge. The Village recently approved changing the Utility's method of PFP cost recovery from the municipal PFP charge to a combination of both a municipal PFP charge and direct PFP charges collected through direct bills to water utility customers.

Accordingly, the Utility requested Commission authorization to collect a direct PFP charge from each customer of the water utility and requested the charge be based on the Equivalent Meters Method. This change in the method of recovering the PFP charge will allow the Utility to collect a portion of the PFP charge from property owners who benefit from the Utility's PFP but are not subject to property taxes. This request conforms with Wis. Stat. § 196.03(3)(b), which provides municipalities the option to charge PFP directly on the water utility bills of general service customers as well as non-general service customers. The Utility intends to charge non-general service customers. The Village adopted a resolution setting the annual charge for PFP service to the Village to 50 percent of the PFP costs. If the Commission approves its request, the Utility would bill the remaining 50 percent to retail general and non-general service customers through a direct PFP charge that is calculated using the Equivalent Meters Method.

If the request is granted, the water bill for an average residential customer with a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch or $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch meter who uses 9,000 gallons of water per quarter will increase from \$80.70 to \$125.40, or 55.39% (including the PFP charge) in Step I. Bills for the same customer will increase from \$125.40 to \$207.60, or 65.55% in Step II. Therefore, the customer's overall bill will rise approximately 157.25% after Step II has been implemented.

A telephonic public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. This hearing has no physical location. Parties and Commission staff appear by audiovisual connection over the internet. Parties and Commission staff may use the audio-only telephone connection as a backup, or if no practicable internet connection exists. Members of the public attend by audiovisual connection over the internet, or by audio-only telephone connection.

Join by audiovisual connection at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/my/pschearings>

To join by telephone:

1. Dial: + 1 312 626 6799
2. Enter: 809 513 2930 # (Meeting ID)

Each participant shall provide their name, and status as either a party representative, Commission staff, or a member of the public. Each participant using the internet connection shall provide this information in the “Join Meeting” dialog screen, or by renaming the participant’s screenname after gaining admittance to the hearing. Each person connecting by telephone shall provide this information immediately after gaining admittance to the hearing.

Upon connecting to the hearing, each participant will enter a waiting room and await admittance to the hearing. Before commencing the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will admit each participant who connected before the designated start time. The ALJ will admit each participant who connects after the hearing begins at the earliest opportunity that does not disrupt the hearing. Each member of the public shall remain muted until the ALJ invites that person to comment.

The Commission will livestream the audio of this hearing on its website. The livestream allows anyone to listen to the hearing without connecting to it as described above. To access the livestream, go to the Commission’s website at <http://psc.wi.gov>, and select “Live Broadcast” button. The live broadcast webpage provides neither: (1) an opportunity to make a comment, nor (2) closed captioning.

A person may testify in this proceeding without becoming a party and without attorney representation. A person may submit this testimony in only one of the following ways:

- **Web Comment.** File a comment on the internet. Go to the Commission’s web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click on “File a Comment”. On the next page select the “File a comment” link that appears for docket number 3080-WR-104. Web comments shall be received no later than Thursday, September 29, 2022.
- **Oral Comment.** Speak over the telephone during the public session. The ALJ may receive an oral comment from any member of the public in attendance after the close of any party and Commission staff testimony. The ALJ will receive an oral comment by unmuting each phone connection one at a time and inquiring into the each caller’s desire to comment.
- **Mail Comment.** Send a comment by U.S. Mail. All comments submitted by U.S. Mail shall be received no later than Thursday, September 29, 2022 and shall be addressed to: Attn: Docket 3080-WR-104 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854.

All documents in this docket are filed on the Commission’s Electronic Records Filing (ERF) system. To view these documents: (1) go to the Commission’s E-Services Portal at <http://apps.psc.wi.gov>, (2) enter “3080-WR-104” in the box labeled “Quick Single Docket Search,” and (3) select “Documents”.

If you have any questions, please contact La Valle Municipal Water Utility at (608) 985-8383.