



Public Service Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Docket # 13-2195

[REDACTED]

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To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Thu, Mar 6, 2014 at 3:01 PM

My name is Ernie Grafiada. I am a current resident of Hi-Country Estates Phase I. I have submitted comments in the past concerning this water rate increase.

Today I would like to respond to comments by Noel Williams concerning stand by fees for those with private wells.

I have a private well and I have water rights. The concern is not so much the fee itself, which has more than doubled since I bought my property in 2005, but it IS the purposed increase of the fee. The fee is being proposed to almost FOUR times the current amount.

I read the analogy of having a spare car. Not everyone can afford a spare car, nor may they want one.

The truth is that it is extremely unlikely that my property will ever be connected to the Hi Country I water system. My well has been there for over 20 years. I have not heard of any homeowners that have had to connect to the public water system due to a failing well. It is also notable that connecting to the public water system cost money in the form of connection fees and excavation costs to verify the condition of an old water line or the installation of a new one. It is also notable that all the money that I have paid in stand by fees over the years will do nothing for me in the event that my own well breaks.

The homeowners with wells and water rights do not get a free ride with water as perceived. Wells cost money. It takes electricity to power the well, but most notably if a well breaks it will cost money to make repairs. It is not fair to the homeowner to subsidize the Hi Country water system financially as well as the financial burden of paying for their own well. It is only fair that the property owners that are connected to the Hi Country system carry the greater financial burden of that system. The one that THEY are using.

Thank you,
Ernie Grafiada