

Lexington water up 37 percent & WEG

Here is a short article in the Lexington Herald-Leader about the 37 percent water rate increase that went into effect this Wednesday. I sent a note about the agenda several months ago, but now it has happened. Anyone with a boiler-chiller system or offering rents with water included (I'm one) will feel the impact. Our next water bills will be 37 percent larger.

It makes you wonder if "Prosperity is just around the corner." Elected officials should have squashed this until the economy picks up. The mayor was acquiescent (forgive the pun) until it passed; now he is outraged. We are hoping for a populist explosion and a roll-back, but wouldn't count on it.

By the way, the highly-touted World Equestrian Games (WEG) seems to have many fewer attendees than were originally anticipated. I see little to let me know the games are even in town. Last weekend, there were a "record 37,000" people visiting the Kentucky Horse Park where the games are held. I heard estimates six months ago of 300,000. I haven't read an official analysis of the WEG crowds, but I imagine the economy contributed to the effects we see.

Best regards,
Tim

Wednesday, Sep. 29, 2010

Utility hikes water rate 37 percent in Lexington

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- The utility that supplies water to Lexington is putting a 37 percent rate hike into effect.

Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry calls the increase by Kentucky American Water "unfair and extreme."

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported the water bill for a customer who uses 4,470 gallons a month will rise by \$9.44. That water use is considered average. The increase becomes effective Wednesday.

Lexington council considers strong resolution aimed at water company

Members of Lexington's Urban County Council are considering asking the mayor to take whatever steps are necessary, including legal action, to force Kentucky American Water Company to appear before council to answer questions about its proposed rate increase.

The resolution forwarded at Tuesday's work session also said the council had "legitimate questions" about progress on a \$160 million water treatment plant and pipeline, as well as Kentucky American's marketing plan to get neighboring communities to buy water from the new treatment plant.

Council voted 9-5 to put the resolution on its agenda for Thursday night.

Kentucky American requested the rate hike in February from the Kentucky Public Service Commission, which has not yet given final approval.

The utility says it needs the increase to pay for a new treatment plant and a new pipeline that brings water into the city.

Utility spokeswoman Susan Lancho says the increase was tough, but necessary.

**Information from: Lexington Herald-Leader,
<http://www.kentucky.com>**

Read more: <http://www.kentucky.com/2010/09/29/1455832/utility-hikes-water-rate-37-percent.html#ixzz1197QpzMc>