

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Rate Increase Request

Docket No. 2019-281-S



Palmetto Utilities, Inc., (PUI) filed an application to increase its rates by approximately 28 percent with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC) in November of 2019. The average residential customer's monthly bill would increase by \$14.52 per month if approved. The case is scheduled to be considered by the PSC beginning June 30, 2020.

About Palmetto Utilities, Inc.

PUI is a wastewater utility located northeast of Columbia with 27,905 residential, commercial, and multi-family customers in Richland and Kershaw Counties.

How Can Customers Participate?

1. Fill out a Letter of Protest on the PSC's Website

[PSC.SC.GOV/consumer-info/file-letter-protest](https://psc.sc.gov/consumer-info/file-letter-protest)

2. Attend Public Hearings and Testify

The public has an opportunity to provide testimony on the merits of the proposed increase before the PSC through night hearings.

 **Spring Valley High School**
120 Sparkleberry Lane, Columbia, SC 29229
Thursday, March 12, 2020 | 6:00 PM

 **Virtual Public Night Hearings**
Thursday, March 19, 2020 | 6:00 PM
Monday, June 22, 2020 | 6:00 PM
You must pre-register to testify. Call (803) 896-2639 and pre-register by leaving your name, address, and telephone number.

How Your Rates May Change

Customer Type	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Increase	% Increase
Monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$52.10 per unit	\$66.62 per unit	\$14.52	27.87%

Overview of PUI Application *(Filed 11/27/2019)*

	PUI Application	# of Customers
Proposed Revenue Requirement Increase	\$5,933,328	27,905
Proposed Total Revenue	\$27,223,025	
Proposed Return on Equity	10.50%	
Increase %	27.87%	

Other Requests

- PUI proposes a three-year phase-in of new rates in order to lessen rate shock.
- PUI seeks to include approximately \$18M of sewer collection and transportation system assets acquired from the City of Columbia in rate base as Utility Plant In Service and not Contribution In Aid of Construction.

Important Dates *(as published by the PSC)*

11/27/2019	Application Filed
01/21/2019	Petition to Intervene Deadline
03/10/2020	PUI Testimony Due
03/12/2020	Night hearing, Spring Valley High School, 6 PM
03/19/2020	Virtual Public Night Hearing, 6 PM
05/26/2020	Intervenor and ORS Testimony Due Date
06/09/2020	PUI Rebuttal Testimony Due Date
06/16/2020	Intervenor/ORS Surrebuttal Testimony Due Date
06/22/2020	Virtual Public Night Hearing, 6 PM
06/30/2020	PSC Hearing Begins
08/06/2020	PSC Order Issued

Intervenors

- ORS
- SC Department of Consumer Affairs
- Lisa Levine

About the Office of Regulatory Staff

The ORS represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the PSC. The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services.