

# THE POWER OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP

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May, 2017

## PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR WATER RATE INCREASE

The Rice Lake Municipal Water and Electric Utility has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) to increase water rates. The increase is necessary due to a 34 percent increase in gross plant investment and a 38 percent increase in operating expenses since the last water rate case was completed in 2009. This includes \$585,000 to construct a booster pump and water main improvements in 2013 and \$1,205,000 to construct Well No. 6 in 2016.

The total increase in water revenues requested is \$253,303 which will result in an estimated overall rate increase of 20 percent over the water utility's present revenues. 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 3,000 gallons of water per month will increase from \$11.78 to \$15.15, or 29% (not including the public fire protection charge). The median monthly water bill for similarly sized utilities in Wisconsin is \$17.00 (not including the public fire protection charge).

A telephonic public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the Rice Lake Utilities Building - Conference Room, 320 W. Coleman Street, Rice Lake. Scheduling questions regarding this hearing may be directed to the PSCW at (608) 266-3768.

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.** Go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, click on the "Public Comments" button on the side menu bar. On the next page select the "File a comment" link that appears for docket number 5050-WR-104. Web comments shall be received no later than the day before the hearing.

**Oral Comment.** Spoken testimony at the public session.

**Written Comment.** Instead of speaking at the hearing, write out a comment and submit it at the public session.

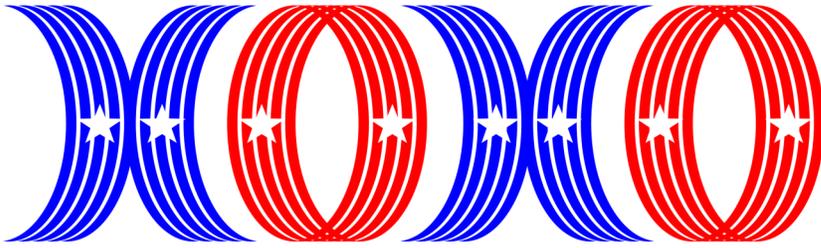
**Mail Comment.** All comments submitted by U.S. Mail shall be received no later than the day before the hearing and shall be addressed to: Attn: Docket 5050-WR-104 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854.

The PSCW intends to webcast this hearing live on the PSCW's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov> under the "PSC Live Broadcast" button.

All documents in this docket are filed on the Commission's Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) system. To view these documents: (1) go to the Commission's web site at <http://psc.wi.gov>, (2) enter "5050-WR-104" in the box labeled "Link Directly to a case," and (3) select "GO".

If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Nelson, Office Manager, Rice Lake Municipal Water and Electric Utility at (715) 234-7004.

Remembering on Memorial Day thank you to all who have sacrificed for our country!



Memorial Day in traditional observance, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day. The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country.

At noon, their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all.

Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act adds the flying of the POW-MIA flag on all Federal and U.S. Military Installations on Memorial Day. The POW-MIA flag is to be half-staffed until noon along with the National flag.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in December 2000. It asks that at 3 p.m. local time all Americans "voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of Remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps."

Memorial Day is to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in service to their country.

Rice Lake Utilities will be closed on Monday May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Rice Lake Utilities extends our gratitude to the past present and future military personnel and their families for their service to our great country!



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

Beware of Downed Power Lines in a Storm!



Downed Power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or possibly death. The following tips can keep you safe around downed lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. The human body is a ready conductor of electricity.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone—and it could do that through your body.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.

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