# Water Rate Case Process

Docket No. UW 197 – Lakeshore Water Company

> Steph Yamada Senior Utility Analyst (PUC Staff) June 8, 2023



### **Common Questions**



#### Q: Will the utility's requested rate increase go into effect?

A: No. The rate increase is suspended pending review by the Commission. The ultimate rate increase can be no higher than what the Company requests and is often lower.

#### **Q: When will new rates become effective?**

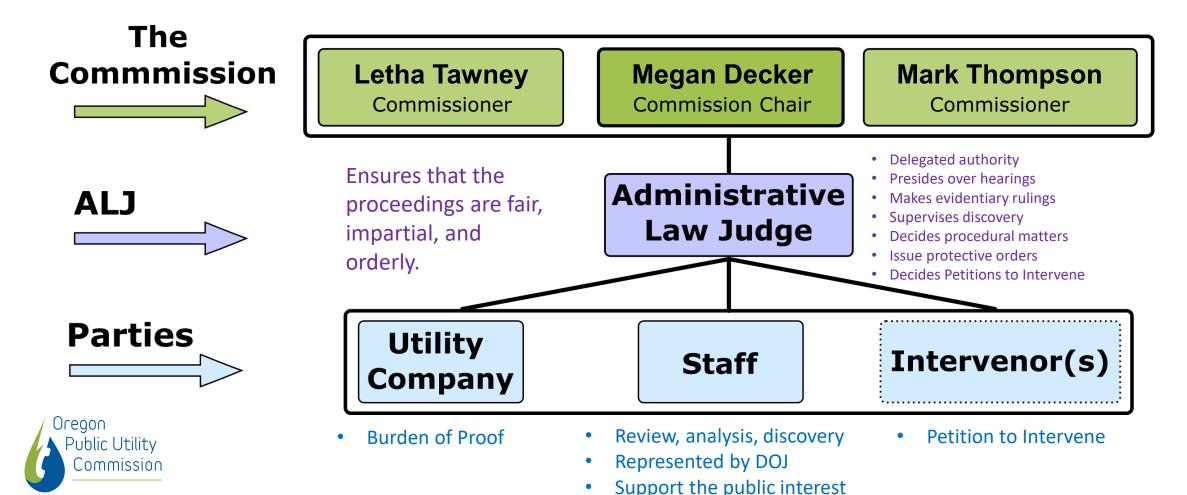
A: In most cases, a decision is reached 6-9 months after the utility's filing.

**Q: Will the rate increase be reviewed before it becomes effective?** A: YES!

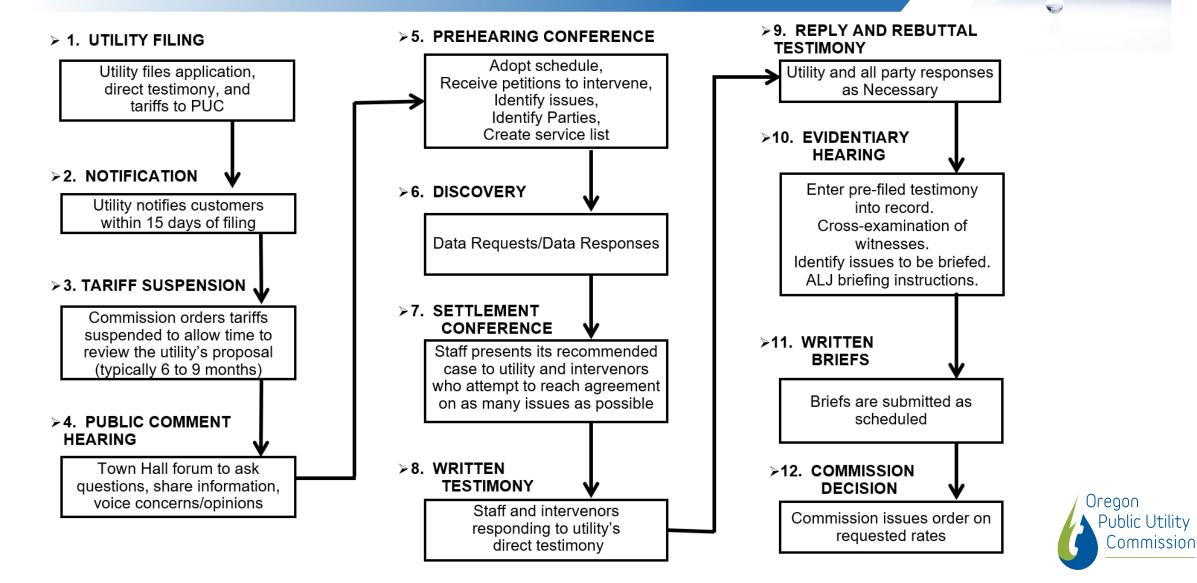


# Rate Case - Who's Involved?





### Flowchart – Water Rate Case



# **PUC Staff's Review**

- Operating Expenses
  - E.g., Labor, repairs, utilities, management, insurance, etc.
- Other Revenue Deductions
  - Income taxes, property taxes, depreciation, etc.
- Assets
  - Must be prudent and necessary
- Capital Costs
  - Amount and cost of debt and equity
- Distribution of Revenue
  - Rate spread, rate design
- Utility-Specific Matters
  - Affiliate transactions, major service issues, capital projects, etc.





# Intervenor – Party to the Case

- Any person may file a Petition to Intervene
  - Usually a customer or customers' representative
- Active participation in case
  - Participate in settlement negotiations, discovery, sponsor testimony, etc.
  - May not "unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or delay the proceedings."
  - Attorney representation not required
- How to Participate
  - Contact PUC Administrative Hearings Division
    - puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov or (503) 378-6678
  - Petition form available on PUC website: oregon.gov/puc
    - Search "Petition to Intervene"



## **Non-Party Status**

- Interested Person
  - Receives e-mail notification of filings in the case
  - How to Participate: Contact PUC Administrative Hearings Division
    - puc.hearings@puc.oregon.gov or (503) 378-6678
    - Reference Docket Number
- Review filings on PUC website: <u>oregon.gov/puc</u>

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# **Public Comments**

- Customers may voice concerns/comments
  - In person at Public Comment Hearing
  - By email: <a href="mailto:puc.publiccomments@puc.oregon.gov">puc.publiccomments@puc.oregon.gov</a>
  - By mail: PO Box 1088 Salem, OR 97308-1088
- PUC Consumer Services
  - Email: <a href="mailto:puc.consumer@puc.oregon.gov">puc.consumer@puc.oregon.gov</a>
  - Phone: (503) 378-6600
  - Toll-free: (800) 522-2404
- PUC Staff
  - Steph Yamada
    - Email: <a href="mailto:stephanie.yamada@puc.oregon.gov">stephanie.yamada@puc.oregon.gov</a>
    - Phone: (971) 375-5110

