

# FIGHT THE HIKE *OHIO*.com

a 325% increase  
doesn't hold water

## History of Ohio American Water (OAW) Rate Increases

- On May 7, 2009, OAW filed a request for an overall rate increase of a 23 to 27 percent (depending on community served and services received) in 2010 and subsequent step increases in 2011, 2012 and 2013. The total requested increase over four years is about 60 percent.
- On November 12, 2008, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved a 30.37 percent rate increase.
- On Oct. 12, 2007, Ohio American filed an application to increase its water rates 30.1 percent.
- On March 7, 2007, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved a 14 percent rate increase.
- On March 17, 2006, Ohio American filed an application to increase its water rates 21.96 percent.
- On Feb. 23, 2005, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio approved an 18 percent rate increase.
- On Dec. 11, 2003, Ohio American filed an application to increase its water rates 19 percent.
- OAW has consistently asked for exorbitant rate increases since buying up residential water systems throughout Ohio in 2002, and has been awarded generous increases. PUCO has granted OAW rate increases that average 21 percent every two years.
- OAW's latest request includes a 23 to 27 percent overall rate increase in 2010 and subsequent step increases in 2011, 2012 and 2013. If approved, the utility's overall rates for water service will have increased 325 percent since OAW purchased the utilities in 2002.

## OAW and American Water Rate Increase Patterns

- OAW's latest rate increase was filed just five months after it received its last double-digit rate increase, reflecting a strategy of seeking frequent, exorbitant rate increases year after year.
- OAW parent company, foreign-owned American Water, has been systematically raising rates for the majority of its customers in the 32 states in which it owns water companies.
- In the first half of this year, American Water reports that it filed rate applications in Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Illinois for \$182.6 million in increased annualized revenues. As of July 31, 2009, the company was awaiting the results of rate cases in 10 states, which could generate up to \$258.1 million in total annualized revenues.

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## Make Waves about Excessive Water Rates

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is a regulating body that will determine whether or not to grant Ohio American Water's (OAW) requested rate hike. PUCO commissioners can best protect our interests if they fully understand the impact OAW's oppressive rate increases have on us, our families and our community.

You can make a difference by voicing your opposition to the proposed rate hike. The individual and collective voices of the Fight the Hike Ohio (FTHO) movement are critical to our success. Here are a few ways you can make a big difference:

- Submit a message to PUCO online by visiting the "Contact PUCO and Officials" page our Web site, [www.fightthehikeohio.com/contactPUCO.html](http://www.fightthehikeohio.com/contactPUCO.html).
- Send a letter the PUCO commissioners voicing the reasons for your opposition. Fax to (614) 752-8351 or write to:  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division  
RE: Case No. 09-391-WS-AIR  
180 E. Broad St., 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

*Note case 09-0391 in the letter and/or on the cover sheet. Be sure to include in the letter your name and the impact the potential rate increase will have on you.*

- Send a letter to state elected officials. Visit the "Contact PUCO and Officials" page on our Web site, [www.fightthehikeohio.com/contactPUCO.html](http://www.fightthehikeohio.com/contactPUCO.html), for titles and addresses.
- Help organize or participate in Fight the Hike Ohio events in your community. Send us a message, join our mailing list or learn more about upcoming events by visiting [www.fightthehikeohio.com](http://www.fightthehikeohio.com).
- Write a letter to the editor of your area's newspaper:

### Columbus Messenger

Regardless of your location, letters to the editor should be directed to:  
Managing Editor Rick Palsgrove  
Columbus Messenger  
3500 Sullivant Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43204

By e-mail:  
[southeast@columbusmessenger.com](mailto:southeast@columbusmessenger.com)

### The Dispatch

Letters to the Editor The Dispatch  
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Columbus, OH  
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By e-mail:  
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Columbus Local News  
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By online submission:  
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**Note:** most publications only allow letters to the editor that are limited to 200 words.