

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

Commission Orders AV Water Reps to Appear in Aztec for October 12 Hearing

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) unanimously voted Wednesday, October 5, to hold a hearing in San Juan County on a multitude of issues pertaining to AV Water Company LLC. The hearing will be part of the Commission’s Case Management Meeting, which is open to the public. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 12, at 9:30 a.m., at the San Juan County Administration Building, located at 10 S. Olive Dr., in Aztec, N.M.

Counselor Russell Fisk, of the Commission’s Office of General Counsel, informed the Commission that AV Water’s attorney had filed a motion to reschedule the October 12 hearing due to a key witness for the water company being unavailable. However, Mr. Fisk stated, the company failed to follow the Commission’s September 14, 2016 Order Setting Hearing to publish a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in San Juan County or to notify their customers of the upcoming hearing.

District 4 Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy, who represents San Juan County, filed a single signature order on Tuesday, October 4, to require the filing of an affidavit by AV Water with regard to its failure to provide notice.

Commission Chair Valerie Espinoza (District 3) stated, “The attorney [for AV Water] had a very serious obligation to notify the residents. I think that delay was deliberate. There should be some kind of penalty to AV Water for failing to comply with our order, or the outright refusal, to provide public notice.”

District 5 Commissioner Sandy Jones expressed frustration with this latest development.

“As far as I’m concerned, the days for cooperation are done,” Commissioner Jones stated. “Enough is enough. Expand the order and put door hangers on customer’s doors. I’ve got some questions for the owners that I want to ask.”

The resulting order placed AV Water Company owners and representatives on notice to be prepared for a hearing in one week’s time, and was met with 5-0 Commission approval.

To date, the NMPRC’s Consumer Relations Division has received 90 informal complaints pertaining to water quality and billing issues.

About the NMPRC

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal's Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, N.M., and the Pipeline Safety Bureau.

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