

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
REGARDING THE AQUA ILLINOIS WATER SERVICE PROVIDER

What is the state doing to help the Village of University Park with its water issues

The Attorney General sued AQUA Illinois to enforce its compliance with Illinois EPA laws and regulations related to lead in water in the advisory area AQUA established.

What is going on in the lawsuit the state filed against AQUA Illinois?

The lawsuit , People v. AQUA Illinois, is in the discovery stage where evidence is being taken by the AG and AQUA about how the lead in excess of the state laws and regulations occurred in the water supply in the lead advisory area established by AQUA. At this time, the end of October is the last date for the completion of discovery until changed by the court in Will county.

Can University Park Residents attend or monitor the progress of the litigation?

The dates of status hearings will be posted on the University Park’s website for all residents to have. The dates place and times will be included and information about whether the hearings will also be on zoom will be shared, too. ”

Is the problem with lead in water in the advisory area resolved?

AQUA issues reports which asserts they have come into compliance with Illinois law. The Attorney General Continues its litigation against the company.

Why is water still being distributed to our residents?

The water will be distributed to residents by order of the court until the AG’s case is settlement or a judgment against the company is rendered by the Will county courts.

Why are our water and sewer rates continuing to increase?

The Illinois Commerce Commission regulates the increase and other matters related to any public utility. Water services are considered public utilities under Illinois and AQUA requests permits, etc. to increase rates and make any other changes it deems necessary to the water service infrastructure.

What can be done about the AQUA rate increases and water shut offs?

The Village Manager is collaborating with the Executive Director of the ICC and others to remediate these issues and to increase and or locate grant funding to mitigate the effects resulting from any regulatory decisions of the Illinois Commerce Commission that may allow for rate increases. The Mayor and Village Manager are in communication with AQUA about past and pending water shut offs and payment disputes. .

Can the Village change water service providers?

Yes, If the Mayor, the Board of Trustees review options and select an option that can be implemented then a change can be made, subject to conditions as negotiated by the Village leaders.

What else can residents do to support the Mayor’s Office and the Board of Trustees in this water dilemma?

There are several things that residents can do: Although this list is not exhaustive, residents can file complaints with the AG’s office , the ICC, as well as promote legislation for financing and more restrictive laws about the amount of lead allowed in Illinois water. Residents can also join the no lead water movement in the united states that is being promoted by churches and other social service organizations that seek social and environmental justice.