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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2019

**Sikeston Board of Municipal Utilities
requesting water rate increase from city council**

SIKESTON, Mo.: On April 29, 2019, representatives of the Sikeston BMU went before City Council to request two future water rate increases. In early 2018, the BMU developed a plan to support water system improvements by increasing water rates in phases, the first of which was implemented January 2019. The two currently requested increases complete the plan originally presented.

"We have done everything we can to keep operations running efficiently at the lowest possible cost, and therefore kept rates low for many years" said Rick Landers, BMU General Manager. "Our current rates do not support the upgrades we need to continue to provide reliable, quality water." Current BMU water facilities range in age from 42 to 87 years old. A new water treatment plant would allow replacement and enhancement of existing plants without impacting water services to Sikeston residents.

Pending City Council approval, the requested water rate increases are projected to go into effect January 2022 and January 2023. With each of the 2019 - 2023 rate increases, residential customers could expect an average increase of \$2.86 added to their monthly bill. Sikeston's 2023 water rates will be comparable to the 2018 rates of surrounding communities. "These proposed rate increases are vital to ensure that citizens and businesses will continue to enjoy healthy water and dependable service in the future," explains Landers.