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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAKELAND ESTATES WATER COMPANY FILES FOR RATE INCREASE

LINCOLN – The Lakeland Estates Water Company near Blair has filed an application with the Nebraska Public Service Commission, to implement a two-tiered rate increase effective July 1.

The Commission opened a proceeding on the application at its May 11 meeting to accept protests from Lakeland Estates customers. If 25 percent of Lakeland Estates customers or more file a protest by the implementation date, the Commission will conduct a public hearing on the proposed rate increase. Forms instructing customers how to petition for a hearing were sent by the company with its notification of the planned rate increase.

Lakeland Estates Water Company, which is owned by Ronald Henn, will maintain the \$6 minimum charge per month. The proposed changes are as follows: For each 1,000 gallons of water up to 30,000 gallons, the rate will increase from \$2.50 to \$3.00, and for each 1,000 gallons of water above 30,000 gallons, the rate will increase from \$3.00 to \$3.50.

In its notification to its customers, Lakeland Estates Water Company cited the cost of replacing a storage tank and well pit at the company's Allen Hills well, in addition to improvements to the pumps and wells at Lakeland, as causes for the rate increase.

The company's water rates were last increased after a public hearing held by the Commission in Blair in early 2001. At that time, the Commission permitted Lakeland Estates a rate of return on its investment of 7.46 percent.

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