

# PRESS RELEASE

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**On November 9, 2016 Will County Circuit Judge Ray Rossi issued an opinion in the Northern Will County Water Agency's Eminent Domain Suit (14 ED 33) of American Lake Water Company's Lake Michigan Water Pipeline.**

**American Lake Water Company, a subsidiary of American Water Works and an affiliated company of Illinois American Water, had challenged the Agency's authority to bring the Condemnation Case.**



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**The Company's challenge was based on three issues; whether the statutory requirements for the "taking" were met, whether the Agency had made a "good faith" offer to purchase the pipeline and whether the "taking" was "necessary" as defined by the statute.**

**The Court found in favor of the Agency on all three counts.**

**The Case will now proceed to the valuation stage where a jury will be asked to determine the value of the pipeline (purchase price).**

**The Northern Will County Water Agency is made up by the Villages of Bolingbrook, Homer Glen, Lemont, Romeoville and Woodridge. This Agency was formed in order to combat the relentless increases by Illinois American Water and American Lake Water.**

**In the fourteen years prior to Illinois American Water purchasing Citizens Utilities, Citizens had asked the ICC for one rate increase. In the fourteen years since the purchase, Illinois American Water has asked the ICC for five rate case increases. In their most recent rate case Illinois American Water Company had requested a 14.24% increase in water revenue and a wastewater revenue increase of 38.16%.**

## MISSION

*Our goal is to stabilize and control water rate increases and to explore feasibility of acquiring the Lake Michigan water transmission line which runs from Bedford Park to the southwest suburbs.*

**These increases have pushed the cost of water and wastewater for residents of these communities to some of the highest costs in Chicagoland area, and by the water company's own admission, they will push for an increase as soon as the last one is granted.**