

Considerations for Managing Rate Increases:

- Conventional Rate Cases (CRCs) – Utilities should have a plan to evaluate their financial metrics regularly to determine if a rate increase is needed. Commission staff recommends regular filings of rate cases to allow the utility to keep up with its operational and capital costs and limit rate increases to reasonable amounts for its customers. Regular rate case filings also prevent outdated tariffs, billing errors, and annual report issues.
 - Benefits of Filing Regularly:
 - Ensures reasonable rates for the utility's financial health and fairness to customers, avoiding rate shock.
 - Ensures rate designs are up-to-date and fair.
 - Provides review of accounting records and PSC Annual Reports and ensures regulatory compliance.
 - Keeps tariffs current and accurate.
 - Provides review of customer billing for accuracy.
 - Allows utilities to maintain a relationship with the Commission and its staff.
 - Maintains recognition of the rules, responsibilities, and requirements to operate as a regulated monopoly.
 - Available resources for reviewing financial metrics:
 - [WI Rates Dashboard](#)
 - [PSC Annual Reports](#)
 - [Wisconsin Waterworks Excellence Project Report Cards](#)
- Simplified Rate Cases (SRCs) – SRCs provide an inflation-based rate increase and allow a utility to keep up with inflationary costs. The application process is simple, and the processing time is typically less than 45 days.
 - SRCs don't provide adequate updates over the long-term. SRCs only allow a utility to manage inflationary costs for that year. An SRC does not provide for recovery of other costs caused by increasing operation and maintenance, construction projects, etc.
 - Commission staff recommends regular SRC increases in between filings for CRC increases.
- Long-term capital investment plan – Knowing a utility's capital needs well into the future helps the utility to plan for the rate increases needed to support them.