

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET NO. UW-042132
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
ROCHE HARBOR WATER)	
SYSTEM,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 6, 2004, Roche Harbor Water System (Roche Harbor or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as Original Sheet No. W-5.1. The stated effective date is January 6, 2005.
- 2 This filing is to add an Improvement Charge. The Company states that this filing to establish an additional charge to new customers ranging from \$3,000 to \$50,100 depending on meter size. The revenues raised from this filing will be used to fund improvements such as new mains and tanks. The company serves approximately 370 residential customers on San Juan Island.
- 3 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Roche Harbor. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Roche Harbor has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including water companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW; and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*
- 5 (2) Roche Harbor is a water company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 29, 2004.
- 7 (4) The tariff revision filed by Roche Harbor on December 6, 2004, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Roche Harbor, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) Roche Harbor has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Roche Harbor's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Roche Harbor's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Roche Harbor's operations.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (4), Roche Harbor bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

- 11 (8) Roche Harbor may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revision filed by Roche Harbor Water System, on December 6, 2004, is suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) Roche Harbor Water System must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Roche Harbor Water System's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) Roche Harbor Water System shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 29th day of December, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner