

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-100622
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
SOUTH BAINBRIDGE WATER)	
SYSTEM, INC.)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On April 16, 2010, South Bainbridge Water System, Inc., (South Bainbridge or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as Sixth Revision of Sheet No. 21 and Third Revision of Sheet No. 21.1. The stated effective date is June 1, 2010.
- 2 The Company proposes to add the increase to the current base charge and Ready-to-Serve charge, resulting in a proposed \$34.18 Base Meter charge and a proposed \$34.18 Ready-to-Serve charge. The usage rates established last year would remain the same under the Company’s proposal. South Bainbridge serves about 1,250 customers, on the south end of Bainbridge Island in Kitsap County. The Company’s last rate increase was effective in March 2009.
- 3 In this filing, South Bainbridge would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$128,500 or 20 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and South Bainbridge has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

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, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including water companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.*
- 5 (2) South Bainbridge is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 27, 2010.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions South Bainbridge filed on April 16, 2010, would increase charges and rates for service provided by South Bainbridge, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) South Bainbridge has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 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 South Bainbridge's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of South Bainbridge's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of South Bainbridge's operations.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), South Bainbridge bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 11 (8) South Bainbridge may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions South Bainbridge Water System, Inc., filed on April 16, 2010,
are suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) South Bainbridge Water System, Inc., 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 South Bainbridge Water
System, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as
described above.
- 16 (5) South Bainbridge Water System, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably
attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with
RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 27, 2010.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner