

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-111399
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
RAINIER VIEW WATER)	
COMPANY,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 1, 2011, Rainier View Water Company, (Rainier View or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 21 canceling Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 21 and Sixth Revised Sheet No. 22 canceling Fifth Revised Sheet No. 22. The stated effective date is September 1, 2011. The filing was prompted by costs for company operations exceeding revenues. It proposes to increase base rate amounts and useage block rates for both residential and non-residential users while maintaining the same useage block sizes.

- 2 In this filing, Rainier View would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$537,000 or 12.3 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Rainier View 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

- 3 (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.

- 4 (2) Rainier View is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 25, 2011.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions Rainier View filed on August 1, 2011, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Rainier View, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Rainier View has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 8 (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 Rainier View's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Rainier View's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Rainier View's operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Rainier View bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (8) Rainier View may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions Rainier View Water Company filed on August 1, 2011, are suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.

- 13 (3) Rainier View Water Company must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Rainier View Water Company's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Rainier View Water Company shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 25, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner