



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

June 17, 2015

Steven V. King, Executive Director and Secretary
Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Bethel Water Company, Inc.*

Commission Staff's Response to Application for Mitigation of Penalties UW-150782

Dear Mr. King:

On May 20, 2015, the Utilities and Transportation Commission issued a \$1,000 Penalty Assessment in Docket UW-150782 against Bethel Water Company, Inc. for 10 violations of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 480-110-505), which requires water companies to furnish annual reports to the commission no later than May 1 each year.

On June 8, 2015, Bethel Water Company, Inc. wrote the commission requesting mitigation of penalties. In its mitigation request, Bethel Water Company, Inc. does not dispute the violation occurred. The company states, "My husband has demetia and I am his caregiver. I am trying to also run my business as long as I own. Please waive the penalty due to my error. Corrected".

It is the company's responsibility to ensure that the regulatory fee is paid and the annual report is filed by the May 1 deadline. On February 27, 2015, Annual Report packets were mailed to all regulated water companies. The instructions for annual report completion page of the annual report informed the regulated company that it must complete the annual report form, pay the regulatory fees, and return the materials by May 1, 2015, to avoid enforcement action.

On April 29, 2015, Bethel Water Company, Inc. filed an incomplete 2014 annual report and paid the required regulatory fees. Commission staff contacted the company regarding the deficiency on the same day via email. On June 8, 2015, Bethel Water Company, Inc. filed a revised and complete annual report. The company has been active since 1992. Bethel Water Company, Inc. previously missed the deadline to file its annual report and pay regulatory fees during the 2009 and 2011 reporting years with no prior mitigation of previous penalties. Prior penalty

UTC Annual Reports
June 17, 2015
Page 2

assessments for the 2009 and 2011 reporting years have been paid in full. Staff does not support the company's request to waive the penalty. However, due to the extenuating circumstances and no prior mitigation being requested, staff does recommend mitigation of the penalty. Staff recommends the penalty be reduced to \$50 per day for a total penalty assessment of \$500.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Amy Andrews, Regulatory Analyst, at (360) 664-1157, or aandrews@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Sondra Walsh, Director
Administrative Services