

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-112182
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
BETTY LU MILLER D/B/A)	
NORTHWEST WATER SYSTEM,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 20, 2011, Betty Lu Miller d/b/a Northwest Water System, (Northwest Water System or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as Second Revised Sheet No. 21 canceling First Revised Sheet No. 21. The stated effective date is February 1, 2012. This general rate filing is prompted by an increase in the cost to purchase water from the City of Everett. The Company serves 40 customers on a water system located near Everett in Snohomish County. The Company’s last general rate increase was February 1, 2010.
- 2 In this filing, Northwest Water System would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$1,736 or 6.4 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Northwest Water System 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) Northwest Water System 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 January 26, 2012.
- 6 (4) The tariff revision Northwest Water System filed on December 20, 2011, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Northwest Water System, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Northwest Water System has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revision 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 Northwest Water System's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Northwest Water System's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Northwest Water System's operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Northwest Water System bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (8) Northwest Water System 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 revision Betty Lu Miller d/b/a Northwest Water System filed on December 20, 2011, is suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.

- 13 (3) Betty Lu Miller d/b/a Northwest Water System 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 Betty Lu Miller d/b/a Northwest Water System's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Betty Lu Miller d/b/a Northwest Water System shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 26, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner