

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-121523
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
SCENIC SHORES WATER)	
COMPANY,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 17, 2012, Scenic Shores Water Company, (Scenic Shores or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as Second Revision of Sheet No. 21, Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 21. The proposed tariff revision would generate \$8,341 (33 percent) additional annual revenue. The Company is a homeowners’ association that operates a water system on Lake Lawrence near Yelm in Thurston County. The Company provides non-regulated service to 201 members and regulated service to 35 non-members. The proposed effective date is October 20, 2012. The Company’s last rate increase was effective on April 20, 2010.
- 2 In this filing, Scenic Shores would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$8,341 or 33 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Scenic Shores 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) Scenic Shores 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 October 11, 2012.
- 6 (4) The tariff revision Scenic Shores filed on September 17, 2012, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Scenic Shores, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Scenic Shores 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 Scenic Shores' books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Scenic Shores' property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Scenic Shores' operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Scenic Shores bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (8) Scenic Shores 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 Scenic Shores Water Company filed on September 17, 2012, is suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.

- 13 (3) Scenic Shores 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 Scenic Shores Water Company's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Scenic Shores 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 October 11, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner