

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET UW-140549
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
v.	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
GOLD BEACH WATER COMPANY,	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
INC.,	)	REVISIONS
	)	
Respondent.	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     Gold Beach Water Company, Inc. (Gold Beach or Company), provides water service to approximately 196 residential customers on Vashon Island. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) last approved a general rate increase for the Company effective July 1, 2006.
  
- 2     On March 31, 2014, Gold Beach filed with the Commission Revised Tariff WN U-2, Fourth Revision Sheet No. 21. The proposed filing would increase the Company's rates by approximately 17.4 percent and generate \$14,112 in additional annual revenue. The Company states that this increase is necessary due to customers' reduced water usage, increased operational costs, and two proposed replacement water storage tanks. The stated effective date was May 1, 2014.
  
- 3     On March 31, 2014, the Company notified its customers of the proposed rate increase which would change the base rate from \$29.00 per month to \$35.00 per month. The Company's proposed tariff does not alter volumetric consumption rates or other existing surcharges. To date, one customer has provided comments to Staff, all opposing the increase since the Company waited eight years to file for an increase.
  
- 4     Commission Staff has not completed its review of Gold Beach's filing, books and records. Staff recommends that the Commission issue a complaint and order suspending the Company's proposed tariff revisions.

**DISCUSSION**

- 5     Gold Beach has not yet demonstrated that its proposed tariff revisions would ultimately result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Therefore, 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**

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts and affiliated interests of public service companies, including water companies.
- 7 (2) Gold Beach Water Company, Inc., is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) The tariff revisions Gold Beach Water Company, Inc., filed on March 31, 2014, would increase charges and rates for service presently provided by the Company on Vashon Island.
- 9 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 24, 2014.
- 10 (5) Gold Beach Water Company, Inc., has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would ultimately result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 11 (6) The Commission believes it is necessary to investigate the Company's books, accounts, practices and activities, and to investigate and appraise various phases of the Company's operations.
- 12 (7) Gold Beach Water Company, Inc., bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are just, reasonable and sufficient.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 13 (1) The tariff revisions Gold Beach Water Company, Inc., filed on March 31, 2014, are suspended.
- 14 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 15 (3) Gold Beach Water Company, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.

- 16 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Gold Beach Water Company, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities and operations as described above.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 24, 2014.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Commissioner