

Agenda Date: July 26, 2002  
Item Number: A 5

**Docket** UW-020536  
**Company Name:** Rainier View Water Company, Inc.

Staff: Jim Ward, Regulatory Analyst  
Tani Thurston, Regulatory Analyst  
Penny Hansen, Public Involvement Coordinator

**Recommendation:**

Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Rainier View Water Company, Inc., in Docket UW-020536.

**Discussion:**

On May 1, 2002, Rainier View Water Company, Inc., (Rainier View) filed to add language to its tariff to implement a Cross Connection Control Program. The filings would add language establishing a Cross Connection Control program and establish charges for inspections.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has established new rules and regulations (WAC 246-290-490) dealing with potential cross connection hazards in water systems. A cross connection hazard is a source of potential contamination to the public water supply that occurs from the customer's own water pipes. In order to determine if such a hazard exists on the customer's piping, each customer is being sent a survey to gather information about each customer's piping and to allow the water company to evaluate the potential for backflow into public drinking water systems. Commercial customers would receive a mandatory on-site inspection for cross connection evaluation.

The tariff has proposed that if a potential hazard related to cross connection is detected, the customer will be required to take appropriate remedial action(s) as directed by the water company to minimize the potential hazard. Rainier View proposes to disconnect customers from the water system if the customer does not: a) install a backflow prevention device and/or b) take appropriate remedial action.

Rainier View had its customer notice reviewed by Commission Staff. However, Rainier View sent several other letters to customers without Commission Staff review. Due to delays, the Commission notice on the proposed rates may not have met the 30-day requirement with the customers for the Commission to receive comments.

The Commission received several comments with regard to these filings. Some of the comments expressed confusion over the notices and one asked the Commission for a copy of the survey customers are being asked to complete.

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The current and proposed rates are provided below:

<u>Rates</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Residential Site visit – per visit	N/A	\$ 100.00
Commercial premises inspection	N/A	\$ 250.00

Rainier View has not yet demonstrated that the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Rainier View Water Company, Inc. in Docket UW-020536.