

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

Lewis and Clark Irrigation, LLC,

Petitioner,

Seeking Exemption from the Provisions of
WAC 480-110-375(1)(a) Relating to Form
of bills

DOCKET UW-230181

ORDER 01

GRANTING EXEMPTION
FROM RULE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 17, 2023, Lewis and Clark Irrigation, LLC, (Lewis & Clark or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition (Petition) requesting an exemption from WAC 480-110-375(1)(a).
- 2 WAC 480-110-375(1)(a) requires water companies to issue bills at intervals not to exceed three months and identify if the water company is billing in arrears or advance.
- 3 The Company explained that annual billing is the common practice for irrigation billing in Eastern Washington and added that customers are given the option of paying the bill all at once, or in two installments.
- 4 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended granting the Company's request for exemption except that the Company must identify whether it is billing in arrears or advance. Staff verified that annual billing is standard practice for irrigation customers.

DISCUSSION

- 5 We agree with Staff that the Company has provided clear evidence the customers should continue to be billed annually. We approve the bills going forward to be issued on an annual basis. Additionally, we agree with Staff that the tariff should identify whether the Company is billing in arrears or advance.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including water companies.
- 7 (2) The Company is engaged in the business of providing water services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) Company is subject to WAC 480-110-375(1)(a), which requires water companies to issue bills at intervals not to exceed three months and identify if the water company is billing in arrears or advance.
- 9 (4) Under WAC 480-110-215, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-110, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.
- 10 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 23, 2023.
- 11 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UW-230181 by the Company on March 17, 2023, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Lewis and Clark Irrigation, LLC, is granted an exemption from WAC 480-110-375(1)(a)), and bill for irrigation water on an annual basis.
- 13 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Lewis and Clark Irrigation, LLC, to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

14 The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective March 23, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary