

Agenda Date: December 27, 2012  
 Item Number: A1

Docket: UW-121904  
 Company Name: Eastwood Park Water Co.

Staff: Jim Ward, Regulatory Analyst  
 John Cupp, Consumer Protection Staff

**Recommendation**

Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the tariff revisions filed by Eastwood Park Water Co. on November 30, 2012.

**Discussion**

On November 30, 2012, Eastwood Park Water Co. (company) filed with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) tariff revisions that would increase rates and generate \$10,320 (29 percent) additional annual revenue. The company serves 86 customers near Spanaway in Pierce County. The proposed effective date is January 1, 2013. The company’s last rate increase was effective on April 1, 2008.

A customer who uses 783 cubic feet of water per month (the calculated average monthly usage) would pay \$10.71 (28.3 percent) more than the current rates (see “Average Bill Comparison” table below). The company’s current rates have two usage blocks: 0 to 1,000 cubic feet, and over 1,000 cubic feet. The company proposes to split the current 0 to 1,000 cubic feet usage block into two blocks: 0 to 500 cubic feet and 501 to 1,000 cubic feet.

**Rate Comparison**

Monthly Rate	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Base Rate	\$30.00	\$40.00
0 – 500 Cubic Feet	\$1.00*	\$1.00*
501 – 1,000 Cubic Feet	\$1.00*	\$1.25*
Over 1,000 Cubic Feet	\$1.50*	\$1.60*

\*Per 100 Cubic Feet (or portion thereof).

**Average Bill Comparison**

Average Monthly Usage 783 Cubic Feet	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Base Rate	\$30.00	\$40.00
0 – 500 Cubic Feet	\$5.00	\$5.00
501 – 783 Cubic Feet	\$2.83	\$3.54
Average Monthly Bill	\$37.83	\$48.54
Increase From Current Rates		\$10.71
		28.3%

Commission staff has not completed its review of the company's supporting financial documents, books and records. The company has not fully responded to outstanding data requests issued on December 4, 5, and 6, 2012. Therefore, the company has not yet demonstrated that the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

### **Customer Comments**

On November 30, 2012, the company notified its customers of the proposed rate increase by mail. Staff received four consumer comments regarding the proposed rate increase, all of which opposed the rate increase. Customers were notified that documents related to the rate increase are available on the commission's website, and that they may contact John Cupp at 1-888-333-9882 or [jcupp@utc.wa.gov](mailto:jcupp@utc.wa.gov) with questions or concerns.

### **Filing Documents and Methodology**

- One customer stated that he did not receive the customer notice 30 days before the proposed effective date.

#### **Staff Response**

Staff is looking into this issue.

### **Service Quality**

- All four customers stated that the water service is not reliable.

#### **Staff Response**

Staff requested additional information from these customers.

### **General Comments**

- One customer commented that the company improperly disconnected service.

#### **Staff Response**

Staff requested additional information from this customer.

### **Conclusion**

Issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the tariff revisions filed by Eastwood Park Water Co. on November 30, 2012.