

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-091034
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
SJM WATER SERVICES, INC.,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 29, 2009, SJM Water Services, Inc., (SJM Water or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-01, designated as First Revision of Sheet No. 2 Canceling Original Sheet No. 2; First Revision of Sheet No. 7 Canceling Original Sheet No. 7; Second Revision of Sheet No. 9 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 9; First Revision of Sheet No. 14 Canceling Original Sheet No. 14; Original Sheet No. 14.1; Original Sheet No. 16; Original Sheet No. 17 and First Revision of Sheet No. 23 Canceling Original Sheet No. 23. The filing proposes to increase ancillary charges for Reconnection, Late Payment, Cross Connection Site Visit and Cross Connection Premise Inspection, and to add new charges for NSF Check, Account Set-Up, and Initial Meter Reading. The tariff updates include clarifying rules related to irrigation and adding language on limitation of liability. The Company serves about 54 customers on one water system located in Snohomish County. The original proposed effective date was July 31, 2009. The Company extended the effective date to September 1, 2009, by filings on July 15, 2009, and August 6, 2009.
- 2 In this filing, SJM Water would increase charges and rates for service. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and SJM Water 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) SJM Water 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 August 27, 2009.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions SJM Water filed on June 29, 2009, would increase charges and rates for service provided by SJM Water, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) SJM Water has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions 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 SJM Water's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of SJM Water's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of SJM Water's operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), SJM Water bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (8) SJM Water may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions SJM Water Services, Inc., filed on June 29, 2009, are
suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) SJM Water Services, Inc., 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 SJM Water Services, Inc.'s
books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) SJM Water Services, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and
allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 27, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner