

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET UW-061673
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS;
v.	)	ALLOWING REVISED RATES TO
	)	BECOME EFFECTIVE
PATTISON WATER COMPANY,	)	DECEMBER 1, 2006, ON A
INC.,	)	TEMPORARY BASIS, SUBJECT TO
Respondent.	)	REFUND
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On November 1, 2006, Pattison Water Company, Inc., (Pattison Water or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as complete revision WN U-2. The stated effective date is December 1, 2006. This complete tariff revision updates the tariff format and language, increases rates, and changes rate design. The Company proposed increase was for an additional \$188,500 (49 percent) annually. On November 22, 2006, Staff and the Company negotiated revised rates that would increase annual revenues by approximately \$75,000 (19.5 percent).
  
- 2 Pattison Water notified its customers of the original increase by mail on October 30, 2006. The Commission received five customer comments as of November 28, 2006. All comments oppose the proposed \$188,500 (49 percent) increase.
  
- 3 Customers deserve to know about, and comment on, the revised rates of \$75,000 (19.5 percent). The Commission should consider all information, including any additional customer comments on the revised rates, in deciding whether to conduct an evidentiary hearing on the revised rates. Pattison Water, therefore, has not yet demonstrated the revised rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
  
- 4 The revised rates might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public. The Commission therefore suspends the tariff filing. The Commission accepts the revised rates as temporary rates and allows those revised rates to become effective on December 1, 2006, on a temporary basis, subject to refund. Public hearings may be held to determine whether the proposed changes are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5 (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, and transfers of public service companies, including water companies. *RCW 80.01.040, Chapter 80.04 RCW, Chapter 80.28 RCW, Chapter 80.08 RCW and Chapter 80.12 RCW.*
- 6 (2) Pattison Water is a water company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 7 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 29, 2006.
- 8 (4) The tariff revision filed by Pattison Water on November 1, 2006, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Pattison Water, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 9 (5) Pattison Water has not yet demonstrated that the provisions for water rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. The Commission finds it reasonable to allow the revised rates filed on November 22, 2006, to become effective December 1, 2006, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.
- 10 (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 Pattison Water's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Pattison Water's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Pattison Water's operations.
- 11 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (4), Pattison Water bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 12 (8) Pattison Water may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The tariff revision filed on November 1, 2006, is suspended.
- 14 (2) The revised rates the Company filed on November 22, 2006, that reflect Staff-recommended levels, should be allowed to become effective December 1, 2006, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.
- 15 (3) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 16 (4) Pattison Water Company, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 17 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Pattison Water Company, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 18 (6) Pattison Water Company, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.
- 19 (7) The revised tariff filed on November 22, 2006, shall become effective on December 1, 2006, on a temporary basis, subject to refund if the Commission determines that different rates will be fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 29, 2006.

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman**

**PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner**

**PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner**