

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-081259
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
FIRCROFT, INC.,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 7, 2008, Fircroft, Inc., (Fircroft 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. 16 and Canceling Original Sheet No. 16, First Revision of Sheet No. 17 and Canceling Original Sheet No. 17, First Revision of Sheet No. 19 and Canceling Original Sheet No. 19, and First Revision of Sheet No. 23 and Canceling Original Sheet No. 23. The stated effective date is August 15, 2008.
- 2 The Company serves 14 residential customers and two master meter customers, serving a total of 52 customers, near East Sound on Orcas Island, located in San Juan County. The proposed rates are prompted by cost increases in supplies, electrical power, labor, and increased maintenance and repairs for aging plant. All customers receive metered service. The Company’s last general rate increase became effective in 2000, prior to Commission regulation.
- 3 In this filing, Fircroft would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$4,788 or 21 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Fircroft 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

- 4 (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.
- 5 (2) Fircroft is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 14, 2008.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions Fircroft filed on July 7, 2008, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Fircroft, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) Fircroft has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 9 (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 Fircroft's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Fircroft's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Fircroft's operations.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Fircroft bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 11 (8) Fircroft may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions Fircroft, Inc., filed on July 7, 2008, are suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) Fircroft, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Fircroft, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) Fircroft, 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 14, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner