

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES
AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION,

Complainant

v.

WASHINGTON WATER
SERVICE COMPANY,

Respondent

DOCKET UW-250739

ORDER 03

PREHEARING
CONFERENCE

ORDER; NOTICE OF
HEARING;

**(Evidentiary Hearing
set for July 15-16, 2026,
at 9 a.m.)**

1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** On September 25, 2025, Washington Water Service Company (Washington Water or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions, that if approved, would generate approximately \$4.0 million (36.7 percent) in the Company’s “East Pierce,” and \$897,000 (6.6 percent) in its Legacy service areas. The East Pierce system was acquired by Washington Water in 2020 and serves approximately 19,500 residential and non-residential customers on 28 water systems in Pierce and Kitsap County. The Legacy system services approximately 18,000 customers on 190 water systems located in Clallam, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, San Juan and Thurston Counties. In addition to the Legacy and East Pierce systems, Washington Water also provides regulated water service for the Stroh’s water system,¹ and is seeking approximately \$4.9

¹ Washington Water also provides regulated water service to customers in Stroh’s service area and unregulated sewer service. See *In re. Washington Water Service Company*, Docket UW-250186, Staff Open Meeting Memo (May 22, 2025).

million (19.9 percent) in additional annual revenue for its Legacy and East Pierce systems.²

2 On October 17, 2025, Washington Water filed a request for extension to allow Commission staff (Staff) additional time to complete their review and then filed a subsequent extension request on November 25, 2025, agreeing to a further 90-day extension of the Company's proposed tariff revision from December 15, 2025, to March 15, 2026.

3 On November 7, 2025, Washington Water filed a Motion for Standard Protective Order (Motion), requesting the Commission issue a protective order in this docket pursuant to WAC 480-07-420(1).

4 On November 17, 2025, the Commission issued Order 01 – Protective Order in this Docket.

5 On January 29, 2026, this matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting. Following the January 29, 2026, open meeting, the Commission issued Order 02, suspending this matter for adjudication.

6 **CONFERENCE.** The Commission convened a Prehearing Conference virtually, on March 4, 2026, before Administrative Law Judge Connor Thompson.

7 **REPRESENTATIVES.** Jocelyn Pease and Skylar Sumner of McDowell Rackner Gibson PC, represent Washington Water. Josephine Strauss and Sydney Goldberg, Assistants Attorney General, represent Staff. Tad Robinson O'Neill, Alexandra Kory, and Robert Sykes Assistants Attorney General, represent the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel). Contact information for the representatives of those granted party status is attached as Appendix A to this Order.

8 **PETITIONS FOR INTERVENTION.** No other party has filed a petition to intervene in this matter at this time.

9 **PROTECTIVE ORDER.** The Commission granted the Company's request for a protective order and set forth protective provisions in Order 01 of this docket.

10 **DISCOVERY.** Order 02 provides that discovery will be conducted under the

² Washington Water's requested increase in additional annual revenue includes all the Company's systems except for the Stroh's system addressed in Docket UW-250186 at the May 22, 2025, Open Meeting.

Commission's discovery rules, WAC 480-07-400 – 425. The Commission urges the parties to work cooperatively to avoid having to bring discovery matters forward for formal resolution. Prior to bringing a discovery matter to the presiding officer's attention, the parties shall first consult with one another. Response times to data requests are adjusted as set forth in the Procedural Schedule, discussed below, and attached to this Order as Appendix B. If a party should need to file a motion regarding discovery, the Commission asks that the party provide in its motion whether it has conferred with opposing counsel.

11 Additionally, the Commission believes it will aid discovery in this case if all responses to data requests are shared with all parties. No party objected to the Commission making the exchange of data request responses with all parties a requirement for discovery in this proceeding. Accordingly, the Commission requires the parties to share every data request response with all parties, subject to any confidentiality limitations contained in Commission rule or in the Protective Order, Order 01, issued in this docket. To clarify, data requests and responses are not shared with the presiding officer unless those responses are offered as exhibits to be admitted into the record.

12 **PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE.** Prior to the Prehearing Conference, Washington Water and Staff each submitted separate letters to the presiding officer outlining competing procedural schedules. At the prehearing conference, the presiding officer let all parties know that they would do their best to accommodate the competing schedules, but that neither proposed schedule would work. The presiding officer requested all parties to send dates for which they would be unavailable following the prehearing conference. All parties have provided dates which will not work for their counsel or witnesses. Accordingly, The Commission adopts the procedural schedule in this Order 03, in consideration of the dates provided by the parties. The procedural schedule is attached to this Order as Appendix B. The parties may reschedule the settlement conferences without seeking to modify the schedule if the parties agree, but the parties must provide notice to the presiding officer of the rescheduled dates.³

13 **DOCUMENT FILING AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS; MOTION TO REMOVE THE PAPER COPY REQUIREMENT.** Parties must file and serve all pleadings, motions, briefs, and other prefiled materials in compliance with all of the following requirements:

- (a) Parties must submit electronic copies of all documents by 5 p.m. on the filing deadline established in the Procedural Schedule (or other deadline as applicable) unless the Commission orders otherwise. Parties must comply with

³ WAC 480-07-700(5)(a).

WAC 480-07-140(6) in formatting, organizing, and identifying electronic files. Documents that include information designated as confidential must comply with the requirements in WAC 480-07-160 and the Protective Order in these dockets.

- (b) The Commission accepts only electronic versions of documents for formal filing. The Commission requires electronic copies to be in searchable pdf format (adobe acrobat or comparable software) or to otherwise comply with WAC 480-07-140(6)(a). Parties must submit documents electronically through the Commission's web portal (www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing). If a party is unable to use the web portal to submit documents for filing, the Commission will accept a submission via email to records@utc.wa.gov provided the email: (1) explains the reason the documents are not being submitted via the web portal, and (2) complies with the requirements in WAC 480-07-140(5)(b).
- (c) If any of the exhibits contain information designated as confidential, parties must file an electronic copy of the redacted version in searchable PDF (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software) of each such exhibit.
- (d) Parties must electronically serve the other parties and provide courtesy electronic copies of filings to the presiding administrative law judge (connor.thompson@utc.wa.gov) by 5 p.m. on the filing deadline unless the Commission orders otherwise. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-365(2)(c), all electronic documents submitted to the Commission must also be delivered to all parties and the presiding administrative law judge "at the same time" that the documents are submitted to the Commission or shortly thereafter. Please note as well that failing to provide a courtesy copy to the presiding administrative law judge may result in a delayed ruling on a motion or other filing. If parties are unable to email copies, they may furnish electronic copies by delivering them on a flash drive only.

14 **EXHIBITS FOR CROSS-EXAMINATION.** Parties are required to file with the Commission and serve all proposed cross-examination exhibits by **5 p.m., Thursday, September 3, 2026**. The Commission requires electronic copies in searchable PDF (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software). If any of the exhibits contain information that is designated as confidential, parties must file an electronic copy of the redacted version in searchable PDF (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software) of each such exhibit. The exhibits must be grouped according to the witness the party intends to cross-examine with the exhibits.

15 **EXHIBIT LISTS.** With each submission of pre-filed testimony and exhibits, the party making the submission must include a preliminary exhibit list that identifies each submitted exhibit in the format the Commission uses for the exhibit lists it prepares for

evidentiary hearings. The Company will prepare its preliminary exhibit list and circulate it to the parties. Each party must file and serve a final list of all exhibits the party intends to introduce into the evidentiary record, including all pre-filed testimony and exhibits, as well as cross-examination exhibits by **5 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2026.**

16 **CROSS-EXAMINATION TIME ESTIMATES.** Each party must provide a list of witnesses the party intends to cross-examine at the evidentiary hearing and an estimate of the time that party anticipates the cross-examination of each witness will take. Parties should not file witness lists or cross-examination time estimates but must provide them to the presiding administrative law judges (connor.thompson@utc.wa.gov and ann.paisner@utc.wa.gov) and the other parties by email by **5 p.m., Wednesday, July 9, 2026.**

17 **PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING.** During the Prehearing Conference, the parties agreed that a public comment hearing should be held in this matter on a date to be scheduled by the Commission. Given the potential effect on the public, because of the potential impact on customer rates, the Commission believes that it is in the public interest that a public comment hearing be held to receive comments from the public in this matter. Consequently, the Commission will hold a public comment hearing in this docket virtually, at **6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2026.** Washington Water customers will receive notice of the date, time, and access link to the public comment hearing, as well as other information required under WAC 480-90-197 and WAC 480-100-197, at least 30 days prior to the date of the public comment hearing. To attend the hearing via Zoom, [click here to join meeting](#), or call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Conference ID: 814 3640 6490# and use the Passcode: 718078#.

18 **NOTICE OF EVIDENTIARY HEARING.** The Commission will hold a virtual evidentiary hearing in this docket on **July 15, 2026, beginning at 9 a.m. and, if necessary, continuing on July 16, 2026.** Parties may attend the hearing virtually via Zoom. To attend the hearing via Zoom, [click here to join meeting](#), or call (253) 215-8782 and enter the Conference ID: 852 5164 1710# and use the Passcode: 543371#.

19 **ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The Commission supports the informal settlement of matters before it. If the Parties reach a settlement in principle and request suspension of the procedural schedule, Washington Water must inform the Commission whether it is willing to extend the statutory deadline, if necessary, to allow the Commission sufficient time to consider the settlement and take final action in these consolidated proceedings. The Commission may decline to consider a settlement agreement if the Commission determines that it cannot consider the settlement and take final action by the statutory deadline. Ideally, settlement among the parties would arise sooner rather than later during these proceedings, thus resulting in a Commission determination at a much earlier stage

- 20 Parties are also encouraged to consider means of resolving disputes informally. The Commission has limited ability to provide dispute resolution services. If you wish to explore those services, please contact Connor Thompson, Director, Administrative Law Division (connor.thompson@utc.wa.gov or (360) 664-1346).
- 21 The Commission has limited ability to provide dispute resolution services. If you wish to explore those services, please contact Connor Thompson, Director, Administrative Law Division (connor.thompson@utc.wa.gov or (360) 791-4228).
- 22 **NOTICE TO PARTIES:** A party who objects to any portion of this Order must file a written objection within ten (10) calendar days after the service date of this Order, pursuant to WAC 480-07-430 and WAC 480-07-810. The service date appears on the first page of this Order, in the upper right-hand corner. Absent such objection, this Order will control further proceedings in this docket, subject to Commission review.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective March 11, 2026.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Connor Thompson
Connor Thompson
Administrative Law Judge

APPENDIX A
PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES
DOCKET UW-250739

| PARTY | REPRESENTATIVE | PHONE | E-MAIL |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Washington Water Service Company | Jocelyn C. Pease Skylar Sumner McDowell Rackner Gibson PC 419 SW 11 th Ave., Suite 400 Portland, OR 97205 | P: 503-290-3620 | jocelyn@mrg-law.com skylar@mrg-law.com dockets@mrg-law.com |
| Commission Staff | Jeff Roberson Josephine Strauss Sydney Godlberg Office of the Attorney General Utilities and Transportation Division P.O. Box 40128 Olympia, WA 98504-7250 | P: 360-810-0509 P: 360-586-7777 P: 386-586-7777 | Jeff.Roberson@atg.wa.gov Josephine.strauss@atg.wa.gov Sydney.goldberg@atg.wa.gov |
| Public Counsel | Tad Robinson O'Neill Robert Sykes Alexandra Kory Washington Attorney General's Office Public Counsel Unit 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000 Seattle, WA 98104-3188 | P:206-254-0570 P: 206-389-2055 P: 206-516-2997 | Tad.ONeill@atg.wa.gov Robert.Sykes@atg.wa.gov Alexandra.Kory@atg.wa.gov |

**APPENDIX B
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKETS UW-250739**

| EVENT | DATE |
|--|---|
| Company Filing | September 25, 2025 |
| Open Meeting | January 29, 2026 |
| Suspension Order | January 29, 2026 |
| Company Direct Testimony | March 2, 2026 |
| Prehearing Conference | March 4, 2026 |
| Revenue Requirement Workshop | March 19, 2026 |
| Settlement Conference ⁴ | April 3, 2026 |
| Settlement Conference | April 24, 2026 |
| Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenor Response Testimony and Exhibits ⁵ | May 13, 2026 |
| Settlement Conference | May 22, 2026 |
| Notice Issued for Public Comment Hearing | At least 30 days prior to Public Comment Hearing |
| Washington Water Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits; Staff and Public Counsel Cross-Answering Testimony and Exhibits ⁶ | June 23, 2026 |
| Settlement Conference | June 26, 2026 |
| Discovery Deadline – Last Day to Issue Data Requests | June 30, 2026 |
| Public Comment Hearing | July 9, 2026 |
| Washington Water Files Joint Issues Matrix | July 9, 2026 |
| Exhibits List, Cross-Examination Exhibits, Witnesses List, Time Estimates, Exhibits Errata | July 9, 2026 |
| Evidentiary Hearing | July 15-16, 2026 |
| Post-Hearing Briefs and Updated Joint Issues Matrix | August 14, 2026 |

⁴ Per WAC 480-07-700(5)(a), parties may reschedule a settlement conference included in the procedural schedule without seeking to modify the schedule if all parties agree, but the parties must provide notice to the presiding officer of the rescheduled date.

⁵ Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 7 business days.

⁶ Response time to data requests will be 5 business days.

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|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Reply Briefs ⁷ | September 4, 2026 |
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⁷ As discussed at the Prehearing Conference, Reply Briefs are contemplated but not required. Any party wishing to file a Reply Brief should notify the presiding officer and the other parties on or before August 19, 2026.