

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-090655
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 02
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
RAINIER VIEW WATER CO., INC.,)	ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT
)	AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF
Respondent.)	REVISION; ALLOWING PROPOSED
)	TARIFF REVISION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On April 30, 2009, Rainier View Water Co., Inc., (Rainier View or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as Second Revision of Sheet No. 34.1 Cancelling First Revision Sheet No. 34.1. This filing removes the chemical treatment operating and maintenance expenses from the treatment surcharge, reduces the treatment surcharge from \$3.29 to \$1.81 per month, and decreases the Company’s revenue by \$308,047 (6.4 percent) per year. The remaining \$1.81 of the treatment surcharge will be used to pay off the principal balance on the loan used to construct the treatment facilities. The Company serves about 17,345 residential and upsize meter customers in Pierce County. The proposed effective date was June 1, 2009.
- 2 On May 28, 2009, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revision pending an investigation to determine whether the revision is fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 3 On May 9, 2004, the Commission authorized Rainier View in Order 01 in Docket UW-040657, to increase the treatment surcharge from \$2.15 to \$3.29 per month. The increase in the treatment surcharge was to implement a resolution adopted by the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health requiring fluoridation of drinking water in Pierce County for water systems serving 5,000 or more people. This surcharge increase included capital improvements and operating costs for fluoridation.
- 4 In early 2004, by court action, several water districts were able to stop the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health’s mandatory requirement to fluoridate drinking water.

Therefore, Rainier View did not install fluoridation equipment. The Company did continue with upgrades to the corrosion control treatment plant and installed a SCADA (Supervisory, Control, And Data Acquisition) system.

5 Rainier View agreed to reduce the treatment surcharge on or before the fifth anniversary of the original order to remove the operating and maintenance costs that are included in the treatment surcharge. This filing meets that requirement.

6 The remaining surcharge will be used to repay approximately \$1,047,000 in capital plant loans over a three year period. Rainier View must terminate the treatment surcharge when all debt supported by the surcharge has been paid in full, at which time it must submit to the Commission a final report of all capital costs associated with the treatment facilities.

7 Staff has completed its review of the Company's books and financial records and agrees that the proposed rate change and reduction in revenues of \$308,047 (6.4 percent) is appropriate and will result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. For residential customers the proposed surcharge reduction will be \$1.48 per month or \$17.76 per year.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

8 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, 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.*

9 (2) Rainier View is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

10 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on July 16, 2009.

11 (4) The tariff revision presently under suspension is fair, just, reasonable and sufficient because Staff has completed its review of the Company's supporting

financial documents, books and records, and determined that the expenses are reasonable and required as part of the Company's operations and that the proposed rates and charges are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

- 12 (5) After reviewing the tariff revision Rainier View filed in Docket UW-090655 and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Docket UW-090655, dated May 28, 2009, and allow the tariff revision to Tariff WN U-2 to become effective on July 17, 2009.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revision in Docket UW-090655, entered on May 28, 2009, is dismissed.
- 14 (2) The proposed tariff revision Rainier View Water Co., Inc., filed in this docket on April 30, 2009, shall become effective on July 17, 2009, on a permanent basis.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 16, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner