

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Complainant

v.

RAINIER VIEW WATER COMPANY,
INC.

Respondent

DOCKET NO. UW-010877

FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER
ACCEPTING COMPLIANCE
FILING

Synopsis: The Commission approves a tariff filing submitted in compliance with a Commission order authorizing interim rates, subject to refund, for Rainier View Water Company, Inc. In doing so, the Commission authorizes substitute revised tariff pages for the requested rate relief.

I. BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 15, 2001, Rainier View Water Company, Inc. (Rainier View or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2 designed to effectuate a general rate increase of \$445,895. On July 11, 2001, the Tariff revisions were suspended and on August 29, 2001, the matter was set for hearing. The Commission conducted an evidentiary hearing on February 13 and 14, 2002 in Olympia, Washington. On May 3, 2002, the Administrative Law Judge entered her Initial Order (*Third Supplemental Order, Docket No. UW-010877*) proposing rejection of the tariff filing but authorizing refiling of rates producing additional revenues of \$272,870.
- 2 The Company on May 16, 2002, filed revisions, Original Sheet No. 21.2 and Original Sheet No. 32.1. These revisions supercede Seventh Revision Sheet No. 21, Original Sheet No. 21.1 and Sixth Revised Sheet No. 32, of Rainier View's current tariff WN U-2 until permanent rates resulting from Docket No. UW-010877 become effective.
- 3 On May 22, 2002, the Commission entered the Fourth Supplemental Order in Docket UW-010877, which allowed interim rates in the amount of \$204,653, filed by Rainier View Water Co., Inc., on May 16, 2002 to become effective on June 1, 2002, subject to refund. On May 23, 2002, Rainier View filed substitute tariff pages, designated as Substitute Original Sheet No. 21.2 and Substitute Original Sheet No. 32.1, to implement an agreement reached between the Company and Commission Staff on the rate design for the interim rates.

4 The original filed interim tariff pages, for metered customers, had the base rate at \$15.91 per month, with overage at .78 per 100 cubic feet. The Substitute page sets the rates at a base charge of \$15.42, and the overage charge at \$0.83 per 100 cubic feet. The result to the average customer using 1500 cubic feet per month is the same between the two filings. (\$23.71 and 23.72 per month, respectively). The base charge is slightly lower, and the usage charge slightly higher, in the new proposal. For metered customers, the interim rates will be \$15.42 for the first 500 cubic feet of water used per month, with a charge of \$.83 per 100 cubic feet, or fraction thereof, used over the 500 cubic feet per month.

5 For unmetered customers, the monthly flat rate charge will be set at \$20.37 per month for permanent customers, and \$15.10 per month for seasonal customers. This reflects a reduction of about 25¢ per month from the original interim proposal. The effective date of the revisions is June 1, 2002.

6 The permanent rates the company requested with the filing in June, 2001, proposed that the metered base rate be \$15.61, with overage at \$1 per 100 cubic feet; flat rate customers would have gone to \$21.17 per month. Current rates are \$14.45, with overage at \$.78 per 100 cu. ft; flat rate customers pay \$19.17 per month.

7 The revised interim proposal results in rates that increase incentives for conservation and reduce charges for persons who put the least demand on the resource. The proposal appears to be consistent with the public interest, and should be approved.

II. FINDINGS OF FACT & CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8 Rainier View is water company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

9 The Commission finds that the tariff revisions filed by Rainier View Water Co., Inc., on May 23, 2002, comply with the Commission's Fourth Supplemental Order Granting Interim Rates in Docket No. UW-010877 and that the tariff revisions should be approved and become effective as filed.

III. ORDER

10 (1) THE COMMISSION ORDERS that the tariff revisions filed May 23, 2002, designated as Substitute Original Sheet No. 21.2, and Substitute Original Sheet No. 32.1 shall become effective June 1, 2002.

11 (2) THE COMMISSION ORDERS FURTHER that the tariff revisions filed May 23, 2002, shall remain in effect only until such time as permanent rates resulting from Docket No. UW-101877 become effective.

- 12 (3) THE COMMISSION ORDERS FURTHER that if the Final Order in this Docket reflects a revenue requirement less than the \$204,653 allowed on an annual basis in Interim rate relief, the amount collected in excess of the amount that the Commission ultimately authorizes will be refunded over the same time period in which the excess was collected.
- 13 (4) THE COMMISSION FURTHER ORDERS That it retains jurisdiction to effectuate the provisions of this and prior Orders entered in this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 24th day of May, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Secretary