

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-110054
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION
RAINIER VIEW WATER CO., INC.,)	AND APPROVING REVISED
)	RATES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS,
Respondent.)	SUBJECT TO REFUND
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 4, 2011, Rainier View Water Co., Inc. (Rainier View or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as Original Sheet No. 56. The stated effective date is February 4, 2011. The filing was prompted by Staff’s request that the Company publish its facilities charges in its tariff to eliminate the need for a separate contract with each new customer. The Company serves about 16,650 residential and upsize meter customers in Pierce County.
- 2 The Company initially proposed charges of \$8,640 per equivalent residential unit (ERU) for all future customers of the Southwood/Sound water system and \$1,702 per ERU for all future customers of all other water systems. The Southwood/Sound facilities charge is higher because it is the Company’s largest system and where Rainier View expects the bulk of the future growth. These proposed charges were higher than the facilities charges the Company has been charging by contract. Therefore, Staff viewed the rates as an increase. At Staff’s request, the Company filed revised rates on January 24, 2011, at the same level as recent contract facilities charges: \$5,270 per ERU for future customers of the Southwood/Sound water system and \$1,210 for future customers of all other water systems.
- 3 Because these rates might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Rainier View has not demonstrated that the proposed filing 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 rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. The Commission accepts the revised rates as temporary rates

and approves those revised rates to become effective on February 4, 2011, on a temporary basis, subject to refund.

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) Rainier View 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 January 27, 2011.
- 7 (4) The tariff revision Rainier View filed on January 4, 2011, and revised on January 24, 2011, would publish facilities charges for service provided by Rainier View, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) Rainier View has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revision 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 Rainier View's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Rainier View's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Rainier View's operations.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Rainier View bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed rates are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 11 (8) Rainier View 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 Rainier View Water Co., Inc., filed on January 4, 2011, and
January 24, 2011, are suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) Rainier View Water Co., 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 Rainier View Water Co., Inc.'s
books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) Although Rainier View has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would
ultimately result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient, the
Commission finds it reasonable, based on Staff's analysis, to approve the revised
rates to become effective February 4, 2011, on a temporary basis, subject to
refund.
- 17 (5) Rainier View Water Co., 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 January 27, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner