

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET NO. UW-021667
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
Thomas Water Service, Inc.,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 On December 17, 2002, Thomas Water Service, Inc., (Thomas Water Service or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as First Revision of Sheet No. 22 Canceling Original Sheet No. 22. The stated effective date is March 1, 2003 by letter of extension. The Company is proposing an annual increase of \$49,010 (100%). Thomas Water serves approximately 67 customers along with an equestrian area north of Arlington, in Snohomish County. The Company states that the increase is to help recover the expenses of Satellite Management services and capital cost recovery with return.

2 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Thomas Water Service. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Thomas Water Service has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (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, and transfers of public service companies, including water companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW; and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*
- 4 (2) Thomas Water Service is a water company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 28, 2003.
- 6 (4) The tariff revision filed by Thomas Water Service on December 17, 2002, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Thomas Water Service, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Thomas Water Service has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revision would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 8 (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 Thomas Water Service's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Thomas Water Service's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Thomas Water Service's operations.

- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (2), Thomas Water Service bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.
- 10 (8) Thomas Water Service may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revision filed on December 17, 2002 is suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Thomas Water Service, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Thomas Water Service, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Thomas Water Service, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 28th day of February, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner