

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-060167
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 02
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
Burton Water Company, Inc.,)	ORDER DISMISSING
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION;
Respondent.)	APPROVING TARIFF REVISION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 24, 2006, Burton Water Company, Inc. (Burton Water or Company) filed with the Commission revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as:

 Second Revised Sheet No. 22 canceling First Revised Sheet No. 22.
 The stated effective date is March 1, 2006.

- 2 On February 22, 2006, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revision pending an investigation to determine whether the revision is fair, just, and reasonable.

- 3 On March 8, 2006, the Commission issued a notice scheduling a prehearing conference for April 27, 2006. The Commission canceled that conference at the request of the parties pending consideration of this matter at a Commission open meeting.

- 4 On April 18, 2006, the Company filed a revised tariff reflecting a reduced revenue requirement, asking that it be allowed to withdraw the original tariff filing and substitute the revision. Commission staff has reviewed the proposed substitution. Staff supports the request, stating that the substitute proposal appears to propose equitable rates.

- 5 Commission staff also asks, and the company does not oppose, two reporting requirements. First, staff asks that the company be required to provide summary reports of water usage (by rate block) and revenue generation (by rate block) after each billing

cycle for a period of one year. The reports should be presented no later than 30 days after the close of each billing period between May 1, 2006, and April 30, 2007.

- 6 Second, the company should be required to report, no later than June 1, 2007, the status of the revised rate design – its effect on water consumption – as shown in the company’s usage records, by billing period, for the period May 1, 2006, through April 30, 2007.
- 7 Finally, Commission Staff discovered during its work with the company on this docket that the company does not keep its books and records in compliance with WAC 480-110-505. Staff asks that the Commission direct the company to modify its accounting system no later than July 1, 2006, to comply with the requirements of the rule and use the uniform system of accounts (USOA) published by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).
- 8 The Commission concludes that Burton Water has demonstrated that the revised increase in rates is fair, just, and reasonable. The Commission finds that the reporting and accounting measures proposed by Commission Staff are appropriate and should be adopted as requirements in this order.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, 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.*
- 10 (2) Burton Water Company, Inc. is a water company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 11 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 26, 2006.
- 12 (4) The original tariff revision filed in this docket does not provide for rates that are fair just, and reasonable. The company should be allowed to withdraw that filing.

- 13 (5) The substitute tariff revision that the company offers proposes rates that are fair, just, and reasonable. The company should be allowed to substitute its revised filing for the original withdrawn filing, and the Commission should lift the suspension and authorize the rates shown in that filing to become effective on May 1, 2006, to coincide with the company's billing cycle.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revision(s) in Docket UW-060167, dated February 22, 2006, is dismissed effective May 1, 2006.
- 15 (2) The tariff revision filed in this docket on April 19, 2006, shall become effective with the lifting of the suspension on May 1, 2006.
- 16 (3) The company must provide summary reports of water usage and revenue generation as specified in the body of this order, above. After the one-year period, the company must within one month report on the status of the revised rate design as reflected in water usage, as provided above in this order.
- 17 (4) The company must bring itself into compliance with WAC 480-110-505, Accounting and reporting requirements and regulatory fees, no later than July 1, 2006, and demonstrate that compliance to commission staff within 30 days thereafter. In particular, the company must begin using the uniform system of accounts (USOA) published by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 26, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner