

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET UW-080562
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
ROCHE HARBOR WATER	)	
SYSTEM,	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On March 31, 2008, Roche Harbor Water System, (Roche Harbor or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-01, designated as Seventh Revised Sheet No. W-1 canceling Sixth Revised Sheet No. W-1; Fourth Revised Sheet No. W-2 canceling Third Revised Sheet No. W-2. The stated effective date is May 1, 2008. The Company proposes to increase rates that would generate \$154,960 (50 percent) in additional revenue per year. The Company proposes to increase general rates for water service that would generate \$123,460 (80 percent of \$154,960). The proposed increased general rates for water service are prompted by higher costs for gasoline, water testing and an additional employee. The Company also proposes to start a capital upgrade reserve fund of \$31,500 (20 percent of \$154,960). Roche Harbor serves 525 customers on San Juan Island located in San Juan County.
- 2     In this filing, Roche Harbor would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$154,960 or 50 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Roche Harbor has not demonstrated that the increases 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 increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

**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, 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.*
- 4 (2) Roche Harbor is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 30, 2008.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions Roche Harbor filed on March 31, 2008, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Roche Harbor, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Roche Harbor has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 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 Roche Harbor's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Roche Harbor's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Roche Harbor's operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (4), Roche Harbor bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (8) Roche Harbor may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

**O R D E R**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions Roche Harbor Water System filed on March 31, 2008, are  
suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Roche Harbor Water System 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 Roche Harbor Water System's  
books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Roche Harbor Water System shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and  
allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 30, 2008.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner