

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

WASHINGTON WATER SUPPLY, INC.,

Respondent.

DOCKET UW-230997

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL  
YOUNG

I, MICHAEL YOUNG, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, declare as follows:

- 1 I am over 18 years of age and competent to be a witness.
- 2 I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission).
- 3 The Echo Glen Water System (Echo Glen) well supply has been gradually decreasing over the last few years and the well is in need of repair or replacement. Washington Water Supply, Inc. (Company) has been aware of the decline. According to the Echo Glen customers, a meeting was held in June 2022, with the Company where they agreed at that time on a new well and to interim rates to rehabilitate the existing well. The Company did not file those agreed-upon rates with the Commisison and so were not put into effect.
- 4 In May 2023, the Company again had well capacity issues and started to purchase water to be trucked in and added to the water system. According to a statement from Water Buffalo Inc., the Company purchased water from June 2, 2023 until September 25, 2023.
- 5 The Department of Health (DOH) provided Commission Staff (Staff) with a copy of a letter dated August 7, 2023, sent to the Company which states that Echo Glen was on a Boil Water Advisory and before lifting the advisory the Company must demonstrate that the water was safe to drink by receiving bacteriological sample results indicating no coliforms are present. According to a DOH Health Advisory Summary, the Boil Water Advisory went into effect on July 7, 2023.
- 6 On July 12, 2023, the Company filed with the Commission a tariff revision<sup>1</sup> to include a surcharge of \$60 per month for the recovery of purchased water expenses due to well issues and high summer usage on the Echo GlennWater System. The Commission issued Order 01 in

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<sup>1</sup> Docket UW-230598.

Docket UW-230598 which granted the Company a surcharge in the amount of \$60.00 per month per customer to become effective August 15, 2023, and expire on November 15, 2023.

- 7 On December 8, 2023, the Company filed with the Commission a tariff revision<sup>2</sup> to include a surcharge of \$60 per month for the recovery of the remaining un-recovered costs of purchased water to become effective January 12, 2024. The tariff language indicates two different expiration dates, one being June 12, 2024 (“billed monthly for 180 days”) and August 8, 2024. This docket was heard at the regularly scheduled open public meeting on January 11, 2024. I presented Staff’s recommendation for this matter at the open meeting. In that meeting, the Commission issued a complaint and order suspending the tariff revisions filed on December 8, 2023.
- 8 The January 11, 2024, open meeting experienced technical difficulties, which prevented anyone from joining the meeting on the Zoom platform at the beginning of the meeting. The meeting identification and passcode originally circulated to participants and the public did not function for the meeting. The Commission delayed the meeting until 9:45 and distributed a new meeting ID and passcode.
- 9 I was able to join the open meeting by Zoom using the new meeting ID and passcode.. In addition, Morgana Manley and Satomi Miyakawa, customers of the Echo Glen water system who were interested in commenting on Docket UW-230997, were also able to join the meeting with the newly issued meeting ID and passcode. Both customers were able to provide their comments to the Commission when called upon by the Commissioners.<sup>3</sup>
- 10 I emailed the Company at 9:39AM on January 11, 2024, stating there were technical difficulties with the meeting platform. I also emailed the new meeting ID and passcode to the Company to enable them to attend the open meeting at 9:44AM. The Commission’s Public Records Officer, Ryan Smith, also emailed the Company with the new Zoom link, ID, and passcode at 9:34AM. The Company did not attend the open meeting.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective this 9th day of February, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael Young  
MICHAEL YOUNG

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<sup>2</sup> Docket UW-230997.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes, January 11, 2024.