

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-467, Docket No. UW-980082, filed 11/30/99, effective 12/31/99)

**WAC 480-110-215 Exemptions from rules.** (1) The commission may grant an exemption of any rule in this chapter, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.

(2) To request a rule exemption, a person must file with the commission a written request identifying the rule for which an exemption is sought and giving a full explanation of the reason the exemption is requested.

(3) The commission will assign the request a docket number, if needed, and schedule the request for consideration at one of its regularly scheduled open meetings or, if appropriate under chapter 34.05 RCW, in an adjudication. The commission will notify the person requesting the exemption, and other interested persons, of the date the commission will consider the request.

(4) The commission will enter an order granting or denying the request or setting it for hearing, pursuant to chapter ((480-09)) 480-07 WAC.

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**WAC 480-110-295 Adopted and initial tariffs.** A water company must file revisions to its filed tariff within thirty days of its acquisition of new service area, whether by acquisition of another regulated water company or by acquiring one or more previously unregulated water systems.

(1) **Adopted tariffs - when a regulated company acquires another regulated company.** Any regulated water company acquiring a regulated water company must adopt the latter's tariff. An adoption form must be completed and filed with the commission by the acquiring water company within thirty days of the acquisition. The commission will supply an adoption form upon request.

(2) **Incorporate into existing tariff - when a regulated water company acquires a nonregulated company.**

(a) When a regulated water company acquires a nonregulated water company or water system, the acquiring water company must file a separate tariff page indicating the name of the newly

acquired company or system with the rates and charges that were in existence before the acquisition.

(b) If the acquired nonregulated company or water system was previously subject to commission jurisdiction, the acquiring water company must file a separate tariff page indicating the name of the newly acquired company or system with the rates and charges in effect for the acquired company at the time the acquired company was removed from regulation.

(c) No other rates and charges may apply to the customers on the newly acquired system except those specifically shown on the new tariff page unless the company obtains the commission's approval to charge a different rate.

**(3) Initial tariffs - when a company becomes jurisdictional.**

(a) An initial tariff must be filed in a standard tariff format. The commission will provide illustrations of the standard format upon request.

(b) The tariff must be accompanied by a cover letter describing the filing as an initial tariff.

(c) Customers must be notified before the commission receives the filing.

(d) The filing must be accompanied by supporting financial data justifying the proposed rates. See WAC (~~(480-09-337, Filing requirements-General rate increases)~~) 480-07-530, General rate proceedings--Water companies.

**(4) Initial tariffs - a company that was previously subject to commission jurisdiction.** If a company or water system was previously subject to commission jurisdiction and once again becomes jurisdictional, the company must file a tariff with the rates and charges in effect at the time the company was last removed from regulation.

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**WAC 480-110-385 Water company responsibility for complaints and disputes.** (1) If a water company receives a complaint or dispute from a customer or an applicant for service it must:

(a) Acknowledge the complaint;

(b) Investigate promptly;

(c) Report the results of the investigation to the complainant;

(d) Take corrective action, if warranted, as soon as appropriate under the circumstances;

(e) Inform the complainant that the decision may be appealed to a higher level representative at the company, if any;

(f) Inform the complainant, if still dissatisfied after speaking with the higher level representative, of the commission's availability for review of the complaint; and

(g) Provide the complainant with the commission's address and toll-free telephone number.

(2) Applicants, customers, or their representatives, may file with the commission:

(a) An informal complaint against the company as set forth in WAC ((~~480-09-150~~)) 480-07-910; and/or

(b) A formal complaint against the company as set forth in WAC ((~~480-09-500~~)) 480-07-370.

(3) When commission consumer affairs staff refers an informal complaint to the company, the company must:

(a) Investigate and report the results to the commission consumer affairs staff within two business days. The commission consumer affairs staff may grant an extension of time for responding to the complaint, if requested and warranted;

(b) Keep the commission consumer affairs staff informed of progress toward the solution and the final result.

(4) Each water company must keep a record of all complaints concerning service or rates for at least one year and, on request, make them readily available for commission review. The record must contain:

(a) Complainant's name and address;

(b) Date and nature of the complaint;

(c) Action taken; and

(d) Final result.