

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION)	DOCKET UW-141363
COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	
)	
RAINIER VIEW WATER)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
COMPANY, INC.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 30, 2014, Rainier View Water Company, Inc. (Rainier View or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2. The tariff revisions would generate \$166,083 (2.9 percent) additional annual revenue. The filing addresses a revenue shortfall related to employment costs and Department of Health fees and requirements, and modifies the Company’s rate design to promote conservation in the third usage block. The Company provides water service to approximately 17,350 customers served on 26 water systems located in Pierce County and two water systems located in Kitsap County. Rainier View’s last general rate increase was effective June 1, 2013. A treatment surcharge was allowed to go into effect on July 24, 2014.

- 2 Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed the filing and worksheets provided by the company and found that while the residential customer class would receive a 2 percent increase in gross revenue, the non-residential customer class would receive a 12.9 percent increase in gross revenue. Accordingly, Staff believes the filing meets the definition of a general rate case under WAC 480-07-505 (1)(b) based on a gross revenue increase of greater than three percent for a given customer class, as reflected by the company’s tariff. Rainier View’s tariff contains monthly tariff rates for “Schedule 1 - Residential Metered Rate Service” and “Schedule 1A - Non-Residential Metered Rate Service.”

3 Staff recommends suspending the filing to allow sufficient time for the Company to
provide additional information required for general rate case filings, and for Staff to
review that information in detail.

DISCUSSION

4 The Commission agrees with Staff's findings that the proportional impact of the
proposed rate increase on the non-residential customer class renders this request
beyond the normal scope of a tariff revision, and within the purview of a general rate
case filing. WAC 480-07-505(1)(b). Accordingly, Rainier View has not yet
demonstrated that the proposed tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just,
reasonable, and sufficient. The Commission, therefore, suspends the tariff filing for
investigation and further proceedings to make that determination.

5 Based on the nature of both the initial filing and the information forthcoming from the
Company, we expect this matter to be expeditiously resolved; it is therefore
unnecessary to set it for hearing at this time.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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, and accounts of public service companies, including
water companies.
- 7 (2) Rainier View is a water company and a public service company subject to
Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) On June 30, 2014, Rainier View filed a proposed general rate increase that
would generate \$166,083 (2.9 percent) in additional annual revenue.
- 9 (4) The tariff revisions Rainier View filed on June 30, 2014, would increase rates
for water service provided by the Company to its non-residential customers by
more than 3 percent, and should therefore be considered a general rate
proceeding pursuant to WAC 480-07-505(1)(b).
- 10 (5) Rainier View has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in
rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

- 11 (6) The Commission should investigate Rainier View's accounts, practices, and activities, and should investigate and appraise various phases of the Company's operations to determine whether the proposed tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 12 (7) Rainier View bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The tariff revisions filed by Rainier View Water Company, Inc., on June 30, 2014, are suspended.
- 14 (2) Rainier View Water Company, Inc. must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (3) The Commission will institute an investigation of Rainier View Water Company, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, and operations as described above, and may hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 14, 2014.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Commissioner