

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of
STROH'S WATER COMPANY, INC.,

Applicant,

For the Sale and Transfer of Assets to
WASHINGTON WATER SERVICE
COMPANY

DOCKET UW-220614

DECLARATION OF JOHN CUPP

I, John Cupp, 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 testify to the facts contained herein.
2. I am employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) as a Regulatory Analyst in the Consumer Protection and Communications Division. As a Regulatory Analyst, my responsibilities include Public Involvement duties, in which I help consumers understand how certain actions by regulated companies may affect their utility service.
3. On October 20, 2022, I called a Stroh's customer in response to their email requesting a call to discuss questions and concerns about the sale of Stroh's to Washington Water Service. In our phone conversation the customer expressed concerns about how the sale and transfer may affect their water rates.
4. The customer also mentioned that the customer notice regarding the sale did not arrive until about two weeks before the Commission approved the sale. I explained that the customer notice is required to be sent at least 30 days before the open meeting in which the Commission considers the transaction. I emailed the customer a copy of WAC 480-143-210, which describes the notice requirements.
5. After my conversation with the customer, I emailed Stroh's attorney. I asked for the mailing date of the notice and a copy of the finalized notice.
6. On October 21, 2022, the Stroh's customer informed me by email that they had filed a complaint with the Washington State Attorney General's Office alleging that Stroh's had failed to provide proper notice to customers and to the Commission.
7. On October 25, 2022, the company's attorney provided a copy by email of the notice to customers of the sale and transfer, which is dated August 31, 2022. Stroh's also provided a copy of a proof of mailing document, which shows the notices were mailed September 6, 2022, which did not meet the 30-day requirement in WAC 480-143-210(1). I responded to the email and said staff believed the notice was

inadequate, and the company should stop the transfer and provide proper notice. I added that we would place the sale and transfer on a future open meeting agenda.

8. The company responded and agreed to provide another notice, and proposed the issue be placed on the second open meeting in December.

DATED this 28th day of October 2022, at Lacey, Washington.

/s/ John Cupp
JOHN CUPP