

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

In the Matter of the Application of)	DOCKET NO. UW-032147
)	
THOMAS WATER SERVICE,)	ORDER NO. 01
INC.,)	
)	
Applicant,)	
)	ORDER REMOVING COMPANY
Requesting Removal from)	FROM REGULATION AND
Commission Regulation.)	CANCELLING TARIFF
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 31, 2004, Meadow Ridge Homeowner’s Association of Snohomish County purchased the water system assets and took over operation and ownership of the Thomas Water Service, Inc., water system. This transfer occurred as a result of a negotiated sale and transfer proceeding, approved by the Commission in Docket UW-032146. The water system provides water service to approximately 65 residential customers near Arlington, in Snohomish County. Thomas Water Service, Inc., states that it will no longer provide water service to any customers and therefore requests removal from regulation and cancellation of its tariff effective January 31, 2004.
- 2 As a result of this investigation, Thomas Water Service, Inc., is determined to no longer provide regulated water service. The Commission can remove a water company from regulation under the provisions of RCW 80.04.010. A water company cannot be removed from regulation except with the approval of the Commission. Removing Thomas Water Service, Inc., from regulation will be consistent with the public interest, because the water system is now operated and owned by Meadow Ridge Homeowner’s Association, which is not regulated by the Commission. The Meadow Ridge Homeowner’s Association will provide water service to members only.

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, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including water companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*
- 4 (2) Thomas Water Service, Inc., is an investor-owned water company and was engaged in the business of providing water services within the state of Washington and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission as a public service company under the provisions of *Chapter 80.04 RCW.*
- 5 (3) Meadow Ridge Homeowner's Association is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (4) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 11, 2004.
- 7 (5) From all indications, it appears to be in the public interest to grant the request of removal from regulation and cancel the corresponding tariff.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) Thomas Water Service, Inc., is hereby determined not to be jurisdictional pursuant to the Commission Staff investigation and documents filed with the Commission.

- 9 (2) Thomas Water Service, Inc., is removed from regulation by this Commission and its current tariff WN U-1 is cancelled as of the effective date of this Order.
- 10 The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 11th day of February, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary