

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UW-071885
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 04
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION;
)	SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL
ILIAD WATER SERVICE, INC.,)	SCHEDULE
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** Docket UW-071885 involves a filing by Iliad Water Service, Inc. (Iliad or Company), to revise its currently effective Tariff WN-U-1 to increase the Company’s basic service rates for customers on the Alder Lake, Stavis, and Cascade Crest water systems.

2 **APPEARANCES.** Richard A. Finnigan, attorney, Olympia, Washington, represents Iliad. Michael Fassio, Assistant Attorney General, Olympia, Washington, represents the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission’s (Commission) regulatory staff (Commission Staff or Staff).¹

3 **PROCEDURAL HISTORY.** On September 17, 2007, Iliad filed with the Commission revisions to its tariff proposing a general rate increase of \$60,822 (143 percent for basic services on the Alder Lake, Stavis, and Cascade Crest water systems. The Commission suspended the tariff and approved temporary rates at its November 28, 2007, open meeting.

4 The Commission convened a prehearing conference in this docket at Olympia, Washington on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, before Administrative Law Judge Ann E. Rendahl. The Commission established a procedural schedule for this matter in Order 02, a prehearing conference order entered following the conference.

¹ In formal proceedings, such as this, the Commission’s regulatory staff functions as an independent party with the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as other parties to the proceeding. There is an “*ex parte* wall” separating the Commissioners, the presiding Administrative Law Judge, and the Commissioners’ policy and accounting advisors from all parties, including regulatory staff. *RCW 34.05.455*.

5 On March 3, 2008, Iliad filed a motion to postpone the filing dates in this matter,
explaining that the parties have reach a settlement in principle, and seek to work on
finalizing the settlement rather than preparing testimony for litigation.

6 **DISCUSSION.** Iliad requests the Commission postpone the filing dates in the
procedural schedule established in Order 02. That Order requires the Company to file
its initial testimony and exhibits by March 7, 2008, Staff to file its responsive
testimony and exhibits on April 3, and the Company to file rebuttal testimony and
exhibits by May 1.

7 Iliad reports that Commission Staff does not oppose the motion. Iliad commits to
providing a status report on the settlement discussions no later than March 10, 2008.

8 The Commission supports parties' informal efforts to resolve disputes without the
need for contested hearings. Iliad's request to allow the parties to continue settlement
negotiations without the burden of preparing for litigation demonstrates good cause
for and meets the requirements for seeking a timely continuance or postponement of
deadlines under WAC 480-07-385. In order to allow the parties to continue
settlement discussions, the filing deadlines in Order 02 are suspended.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 9 (1) Iliad Water Service, Inc.'s Motion to Postpone Filing Dates is granted.
- 10 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction to effectuate the terms of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 3, 2008.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ANN E. RENDAHL
Administrative Law Judge