

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	DOCKET UW-011576
Complainant,	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
vs.	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
	)	REVISIONS, AND
Meadows Water System, LLC,	)	INSTITUTING
	)	INVESTIGATION
Respondent.	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On November 27, 2001, Meadows Water System, LLC, (Meadows Water or Company) filed tariff revisions with the Commission designated as:
  - Second Revision of Sheet No. 9 canceling
  - First Revision of Sheet No. 9 and
  - Third Revision of Sheet No. 21 canceling
  - Second Revision of Sheet No. 21.
  
- 2     The Company requested a general rate increase of \$58,000 (23 percent) of annual revenue to reflect the completed installation of 800 new electronic water meters in July of this year. The Company serves approximately 790 customers north of Olympia, in Thurston County.
  
- 3     The Company states that customers have reduced usage and impacted the income the company normally receives. This filing is made to recognize the usage reductions and recover the cost of new electronic water meters, compliance with new regulations and new office staff. Additionally, the company is seeking to revise its late payment charge from a percentage of amount overdue to a flat fee. The last rate increase was effective September 1999.
  
- 4     Meadows Water has not yet demonstrated that the proposed charges are fair, just, and reasonable. It appearing that the filing herein would provide charges and rates for water service rendered by respondent and that the rights and interests of the public might be injuriously affected thereby, it is the decision of the Commission to suspend the operation of the above filing pending such hearing or hearings and decision thereon.

5 The Commission deems it necessary, in order to carry out the duties imposed upon it  
by law, to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of respondent; to  
make an evaluation or appraisal of the property of respondent; and to investigate and  
appraise various phases of the operation of respondent. Respondent may be required  
to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such investigation to the  
extent the requirement for such payment may be in accordance with the provisions of  
chapter 80.20 RCW.

### FINDINGS

- 6 (1) Meadows Water System, LLC, is an investor-owned water company and a  
public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 7 (2) The tariff revisions filed by Meadows Water System, LLC, on November 27,  
2001, would increase charges and rates for service provided and might  
injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.
- 8 (3) Respondent has not demonstrated that the increased rates and charges in its  
tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 9 (4) As required by RCW 80.04.130, Meadows Water System, LLC, bears the  
burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, and  
reasonable.
- 10 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as  
authorized in RCW 80.20.20, the Commission believes it necessary to  
investigate the Respondent's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make  
a valuation or appraisal of Respondent's property; and to investigate and  
appraise various phases of Respondent's operations. Respondent may be  
required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such  
investigation to the extent the requirement for such payment may be in  
accordance with the provisions of chapter 80.20 RCW.

### ORDER

11 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

- 12 (1) The operation of the above tariff filing, filed November 27, 2001, is hereby  
suspended.
- 13 (2) A hearing or hearings, on the Commission's own motion, will be held at such  
times and places as may be required.

- 14 (3) No change or alteration will be made in the tariff filing filed herein, during the  
period of suspension, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (4) An investigation is hereby instituted by the Commission.
- 16 (5) Respondent may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and  
allocable to such investigation to the extent the requirement for such payment  
may be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 28th day of December, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner