

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. UW-030428
)	
Lakeland Village Water Company,)	ORDER NO. 01
Inc.,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Exemption from the)	
Provisions of WAC 480-110-425)	
Relating to Water Company)	ORDER GRANTING
Customer Notice Requirements)	EXEMPTION FROM RULE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 31, 2003, Lakeland Village Water Company, Inc., (Lakeland Village or the Company) filed a general rate case with a water rate design that included 500 cubic feet of water allowance in the base rate. The Company notified its customers of its rate design. However, Staff negotiated a different rate design with the Company. Therefore, the Company requests an exemption from WAC 480-110-425 which would require an additional 30 days' notice to its customers. The revised rate design may cause some customers to experience a greater rate increase than originally noticed by Lakeland Village.

- 2 WAC 480-110-425 requires water companies to provide 30 days advance notice to customers prior to a rate increase.

- 3 Lakeland Village stated the reasons for requesting the exemption was it had notified customers of the proposed rate increase and its rate design. However, Staff negotiated a different rate design which customers can be informed about on the first bill after the rate goes into effect.

- 4 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended granting Lakeland Village's request for exemption, subject to the following condition(s):
Customer's must be informed of the rate design change not later than the first billing after the tariff effective date.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (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.*
- 6 (2) Lakeland Village is engaged in the business of providing water services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of Chapter 80.28 RCW.
- 7 (3) Lakeland Village is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-110-425 requiring water companies to provide 30 days notice to customers prior to a rate increase.
- 8 (4) WAC 480-110-215 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-110 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 9 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 30, 2003.

- 10 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UW-030428 by Lakeland Village on March 30, 2003, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Lakeland Village Water Company, Inc., is granted an exemption from WAC 480-110-425, Water company customer notice requirements.
- 12 (2) This exemption is subject to the following condition(s): Customers must be notified of the new rate design not later than the first bill after the effective date of the rate increase.
- 13 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Lakeland Village Water Company, Inc., to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 30th day of April, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner