

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

BC WATER CO LLC,

Petitioner,

Seeking Exemption from the Provisions
of WAC 480-110-375 Related to Billing
intervals

DOCKET UW-210700

ORDER 01

GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM
RULE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 13, 2021, BC Water Co LLC (BC Water or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-110-375(1)(a).
- 2 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Company's filing and recommends granting BC Water's request for exemption, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) Rates for irrigation services be filed as part of the Company's current tariff.
 - (b) Irrigation bills be issued for amounts owed in arrearage.

DISCUSSION

- 3 WAC 480-110-375 (1)(a) requires that water customer bills:
 - (a) Be issued at intervals not to exceed three months and identify if the water company is billing in arrears or advance.
- 4 Under WAC 480-110-215, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-110, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 5 We grant the Company's request for exemption subject to the conditions that Staff recommends. BC Water is adding an irrigation rate to its existing tariff and stated that irrigation water bills are typically issued annually in the area by other irrigation

providers. The Company requests an exemption from WAC 480-110-375 (1)(a), Form of Bill, to allow the Company to bill for irrigation services on a semi-annual basis where bills for irrigation services are mailed in March and September of each year for services. Because the exemption allows the Company to conduct its operations consistent with industry-wide practices, we conclude that granting it is consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including water companies.
- 7 (2) BC Water is engaged in the business of providing water services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) BC Water is subject to WAC 480-110-375, which requires water companies issue water bills at intervals not to exceed three months and identify if the water company is billing in arrears or advance.
- 9 (4) Under WAC 480-110-215, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-110, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.
- 10 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 28, 2021.
- 11 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UW-210700 by BC Water on September 13, 2021, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) After the effective date of this Order, BC Water Co LLC is granted an exemption from WAC 480-110-375, Form of Bills.
- 13 (2) This exemption is subject to the following condition(s):
- (a) Rates for irrigation services be filed as part of the BC Water Co LLC's current tariff.
 - (b) Irrigation bills be issued for amounts owed in arrearage.
- 14 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and BC Water Co LLC to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective October 28, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary