

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET NO. UW-031782
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
Oasis Water Corporation	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On June 3, 2003, Oasis Water Corporation (Oasis Water or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as Second Revision Sheet 21 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 21, Second Revision Sheet 22 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 22 and Original Sheet No. 23. The stated effective date is December 1, 2003.
- 2     This filing is to implement an increase in general rates in the amount of approximately \$24,960 (26 percent) of additional revenue per year. The Company serves approximately 160 residential customers near Benton City, in Eastern Washington. The Company is seeking this rate change to recover increasing costs needed to operate the water system, such as electricity. Additionally, several capital projects are being worked on to improve water service.
- 3     The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Oasis Water. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Oasis Water has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing

and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, 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.*
- 5 (2) Oasis Water is a water company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 26, 2003.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Oasis Water on November 4, 2003, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Oasis Water, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (5) Oasis Water has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Oasis Water's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Oasis Water's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Oasis Water's operations.

- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (2), Oasis Water bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.
- 11 (8) Oasis Water may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions filed by Oasis Water Corporation on November 4, 2003, are suspended.
- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) Oasis Water Corporation, must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Oasis Water Corporation's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) Oasis Water Corporation shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner