

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET NO. UW-040232
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
Stroh's Water Company, Inc.,	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.	)	SUSPENDING CONTRACT
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On February 12, 2004, Stroh's Water Company, Inc., (Stroh's Water or Company) filed with the Commission a contract between the Company and Believers' Fellowship Church. The stated effective date is March 13, 2004.
- 2     The filing would assess charges of \$26,337 for service provided by Stroh's Water. Because these charges might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Stroh's Water has not demonstrated that the charges are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the contract and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 3     (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.*

- 4 (2) Stroh's Water is a water company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 12, 2004.
- 6 (4) The contract filed by Stroh's Water on February 12, 2004, would charge rates for service provided by Stroh's Water, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Stroh's Water has not yet demonstrated that the contract would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable.
- 8 (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 Stroh's Water's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Stroh's Water's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of this contract.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (2), Stroh's Water bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.
- 10 (8) Stroh's 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:

- 11 (1) The contract filed on February 12, 2004, is suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) The Commission will institute an investigation of Stroh's Water Company, Inc.'s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 14 (4) Stroh's Water Company, Inc. 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner