# BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,
Complainant,

v.

WASHINGTON WATER SUPPLY, INC.
Respondent.
DOCKETS UW-240079 & UW 230598

TESTIMONY OF JOHN POPPE
ON BEHALF OF
WASHINGTON WATER SUPPLY, INC.
IN SUPPORT OF THE
GENERAL RATE CASE

July 3, 2024

A: During the summer of 2022, the Echo Glen Water System ("EGWS"), ID# 27510D, experienced water shortages due to the reduced capacity of the ground water well. This reduced capacity was expressed at a community meeting in the fall of 2022. Meeting attendees were informed of the options to drill a new well or rehabilitate the existing well. WWS contacted several well drilling companies, and Valley Pump Auburn ("Valley Pump") was chosen because of its proximity to the EGWS and its willingness to take on the well rehabilitation task.

Early in 2023, WWS signed a contract with Vally Pump to rehabilitate the EGWS See Exh. WWS-2. The parties agreed the well rehabilitation would be complete by May 31, 2023. WWS paid the \$6,000 deposit to Valley Pump. See Exh. WWS-3. The week that work was to start, Valley Pump contacted WWS and stated that their lead well driller had been injured and they were uncertain as to his return. See Exh. WWS-4. Other well drillers were contacted, and their existing commitments would not allow them to begin the job until October or November 2023. Id.

In September 2023, Valley Pump initiated and completed the well rehabilitation project. WWS paid the total cost of \$24,000 for the well rehabilitation. See Exh. WWS-5. Now, WWS would like to be reimbursed for that well rehabilitation cost.

- Q: Please describe the terms of the tariff surcharge.
- A: The total well rehabilitation cost is \$24,000. The EGWS has 42 customers with a current rate of \$43.25 per month. The tariff will last 15 years, beginning January 1, 2025. This results in a monthly surcharge of \$3.18 per month per customer, or a one-time payment of \$571.43. The new monthly rate with the surcharge totals \$46.43. Please see the work papers filed in support of the general rate case.
- Q: Why should the Commission approve this general rate case?
- Because the base rate was approved in 2001. A:
- Why should the Commission approve this surcharge? Q:

WATER SUPPLY, INC. - 2

TESTIMONY OF JOHN POPPE

ON BEHALF OF WASHINGTON

#### **EXHIBIT LIST**

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Marked</u>
Emails Re: Contract with Valley Pump	Exh. WWS-2
Deposit Check to Valley Pump	Exh WWS-3
Emails Re: Injured Driller	Exh. WWS-4
Valley Pump Invoice	Exh. WWS-5

 $BAGWELL\ LAW, PLLC$ 

To: "Carter, Brietta J (DOH)" <br/> strietta.carter@doh.wa.gov>

Exh. WWS-2

Take a look at the date and time. Your timing is perfect. I will keep you posted.

Great to hear from you.

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 12:25 PM

Pictures as requested

[Quoted text hidden

#### 2 attachments



**20230519\_091244.jpg** 9106K



**20230519\_091303.jpg** 8894K

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: Joe Alcorn <jpe@valleypumpnw.com>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 12:25 PM

Please confirm you received the pictures

On Thu, May 18, 2023, 3:05 PM Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com> wrote: [Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 12:29 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



**20230519\_091342.jpg** 7986K



**20230519\_091513.jpg** 8960K

Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 4:06 PM

How far is it from the well to the trees?

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 4:25 PM

The nearest trees are when you come from the paved road, then opens up for lots of space.

[Quoted text hidden]

Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 5:33 PM

It looks like it might be tight past the well to the trees. Just wondering if there is at least 45' from the well to the trees as discussed.

Joe

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 5:41 PM

Absolutely. Yes.

Plenty of room to raise and lower boom

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: "Carter, Brietta J (DOH)" <bri>brietta.carter@doh.wa.gov>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 8:34 PM

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Date: Fri, May 19, 2023, 4:06 PM Subject: Re: Echo Glen well rehab

To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <pdppe.john@gmail.com>

To: "Carter, Brietta J (DOH)" <bri> sprietta.carter@doh.wa.gov>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 8:35 PM

Fyi

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Date: Fri, May 19, 2023, 5:33 PM Subject: Re: Echo Glen well rehab

To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: "Carter, Brietta J (DOH)" <br/> strietta.carter@doh.wa.gov>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 8:35 PM

Fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, May 19, 2023, 5:41 PM Subject: Re: Echo Glen well rehab To: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>



Echo Glen

25 messages

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: Dave Weickum <dave@valleypumpnw.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 9:52 AM

Good Morning Dave,

Confirming you received the email that I sent to Joe?

Thanks

John

Washington Water Supply

Dave Weickum < dave@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe cpoppe.john@gmail.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 10:22 AM

Hi John, yes I did. Just dealing with the Monday morning emergencies. What are you looking at needing done on the well? Thanks Dave

Ginali - Echo Gleri

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Dave Weickum

Service Administrator

253-939-8008



John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: Dave Weickum <dave@valleypumpnw.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 10:41 AM

By May 15

[Quoted text hidden]

Dave Weickum < cave@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe cpoppe.john@gmail.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 11:10 AM

Are you looking at a brush and bail? Also do you have a well report on this? Thanks Dave

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: Dave Weickum <dave@valleypumpnw.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 12:01 PM

Not to avoid your questions, take a look at the file you have on the system.

Poppe

360-349-8372

[Quoted text hidden]

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 1:36 PM

**Dave Weickum** <dave@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe <ppppe.john@gmail.com>

I found the info. I did find where you have sent the old well report. This was scheduled for the drill rig. I will need to speak with Joe since he is the one that coordinates the drill rig. Joe gets back on the 10th. I will see if we can get this in after he gets back. Thanks Dave

[Quoted text hidden]

Dave Weickum <dave@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe poppe.john@gmail.com>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 1:46 PM

Hi John, do you have any pictures of the access to the well that you can send? Also Liz mentioned you were getting the rest of the money together. Thanks Dave

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 8:06 AM

To: Dave Weickum <dave@valleypumpnw.com>, Lizbeth Field <Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>

Good Morning.

I have monies for the project. According to the agreement that I signed stated that 50% of the estimated cost was needed to get the project scheduled.

Anything else needed to start the project?

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: dan anderson <danial1229@comcast.net>

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 8:08 AM

[Quoted lext hidden]

dan anderson <danial1229@comcast.net>
To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 8:45 AM

Got it buddy, looks like a plan is in motion. I am excited to see the screens get replaced. Are you entertaining the idea of a single phase 2 horse pump that the generator can run?

[Quoted text hidden]

Dave Weickum < dave@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe cpoppe.john@gmail.com>

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 9:28 AM

I will let Joe and Liz know. I know we have a well that is deepening due to no water that we are going to next when we are done with the one we are on now. Will let you know when we have a firm date. Thanks Dave

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe cjohn@gmail.com>
To: dan anderson <danial1229@comcast.net>

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 9:56 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Tue, May 2, 2023 at 10:14 AM

To: Richard Fout < wfout@hotmail.com>, dan anderson <danial1229@comcast.net>

Good morning you two, I am forwarding a series of emails specific to the Echo Glen Water System. My intent is to keep responsible persons informed of activity and planned actions.

I ask that you two not share this information with other water system customers, because there are water system users that will not use the information in the best interest of water system users.

----- Forwarded message

From: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, May 1, 2023 at 9:52 AM

Subject: Echo Glen

To: Dave Weickum <dave@valleypumpnw.com>

Lizbeth Field
Office Administrator

202 8th St SE Auburn, WA 98002 (253) 939 - 8008939-8008 M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm



[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: Lizbeth Field < Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>

Wed, May 24, 2023 at 4:46 PM

Great to talk with you.

Tax Paperwork attached.

Always call 360-340-8372

[Quoted text hidden]

7

Scan0180.pdf 223K

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: "Carter, Brietta J (DOH)" <bri>brietta.carter@doh.wa.gov>

Wed, May 24, 2023 at 4:47 PM

FYI on project activity,

Thanks Poppe

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lizbeth Field <Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>

Date: Wed, May 24, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Subject: Re: Echo Glen

[Quoted text hidden]

**Lizbeth Field** <Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
Co: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Thu, May 25, 2023 at 12:47 PM

Hello John - Attached is the contract for the well work for 22928 SE 206th St, Maple Valley, WA 98038. Please initial on pages 5, 7 and 9, and sign and date on pages 12 and 13. Please return the completed contract by email.

Have a great day!

Lizbeth Field
Office Administrator

202 8th St SE Auburn, WA 98002 (253) 939 - 8008 M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm



[Quoted text hidden]



Washington Water Supply Inc-Poppe, John - Well Alteration Contract 2023-05-25.pdf

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: Lizbeth Field <Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>

Thu, May 25, 2023 at 1:05 PM

Signed contract as requested.

Please give me an estimated date to begin

[Quoted text hidden]



Scan0181.pdf 3843K

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

To: Lizbeth Field < Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>

Thu, May 25, 2023 at 1:31 PM

Did you receive the signed contract?

[Quoted text hidden]

Lizbeth Field <Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>
To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Thu, May 25, 2023 at 1:35 PM

Hi John - Somehow page 12 did not get received. Could you please scan it again.

Thanks,

Lizbeth Field
Office Administrator

202 8th St SE Auburn, WA 98002 (253) 939 - 8008939-8008 M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm



[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: Lizbeth Field <Lizbeth@valleypumpnw.com>

Thu, May 25, 2023 at 1:40 PM





Online Banking

## Business Economy Checking - 9014: Account Activity Transaction Details

Check number: 00000012015

Exh. WWS-3

Post date:

09/22/2023

Amount:

-6,000.00

Type:

Check

**Description:** 

Check

Merchant name:

Check

Merchant information:

Transaction category:

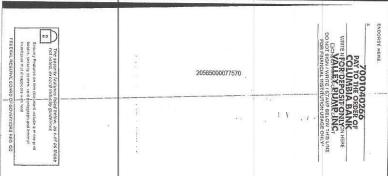
Cash, Checks & Misc: Checks

WASHINGTON WATER SUPPLLY
POBOX 2255
SILVERDALE, WA \$3383

SEPA 2.1, 2023

PAY TO THE CONCERN A \$4080

PAY TO THE C





Echo Glen Water System

8 messages

John Poppe <pdppe.john@gmail.com> To: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 10:37 AM

Good morning,

Any update with the Lead Well Driller injury.?

Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com> To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 11:15 AM

No, still hurt. I did talk with DOH and DOE they both called me.

We Appreciate You and Thank You For Choosing Valley Pump Inc.

Kind Regards,

Joe Alcorn CEO

VALLEY PUMP

253-939-8008

\*\*\*We welcome you to submit reviews to Angie's List & Yelp\*\*\*

www.valleypumpnw.com

https://www.facebook.com/valleypumpinc

Lic# VALLEYPI944RQ

[Quoted text hidden]

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 11:18 AM

To: Shelly Cline <shelly.cline@gmail.com>, Richard Fout <ruther@email.com>, John Earl <JEtheDuke@outlook.com>, "Pell, Derek (DOH)" <derek.pell@doh.wa.gov>, dan anderson <danial1229@comcast.net>

[Quoted text hidden]

Shelly Cline <she y.cline@gmail.com>

To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 11:27 AM

Cc: John Earl <jetheduke@outlook.com>, "Pell, Derek (DOH)" <derek.pell@doh.wa.gov>, Richard Fout <ruther@email.com>, dan anderson <Dahial1229@comcast.net>

Thanks for the update. John, are there any alternate companies? If they can't complete the work soon, I still think it seems reasonable for them to return the down payment so you can proceed with the required work in a timely fashion. Other than a small chance of rain on Friday, there's not much relief in the forecast.

How is the well performing over this past weekend?

Thanks, Shelly

To: Shelly Cline <shelly.cline@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 11:34 AM

Cc: John Earl <jetheduke@outlook.com>, "Pell, Derek (DOH)" <derek.pell@doh.wa.gov>, Richard Fout <ruther@email.com>, dan anderson <Danial1229@comcast.net>, Heidi jo Mafi <heidijomafi@gmail.com>

A new well driller is out at least three months October, 2023.

The well production hasn't changed. It's operating 24/7.

The thing that did change is the consumption by customers. Outside watering is the cause of previous water outages.

The system will be tested during the warm weather this week.

[Quoted text hidden]

Shelly Cline <shelly.cline@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 11:47 AM

To: John Poppe poppe.john@gmail.com>

Cc: Heidi jo Mafi <a href="heidijomafi@gmail.com">heidijomafi@gmail.com</a>, John Earl <jetheduke@outlook.com</a>, "Pell, Derek (DOH)" <a href="heidijomafi@gmail.com">derek.pell@doh.wa.gov</a>, Richard Fout <ruther@email.com</a>, dan anderson <Danial1229@comcast.net</a>

I'm just wondering if, given the severity of the situation, the number of individuals impacted, and health and safety concerns of the shuts downs and boil orders, perhaps another company could expedite a drill for us? I get that there's a lot of demand, but this is impacting 43 homes, probably a couple hundred people. Perhaps DOH could help us to find a new vendor? Idk, just trying to think outside the box. With Valley Pump not sharing any info, we need to assume it's a serious injury that could take a while to heal. A broken bone, or pulled muscles take weeks, if not months to heal. And with medical privacy laws they are under no obligation to tell us what's going on.

I appreciate the work you're doing on this.

Shelly

[Quoted text hidden

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 11:58 AM

To: Shelly Cline <shelly.cline@gmail.com>

Cc: Heidi jo Mafi <a href="heidijomafi@gmail.com">heidijomafi@gmail.com</a>, John Earl <jetheduke@outlook.com</a>, "Pell, Derek (DOH)" <derek.pell@doh.wa.gov</a>, Richard Fout <ruther@email.com</a>, dan anderson <Danial1229@comcast.net</a>

Your thoughts are excellent!

Phone calls to two other drillers resulted in the September/October projections.

Since the well is producing enough water to meet basic consumer needs, they don't consider it an emergency. Good thinking/suggestions.

Keep the ideas coming.

[Quoted text hidden]

Shelly Cline <shelly.cline@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 5, 2023 at 12:12 PM

To: John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>

Cc: Heidi jo Mafi <heidijomafi@gmail.com>, John Earl <jetheduke@outlook.com>, "Pell, Derek (DOH)" <derek.pell@doh.wa.gov>, Richard Fout <ruther@email.com>, dan anderson <Danial1229@comcast.net>

Right, but would it be an emergency if you hadn't supplied water? It seemed like the well couldn't catch up? I guess time will tell this week. Crossing my fingers!



#### Echo Glen Well Rehab

1 message

John Poppe <poppe.john@gmail.com>
To: Joe Alcorn <joe@valleypumpnw.com>

Tue, Jun 6, 2023 at 11:37 AM

Good morning,

Is the lead well driller healing up?



#### Invoice 61205 from

1 message

Valley Pump Inc. <quickbooks@notification.intuit.com>
Reply-To: dave@valleypumpnw.com
To: poppe.john@gmail.com

Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 8:04 AM

**INVOICE 61205 DETAILS** 



Valley Pump Inc.

DUE 10/06/2023

\$14,050.20

Review and pay

Powered by QuickBooks

Dear John Poppe,

Please scroll to the bottom of this page. There will be a PDF attached. The PDF will contain a detailed version of this invoice

If you have any questions regarding this invoice please do not hesitate to contact us at 253-939-8008

To pay by credit card, please call. There is a 3% credit card fee.

Home to	10 10	4
E-P H	B B	*
ILD II	E 8	8 8 3
United II	8.8	60

John Poppe Washington Water Supply, Inc PO Box 2985 Silverdale, WA 98383-2985

Terms

Net 10

Location

22928 SE 206th St, Maple Valley

Job Site: 22928 SE 206th St, Maple Valley, WA 98038

Parcel #274600-0050

Estimate #5668

## Parts-Drilling-Mob & Labor

\$3,000.00T

8" Drilling

20 X \$150.00

#### Mobilization

\$1,925.00T

Mobilization includes driving rigs under their own power, setting jack pads and towering up. Access for drill rig, support truck and daily driver truck must also be allowed for per provided site plans during ongoing project.

1 X \$1,925.00

#### Fuel Surcharge

\$577.40T

8" x 5 Well Screen .018 Slot

1 X \$2 980.00

## Parts-Drilling-Mob & Labor

\$3,850.00T

9/20/23 - Rigging & screen extraction - 7 hours

7 X \$5\$0.00

### Parts-Drilling-Mob & Labor

\$640.00T

9/21/23 - JA screen delivery & consult - 4 hours

4 X \$160.00

#### Parts-Drilling-Mob & Labor

\$5,775.00T

9/21/23 - Screen fabrication, installation & development - 10.5 hours

10.50 X \$550.00

## Parts-Drilling-Mob & Labor

\$4,675.00T

3/6

9/22/23 - Development & start up - 8.5 hours

8.50 X \$550.00

Parts-Pumps & Service Labor

\$320.00T

9/22/23 - Pump techs service call phased out 1 leg

1 X \$320.00

Parts-Pumps & Service Labor

\$160.00T

9/22/23 - Bentonite delivery

1 X \$160.00

2" x 21' Galv Pipe w/Coupling

\$933.24T

2" x 21' Galv Pipe w/Coupling

42 X \$22.22

1" VFD Check Valve

\$89,62T

1" VFD Check Valve

1 X \$89 62

1" Ball Valve

\$46.20T

1" Ball Valve Brass

1 X \$46.20

1" x 2" Brass Nipple

\$27.68T

1" x 2" Brass Nipple

2 X \$13.84

1" Vent Cap (Mushroom)

\$37.78T

1" Vent Cap (Mushroom)

1 X \$37.78

Galv .5" x 6" Nipple

\$5.32T

Galv .5" x 6" Nipple

1 X \$5.32

1" x .5" Brass Bushing

\$13.22T

1" x .5" Brass Bushing

1 X \$13.22

**Notice of Intent Domestic** 

\$300.00T

NOI Alteration

1 X \$300.00

Med Chip Bentonite

\$154.35T

Med Chip Bentonite

5 X \$30 87

**CCFee** 

\$409.23

3% Credit Card Fee - Deduct this fee is paying with paper check

1 X \$409.23

Subtotal

\$35,037.54

Tax (8.7%)

\$3,012.66

Total

\$38,050.20

Payment

\$24,000.00

Balance due

\$14,050.20

\*\*\* PAST DUE - PLEASE REMIT PAYMENT \*\*\*

Cash - Check are gladly accepted

Credit Cards are gladly accepted with a 3% fee

If paying by check deduct this fee - \$409.23

PAPER CHECK = \$13,640.97

Thank you for choosing Valley Pump

info@valleypumpnw.com

Cash - Check are gladly accepted / Credit Cards are gladly accepted with a 3% fee

Review and pay

Valley Pump Inc.

202 8th St SE Auburn, WA 98002

(253)939-8008

If you receive an email that seems fraudulent, please check with the business owner before paying.



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