

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	DOCKET UW-011339
Complainant,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
vs.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS
)	
Stroh's Water Company, Inc.)	
)	
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 27, 2001, Stroh's Water Company, Inc. (Stroh's Water or Company) filed for a tariff update implementing a Fire Flow Charge of \$15,000. The Company serves approximately 670 customers in the Gig Harbor area of Pierce County.

- 2 This filing is made to recover the cost of new capital improvements necessary to provide fire flow capacity greater than the typical residential use. This capital plant includes a 250,000 gallon storage tank, booster pump house and pumping equipment and intertie piping to provide fire flow capacity to the water system as needed.

- 3 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by respondent. Because these increases might injuriously affect the public thereby, it is the decision of the Commission to suspend the operation of the above tariff revisions and enter upon public hearing or hearings concerning such changes and the reasonableness and justness thereof as may be necessary.

FINDINGS

- 4 (1) Stroh's Water Company, Inc., is an investor-owned water company and a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

- 5 (2) The tariff revisions filed by Stroh's Water Company, Inc., on September 27, 2001, with the revised effective date of November 1, 2001, would increase charges and rates for service provided and might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.

- 6 (3) Stroh's Water Company, Inc., has not demonstrated that the increased rates and charges in its tariff revision would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 7 (4) As required by RCW 80.04.130, Stroh's Water Company, Inc., bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 8 (5) A hearing on the proposed temporary rate increase should be held on an expedited basis.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 9 (1) The tariff revisions filed on September 27, 2001, are suspended.
- 10 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 11 (3) Stroh's Water Company, Inc., must not change or alter the tariff revisions filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 12 (4) Stroh's Water Company, Inc., may be required to 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 31st day of October, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner