

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	DOCKET UW-020168
Complainant,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
v.)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS
WASHINGTON WATER SERVICE)	
COMPANY)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
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BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 11, 2002, Washington Water Service Company (Washington Water) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-1, designated as:
- 2
- First Revision of Sheet No. 1 Canceling Original Sheet No. 1
 - Second Revision of Sheet No. 20 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 20
 - Second Revision of Sheet No. 20.3 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 20.3
 - Second Revision of Sheet No. 21 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 21
 - Second Revision of Sheet No. 21.1 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 21.1
 - Third Revision of Sheet No. 21.2 Canceling Second Revision Sheet No. 21.2
 - Third Revision of Sheet No. 21.3 Canceling Second Revision Sheet No. 21.3
 - Third Revision of Sheet No. 21.4 Canceling Second Revision Sheet No. 21.4
 - Third Revision of Sheet No. 21.5 Canceling Second Revision Sheet No. 21.5
 - First Revision of Sheet No. 21.6 Canceling Original Revision Sheet No. 21.6
 - Second Revision of Sheet No. 22 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 22
 - Second Revision of Sheet No. 22.1 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 22.1
 - Third Revision of Sheet No. 22.2 Canceling Second Revision Sheet No. 22.2
 - Third Revision of Sheet No. 22.3 Canceling Second Revision Sheet No. 22.3
 - Third Revision of Sheet No. 22.4 Canceling Second Revision Sheet No. 22.4
 - First Revision of Sheet No. 23.1 Canceling Original Revision Sheet No. 23.1
 - First Revision of Sheet No. 23.2 Canceling Original Revision Sheet No. 23.2
 - First Revision of Sheet No. 24 Canceling Original Revision Sheet No. 24
 - Second Revision of Sheet No. 24.1 Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 24.1
 - First Revision of Sheet No. 25 Canceling Original Sheet No. 25

3 The stated effective date is March 14, 2002. The proposed tariff changes were made
to recover the increased costs of salaries, water system plans and increased operating
expenses. In addition, the Company has proposed rate design changes that both
promote water conservation and provide Single Tariff Pricing for the entire company.

4 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Washington
Water. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the
public and Washington 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

- 5 (1) Washington Water Service Company is a water company and is a public
service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (2) The tariff revisions filed by Washington Water on February 11, 2002, would
increase charges and rates for service provided by Washington Water and
might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.
- 7 (3) Washington Water has not demonstrated that the increased rates and charges
in its tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 8 (4) As required by RCW 80.04.130, Washington Water bears the burden of proof
to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 9 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as
authorized in RCW 80.20.20, the Commission believes it necessary to
investigate Washington Water's books, accounts, practices and activities; to
make a valuation or appraisal of Washington Water's property; and to
investigate and appraise various phases of Washington Water's operations.
Washington Water may be required to pay the expenses reasonably
attributable and allocable to the investigation to the extent the requirements
for such payment are consistent or authorized by chapter 80.20 RCW.

ORDER

10 THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions filed by Washington Water Service Company on
February 11, 2002, are suspended.

- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Washington Water Service Company must not change or alter the tariff revisions filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Washington Water Service Company's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations, as described above.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 13th day of March, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner