

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of  
  
NORTHWEST WATER SERVICES,  
LLC,  
  
Petitioner,  
  
Seeking an Exemption from the  
Provisions of WAC 480-110-505  
Requiring Water Companies to File 2019  
Annual Reports by May 1, 2020

DOCKET UW-200354

ORDER 01

GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM  
RULE; GRANTING EXTENSION  
TO FILE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT  
SUBJECT TO CONDITION

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 15, 2020, Northwest Water Services, LLC (NW Water or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an extension of time to file its 2019 annual report pursuant to WAC 480-110-505 (Petition). According to the Petition, the Company is unable to prepare the report by May 1 because the responsible party is new to the Company, and other staff needed to assist with gathering numbers and information to file the annual report have limited working hours due to the Governor's Proclamation 20-25 related to the COVID-19 pandemic. NW Water requests an extension of time until May 31, 2020, to file its 2019 annual report.
- 2 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the request and recommends granting NW Water's request for exemption subject to the condition that the Company pays its regulatory fees, as set by WAC 480-110-505(5), by May 1, 2020.

**DISCUSSION**

- 3 We agree with Staff's recommendation and grant the Company's request for an exemption from 480-110-505 subject to the condition that the Company pays its regulatory fee by May 1, 2020. We recognize that the Company is facing unprecedented conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and accordingly grant the Company an extension until May 31, 2020, to file its annual report.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 4 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including water companies.
- 5 (2) NW Water is a water company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) NW Water is subject to WAC 480-110-505, which requires water companies to file an annual report by May 1 of each year.
- 7 (4) Under WAC 480-110-505(4), the Commission may grant an extension of time allowing the Company to file its annual report after the May 1 due date if the Commission receives a request for extension before May 1.
- 8 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 23, 2020.
- 9 (6) After reviewing the Petition filed in Docket UW-200354 by NW Water on April 15, 2020, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

## **ORDER**

### **THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 10 (1) Northwest Water Services, LLC's petition for an exemption from WAC 480-110-505 is granted subject to the condition that Northwest Water Services, LLC, pay its regulatory fees by May 1, 2020.
- 11 (2) Northwest Water Services, LLC, is granted an extension until May 31, 2020, to file its 2019 annual report.
- 12 (3) If Northwest Water Services, LLC, fails to file its 2019 annual report by May 31, 2020, the Commission may assess penalties pursuant to RCW 80.04.080.

- 13 (4) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Northwest Water Services, LLC to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 23, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON, Executive Director and Secretary