

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	DOCKET UW-011422
Complainant,)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
vs.)	SUSPENDING CONTRACT
)	
)	
Stroh's Water Company, Inc.)	
)	
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 On October 22, 2001, Stroh's Water Company, Inc. (Stroh's Water or Company) filed for a contract with FGH Associates, LLC for water service, fire hydrant installation and a one-time Fire Flow Charge of \$15,000 that will expire upon total collections of \$180,000. 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, it is the decision of the Commission to suspend the operation of the above contract 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 contract filed by Stroh's Water Company, Inc., on October 22, 2001, with
the effective date of November 21, 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 contract 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.

ORDER

8 THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

9 (1) The contract filed on October 22, 2001, is 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 contract 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 16th day of November, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner