

# MINUTES

Thursday, June 30, 2022  
9:30 A.M.

PRESENT: David Danner, Chairman  
Ann Rendahl, Commissioner

The virtual meeting of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission was called to order on Thursday, June 30, 2022 by Chairman Danner. Deborah Reynolds, Director, Regulatory Services, indicated no changes to the agenda.

## E)1. Consent 00:00 mp4

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to approve the consent agenda and directs the Secretary to sign orders and/or letters necessary to affect each action. Chairman Danner seconded the motion. The motion carried (2:0).

## UTILITIES:

- A)1. 1:38 mp4 Docket Number UG-220309; Avista Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-29, Schedule 150, Purchase Gas Cost Adjustment, to update the commodity portion of the weighted average cost of gas (out of cycle Purchase Gas Cost Adjustment). This increase is due to rising natural gas prices and issues with supply. The annual revenue increase would be approximately \$23.0 million, or 12.6 percent. The average residential or small commercial customer using 67 therms per month would see an increase of \$7.80 per month. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Alex Tellez, staff; Marcus Garbarino, Avista Corporation; Karen Cooley, consumer

Disposition: The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Avista Corporation in Docket UG-220309 to become effective July 1, 2022, by operation of law.

- A)2. 15:49 mp4 Docket Number UG-220358; Northwest Natural Gas Company; Revises Tariff WN U-6, Schedule K, COVID-19 Assistance Program to add language to the existing tariff to enable the Company to expand its current auto-enrollment of income qualifying customers. The revised tariff would utilized data collected by the Company to auto-enroll identified low-income customers who

have not received assistance. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Natasha Siores, Northwest Natural Gas Company

Disposition: The Commissioner's took no action, allowing Northwest Natural's revision to WN U-6 Tariff, Schedule K, COVID-19 Assistance Program (CAP) to become effective July 1, 2022, by operation of law.

- A)3. 21:31 mp4 Docket Number UT-210167; Cable One VoIP LLC; Request for Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation. This petition is consistent with the Company's voluntary default under the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction Program and the Federal Communications Commission's recognition, encouragement, and acceptance of these refinements on a national basis in order to direct federal universal service funding where it is needed most. Petition

Appearances: Tim Zawislak, staff; Angela Collins, Cable One VoIP LLC

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved in Docket UT-210167, enter Order 02 granting Cable One's requested relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation, effective July 1, 2022; and in Docket UT-220190, allow the Company's voluntary cancellation of telecommunications registration in the State of Washington, also effective July 1, 2022. Chairman Danner seconded the motion. The motion carried (2:0)

- A)4. 21:31 mp4 Docket Number UT-220190; Cable One VoIP LLC; Notice of Cessation of Service in Washington State. No existing customers and no outstanding prepaid calling services. Cessation of Service

Appearances: Tim Zawislak, staff; Angela Collins, Cable One VoIP LLC

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to in Docket UT-210167, enter Order 02 granting Cable One's requested relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation, effective July 1, 2022; and in Docket UT-220190, allow the Company's voluntary cancellation of telecommunications registration in the State of Washington, also effective July 1, 2022. Chairman Danner seconded the motion. The motion carried (2:0)

- A)5. 29:39 mp4 Docket Number UW-220206; Gold Beach Water Company, Inc.; General rate increase request that, as originally filed, would have generated

approximately \$16,000 (16.1 percent) additional annual revenue to recover increased operational costs since the last rate increase. Staff and the Company have agreed to a lower additional annual revenue amount of approximately \$13,358 (13.64 percent) resulting in lower revised rates. The Company provides water service to approximately 205 customers in King County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on July 1, 2014. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jaclynn Simmons, Harry Fukano, Andrew Sellards, Andrew Roberts, staff; Lisa Gafken, Public Counsel

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved, in Docket No. UW-220206, to issue an order allowing the tariff pages filed by Gold Beach Water Company, Inc. on March 22, 2022 as revised on June 23, 2022 for all  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch rates, to go into effect, subject to the requirements that the company:

1. File a revised tariff page, removing the 1-inch metered rates and submitting a new tariff page containing 1-inch metered rates after proper notice has been made to 1-inch metered customers.
2. Modify the application of WAC 480-80-111 pursuant to WAC 480-07-110 to consider the tariff page with revised  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch rates, as substitute tariff pages to the March revised tariff.
3. Directing staff, public counsel and the company to work to revise language to clarify the application of the disconnection fee and make clear that only one of either the disconnection fee or the reconnect fee apply in specific situations, and to make that filing within 30 days.

With these conditions, to allow the tariff pages filed by Gold Beach Water Company, Inc. March 22, 2022, as revised on June 29, 2022, to become effective July 01, 2022 by operation of law. Chairman Danner seconded the motion. The motion carried (2:0)

- A)6. 1:32:03 mp Docket Number UW-220218; Great Basin Water Co.; General rate increase request that, as initially proposed would have generated approximately \$108,000 (32.1 percent) additional annual revenue for water service. Staff and the Company have agreed to a revised revenue requirement of approximately \$70,000 (20.2 percent) in additional annual revenue. The Company is combining the operations of the former Harrison-Ray Water Company, Harrison Water Company-Kiona, LLC, and Sunrise Acres Water Services, LLC water systems into a single tariff, utilizing single tariff rates. The revised proposal would phase-in the rate increase over a period of 12 months, at which point, customers on all systems will reach rate parity. The Company provides regulated water service to approximately 513 customers in Benton and Walla Walla Counties. The most recent rate increases for the former Harrison-Ray Water Company and Harrison Water Company-Kiona systems was in 2008 and 2004, respectively. The former Sunrise Acres system has not changed rates since it became regulated in 2018.

## Tariff Revision

Appearances: Greg Hammond, staff; Stephanie Ebert, Great Basin Water Co. LLC; Corey Dahl, Public Counsel;

Disposition: The Commissioner's moved to take no action thereby allowing the tariff pages filed by Great Basin Water Company, LLC on March 28, 2022, and revised on June 24, 2022, to take effect on July 1, 2022, by operation of law and order the company to work with commission staff and public counsel to work to revise tariff language to clarify the application of the disconnection fee and make clear that only one of either the disconnection fee or the reconnection fee apply in specific situations and to file that revised tariff language within 30 days of this meeting. Chairman Danner seconded the motion. The motion carried (2:0)

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

- B)1. 55:13 mp4 Docket Number TG-220326; Sound Disposal, Inc. ; General rate increase request that as originally filed generates approximately \$377,878 (26.9 percent) additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage, recycling, and yard waste services. Staff and the Company have agreed to a lower additional annual revenue amount of approximately \$322,500 (23 percent) resulting in lower revised rates. The Company is filing due to increases in operating expenses experienced since its last rate case in 2009. The Company provides regulated solid waste collection service to approximately 1,730 residential, 222 multifamily, and 242 commercial customers in Snohomish County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on March 1, 2009. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Benjamin Sharbono, staff; Weldon Burton, Sound Disposal, Inc.

Disposition: The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the tariff pages filed by Sound Disposal Holdings d/b/a Sound Disposal Inc. on May 4, 2022, and revised on June 24, 2022, to take effect by operation of law July 1, 2022.

- B)2. 1:03:53 mp4 Docket Number TG-220339; Waste Connections of Washington, Inc.; General rate increase request that, as originally filed, would have generated approximately \$3,076,000 (11.88 percent) additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage services. Staff and the Company have agreed to a lower additional annual revenue amount of approximately \$2,921,000 (11.31 percent) resulting in lower revised rates. The Company provides regulated solid waste collection service to approximately 79,000 customers in Clark County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on January 1, 2018. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jaclynn Simmons, staff; Heather Garland, Waste Connections of Washington, Inc.

Disposition: The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing tariff pages filed by Waste Connections of Washington, Inc. on May 16, 2022, as revised on June 29, 2022, to become effective July 1, 2022, by operation of law.

**OTHER: No Other items for this agenda.**

**RECESSED: No Recessed items for this agenda.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Maxwell, Executive Director