

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION) CASE NO. GNR-W-24-01
INTO VALIANT IDAHO, INC. AND TIC)
UTILITIES, LLC, OWNERS OF A)
NORTHERN IDAHO WATER SUPPLY AND) ORDER NO. 36363
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM)
)

On September 27, 2024, Commission Staff (“Staff”) moved for an order directing Valiant Idaho, Inc. (“Valiant”) to charge only the rates that it had in effect on September 6, 2024, when it was issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, and to submit evidence that its customers were notified that their rates would *not* increase on October 1, 2024. Staff filed this motion after receiving a letter sent by TIC Utilities, dated September 9, 2024, to customers served by Valiant’s water system that indicated service rates would increase from \$45 to \$100 a month on October 1, 2024.

During the Commission’s October 1, 2024, decision meeting, Staff presented a decision memorandum, recommending the Commission grant its motion. Counsel for Valiant was present at the meeting and represented that, as a cost saving measure, he had not been actively participating in this case recently. However, after learning of the September 9, 2024, letter and conferring with Valiant, Valiant’s counsel represented to the Commission that no rate increase would occur on October 1, 2024, and that Valiant’s customers had been notified of such.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Idaho law prohibits public utilities from raising rates without a prior Commission finding that the proposed rate increase is justified. *Idaho Code* § 61-622(1). Valiant came under Commission regulation on September 6, 2024, with the issuance of Order No. 36312, which found Valiant to be a public utility. Accordingly, from that point on, Valiant could not raise its rates without prior Commission approval.

Despite the representations of Valiant’s counsel that Valiant would not increase its rates on October 1, 2024, we find it reasonable to clarify which rate Valiant may charge by directing it to charge the rates in effect on September 6, 2024. If the Company believes a rate increase is justified, it may apply to increase rates in a docket where the Commission will determine what the appropriate rates to be collected are.

To ensure that customers are aware that their rates have not increased, we find it reasonable to direct Valiant to submit evidence as a compliance filing showing that it has notified its customers of the retraction of the rate increase proposed for October 1, 2024.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Valiant shall not charge rates exceeding those in effect on September 6, 2024, without a prior Commission determination that a proposed rate increase is justified.

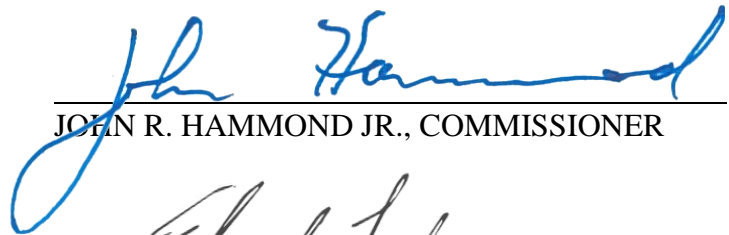
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Valiant shall submit a compliance filing within 14 days of the service date of this order containing evidence showing that it has notified its customers of the retraction of the rate increase proposed for October 1, 2024.

THIS IS AN INTERLOCUTORY ORDER, not a final and appealable order of the Commission. The period to seek reconsideration will not begin until a final order issues.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 17th day of October 2024.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

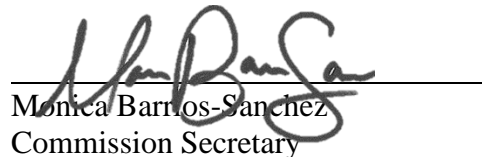


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER



EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Monica Barros-Sanchez
Commission Secretary

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