

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF KOOTENAI HEIGHTS) CASE NO. KHW-W-23-01
WATER SYSEMS' APPLICATION FOR)
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES) NOTICE OF APPLICATION
AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE IN)
THE STATE OF IDAHO) NOTICE OF INTERVENTION
) DEADLINE
)
) NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF
) PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE
)
) ORDER NO. 35741

On March 28, 2023, Kootenai Heights Water System (“Company”) applied for authorization to increase its rates and charges for water service. The Company requested a May 1, 2023, effective date.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Company is a Commission-regulated water corporation serving 11 residential customers in and around Kootenai in Bonner County, Idaho.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company requested “a general 49.74% increase in water rates” by increasing the “residential flat rate from \$38.50 per month to \$57.65 per month.” Application at 1.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED the Company argued the rate increase “is justified to cover expenses, such as, power, water testing, maintenance, and other expenses to maintain and operate the water system, and to continue to provide safe and reliable water.” *Id.* The Company stated it has not increased its rates since 2007.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED the Company’s Application included a Rate Case spreadsheet with Exhibits 1-4.¹

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application and spreadsheet, containing Exhibits 1-4, have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission’s office. These documents are also available on the

¹ The spreadsheet with supporting information and Exhibits 1-4 was filed separately on March 29, 2023.

Commission's website at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the "WATER" icon, select "Open Cases," and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that **the Commission has designated this case as a general rate case**. As such, the Company's intrastate revenue requirement, and every component of it, both rate base and expense, are at issue. The Commission may grant, deny, or modify the revenue requirement requested and may find a revenue requirement different from that proposed by any party is just, fair, and reasonable. IDAPA 31.01.01.124.01.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all of the Company's retail rates and charges are at issue, and every component of every existing and proposed rate and charge is at issue. The Commission may approve, reject, or modify the rates and charges proposed and may find that rates and charges different from those proposed by any party are just, fair, and reasonable. IDAPA 31.01.01.124.02.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission may approve, reject, or modify existing or proposed relationships between and among rates and charges within, between, or among customer classes or rate groupings and may approve, reject, or modify existing or proposed relationships among and between customer classes or rate groupings. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission may abolish, reduce, or create rate blocks or categories of rates and charges, abolish, create, or reduce components of rates and charges, abolish, reduce, or create customer classes or rate groupings, and abolish, reduce, or create absolute or relative differences among and between existing classes or rate groupings of customers. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the tariffs, practices, rules, and regulations, service, instrumentalities, equipment, facilities, classifications, and customer relations of the utility are at issue, and the Commission may address any of them in its order.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has jurisdiction over the Company, its filing, and the issues pertaining to this case pursuant to Title 61 of the Idaho Code.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to intervene in this matter to obtain parties' rights of participation must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission pursuant to this Commission's Rules of Procedure 72 and 73, IDAPA 31.01.01.072 and .073. **Persons who wish to intervene as a party must file a Petition to Intervene no later than 21 days after the date of service of this Order.** Such persons shall also provide the Commission Secretary with their email address to facilitate further communications. After the intervention deadline runs, the Commission Secretary shall issue a Notice of Parties that identifies the parties and assigns exhibit numbers to each party. Once the Notice of Parties has issued, Commission Staff shall informally confer with the Company and any intervening parties about how to further process this case and shall then report back to the Commission on a proposed case schedule.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons who would like to present their views without parties' rights of participation and cross-examination do not have to intervene but may present their views by submitting written comments to the Commission.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the following persons are designated as the Company's point of contact in this matter:

WATER SYSTEMS MGT., INC.

Jeff Cowley
Bob Hansen
67 Wild Horse Trail
Sandpoint, ID 83864
wsmibob@aol.com
jeff.cowley@usa.com

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

The Company filed its Application on March 28, 2023, and proposed a May 1, 2023, effective date. The Commission finds the Company's proposed effective date does not provide adequate time for Commission Staff and interested persons to evaluate the Company's proposal. Pursuant to *Idaho Code* § 61-622, the Commission suspends the effective date for the proposed changes for 30 days plus five months, or until the Commission issues a final order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the Company's proposed rate increase.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

ORDER NO. 35741

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that persons desiring to intervene in this case for the purpose of obtaining parties' rights of participation must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission, complying with Rules 72 and 73, no later than 21 days from the service date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the May 1, 2023, effective date proposed by the Company is suspended for 30 days plus five months, or until the Commission issues a final order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the Company's proposed rate increase.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties comply with Order No. 35375, issued April 21, 2022. Generally, all pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and will be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. See Rule 14.02. Service between parties should continue to be accomplished electronically when possible. However, voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 14th day of April 2023.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

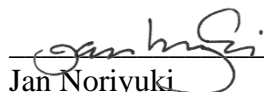


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER



EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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