

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF PICABO WATER) CASE NO. PIC-W-21-01
SYSTEM'S APPLICATION FOR)
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES) NOTICE OF APPLICATION
AND CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE IN)
THE STATE OF IDAHO) SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED
) EFFECTIVE DATE
)
) ORDER NO. 34979
)

On March 8, 2021, Picabo Water System dba Picabo Livestock Co. ("Company") applied to increase its rates and charges for water service. The Company proposes a May 1, 2021 effective date.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Company is a Commission-regulated water corporation serving 35 residential customers and four commercial customers in and around Picabo in Blaine County, Idaho. The Company provides service under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 220.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company requests an across-the-board 50% rate increase. Specifically, the Company requests the winter residential flat rate increase from \$22 per month to \$33 per month, the summer flat rate increase from \$41 per month to \$62 per month; and the commercial flat rate increase from \$37 per month to \$55 per month.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED the Company asserts this increase is necessary because the Company has not received a rate increase in over 25 years, and the "system has experienced losses for years." Application at 2. The Company also notes it must soon make several capital expenditures, including drilling a new well, installing a ¼ mile of power, and painting the interior of its 50,000-gallon storage tank.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company asserts it mailed notice of its Application with customer bills on March 1, 2021. As part of its Application, the Company provided a copy of that notice and a copy of the notice that appeared in the local newspaper. *See* Application, Exhibit 10.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application and supporting documentation 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 Commission's web site 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, both recurring and non-recurring, including those of special contract customers, 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. *Id.*

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 and specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501, -502, -507, -520, -523, and -622 .

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.*

SUSPENSION OF PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

The Company filed its Application on March 8, 2021 and proposes a May 1, 2021 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 proposed changes for thirty (30) days and five months or until the Commission enters an order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the proposed rate increases.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the May 1, 2021 effective date that the Company proposes for its rate increases is suspended for 30 days plus five months or until the Commission enters an earlier order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the proposed rate increases.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties should continue to comply with Order No. 34781, issued September 17, 2020. All pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between parties should also be accomplished electronically. 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 29th day of March 2021.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

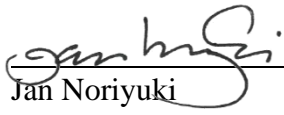


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

I:\Legal\WATER\PIC-W-21-01\Orders\PICW2101_ntc_of_App_mhdh.docx