

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

APPLICATION OF CDS STONERIDGE UTILITIES, LLC TO CHANGE RATES FOR NON-REFUNDABLE HOOK-UP FEE FOR NEW WATER CONNECTIONS) **CASE NO. SWS-W-20-01**
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) **NOTICE OF APPLICATION**
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) **NOTICE OF**
) **MODIFIED PROCEDURE**
)
) **ORDER NO. 34702**
)

On June 4, 2020, CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC (“Company”) filed a tariff advice requesting that it be allowed to increase the hook-up fee (“Hook-up Fee”) for a new water service connection from \$1,200.00 to \$9,735.00 pursuant to Rule 134 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. *Application* at 1.

Due to the significant, proposed increase to the Hook-up Fee and the complexity of issues surrounding it, the Commission treats the Company’s tariff advice as an application (“Application”),¹ issues this Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure, and suspends the effective date of the proposed change to the Company’s Hook-up Fee.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Company claims recent installation costs and bids it has received for new hook-ups are significantly higher than the \$1,200 Hook-up Fee it is authorized to charge to a customer for a new water service connection. *Application* at 1.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company asserts design plans for the Stoneridge subdivision did not require the installation of corporation stops and service lines into lots. The Company alleges this was an oversight and now contractors or the Company must cut into paved streets to connect new customers to water mains, increasing costs above the authorized Hook-up Fee. *Id.*

¹ Public utilities, such as the Company, occasionally file tariffs that advise the Commission the utility would like to make “minor changes” to its schedules. *See* Rule 134 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure (IDAPA 31.01.01.02). Unless the Commission orders otherwise, these “tariff advices” can take effect 30 days after they are filed, or on the proposed effective date, whichever is later. Here, the Commission finds the Company is not proposing “minor changes” and that those changes should not be made through a mere tariff advice. The Commission thus finds it appropriate to open this formal proceeding and treat the tariff advice as an application.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company asserts that persons who seek new connections in the Stoneridge subdivision typically request 1-inch service meters rather than ¾ inch meters, which also increases costs.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that, in support of its Application, the Company has submitted copies of an engineer's cost estimate, recent bids received, and a receipt for a typical installation at the Stoneridge subdivision.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company requests that its proposed Hook-up Fee take effect on July 27, 2020. *Id.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application is 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" tab on the left side of the page, then select "Open Cases" and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501, 61-502 and 61-503.

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 MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter, and that it will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation. Because the breadth of discovery necessary to process this case is uncertain, comment deadlines will be set through a subsequent order. This will allow Staff sufficient time to conduct discovery, and provide the Company an adequate opportunity to respond.

SUSPENSION

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company's Application proposes a July 27, 2020, effective date. This matter is sufficiently complex, and the proposed rate increase is significant, to warrant the Commission, parties, and public having a longer period to assess the

Application. The Commission thus finds it appropriate to suspend the Company's proposed effective date for a period of five months and thirty days, from July 27, 2020 to January 26, 2021, unless the Commission issues an earlier order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the Company's Application. *See also Idaho Code* § 61-622(4).

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission will treat the Company's filing as an Application rather than a tariff advice. *See Commission Rule of Procedure* 134.02.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company's tariff advice be deemed an application.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Company's Application be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the proposed effective date for the Company's proposed increase to its Hook-up Fee is suspended five (5) months and thirty (30) days, from July 27, 2020 to January 26, 2021, unless the Commission issues an earlier order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the Application. *Idaho Code* § 61-622(4).

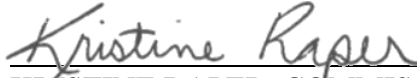
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties continue to comply with Order No. 34602, issued March 17, 2020. All pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See Rule* 14.02. Service between parties should also be accomplished electronically. Voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

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DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 25th day of June 2020.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

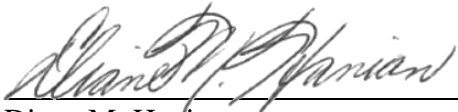


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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