

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER  
COMMISSIONER RAPER  
COMMISSIONER ANDERSON  
COMMISSION SECRETARY  
COMMISSION STAFF  
LEGAL

**FROM:** JOHN R. HAMMOND JR.  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

**DATE:** JUNE 11, 2020

**SUBJECT:** CDS STONERIDGE UTILITIES, LLC'S TARIFF ADVICE TO CHANGE RATES FOR NON-REFUNDABLE HOOK-UP FEE FOR A NEW WATER CONNECTION; CASE NO. SWS-W-20-01.

On June 4, 2020, CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC ("Company") filed a Tariff Advice requesting that it be allowed to "make a minor change to the Company's existing schedules" pursuant to Rule 134 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. *Tariff Advice* at 1. The Company represents the proposed changes affect the non-refundable hook-up fee for a new water service connection ("Hook-up Fee"). *Id.* The Company's current Hook-Up Fee is \$1,200.00. The Company proposes to raise the Hook-Up Fee to \$9,735.00. *Id.* The Company requests that its proposed Hook-Up Fee take effect on July 27, 2020. *Id.*

### STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff asserts a proposed \$8,535.00 increase in the Hook-up Fee is not "a minor change" as the Company claims. Due to the size of the Company's proposed increase to the Hook-up Fee Staff will need to engage in discovery and possibly visit the Company's site to investigate this matter thoroughly. Further, customers of the Company must also be given time to consider the Company's requests and to file comments or participate in further proceeding in this case. Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Commission suspend the effective date of the Company's proposed Hook-up Fee for a period five months and thirty days from the date the Company's request was filed with the Commission.


Staff also recommends that the Commission treat the Company's Tariff Advice as an application and issue a Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure. However, at this time, Staff does not recommend that the Commission set written comment deadlines in its Notice. Rather, Staff, at a later date, will request that the Commission set written comment deadlines and order any other necessary proceedings in a separate order after Staff has received responses to its discovery requests and completed any site visit. Staff has begun the discovery process already and will attempt to arrange for a site visit, if necessary, as soon as possible.

#### COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission wish to suspend the effective date of the proposed Hook-up Fee for five months and thirty days from the date the Company's Tariff Advice was filed?

Does the Commission wish to treat the Company's Tariff Advice as an application?

Does the Commission wish to issue a Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure without written comment deadlines at this time?

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John R. Hammond Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General

E:\Legal\WATER\SWS-W-20-01\SWSW2001\_decmemo\_jh.docx