

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	CASE NO. VEO-W-23-01
OF VEOLIA WATER IDAHO, INC. FOR)	
APPROVAL OF WATER MAIN)	
INSTALLATION AGREEMENT)	ORDER NO. 35869
)	
)	

On May 17, 2023, Veolia Water Idaho, Inc. (“Company”), filed an application (“Application”) with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) requesting approval of a Water Main Installation Agreement (“Agreement”) between the Company and Ada County (the “County”).

The Company stated that the County has been awarded a grant of federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) and that one of the allowable expenditures for the ARPA funds is investments in necessary water infrastructure. Application at 1. The Company represented that certain wells in southern Ada County are not adequate to provide drinking water to residences, and that these residences that lack adequate water service are located within the Company’s certificated service area. *Id.* at 1-2.

The Company stated that in February 2023, the Company and the County entered into the Agreement with the intent to use ARPA funds to install water main extensions that will connect certain residences of the County to the Company’s water system. *Id.* at 2. The Company represented that under the Agreement, the Company will competitively solicit bids for constructing the water main extensions and will submit a proposal that includes the bids for the completion of the construction to the County. *Id.*

The Company also represented that under the Agreement, the County will pay the Company for the construction of the water main extensions, and that upon completion of the water main extensions, the residents will be able to connect to the Company’s system, under the same conditions and subject to the same rates, charges, and rules as other Company customers. *Id.* The Company represented that it will solely own the infrastructure and will treat the infrastructure as Contribution in Aid of Construction (“CIAC”). *Id.*

COMMISSION STAFF COMMENTS

The Commission Staff (“Staff”) reviewed the Company’s Application and responses to discovery requests. Staff recommended that the Commission approve the Agreement because Staff believed that the resulting expansion of the water system will benefit residents in the Company’s service area at no cost to existing customers.

COMPANY REPLY COMMENTS

The Company thanked Staff for its work on the Application and the Company did not file any reply comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

As of July 27, 2023, the Commission has received seven (7) public comments, all from affected residents who hope to receive water from the Company and who support the Agreement. The Commission also received a letter from the Ada County Commissioners recommending that the Commission support the proposed Agreement.

COMMISSION FINDINGS AND DECISION

Veolia is a water corporation and a public utility, as defined under Title 61 of the Idaho Code, and provides water service to the public in Idaho. *Idaho Code* §§ 61-125, and -129. The Commission has jurisdiction over the Company and this matter under *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501, -502, -503, -507, -520, -523, and -622.

Having reviewed the Application, all submitted comments, and all submitted materials, the Commission finds it fair, just, and reasonable to approve the Application. The Commission appreciates the Company’s work on this issue and the collaborative steps taken with the County to ensure that the citizens of Idaho within the Company’s service area have access to safe and reliable water.

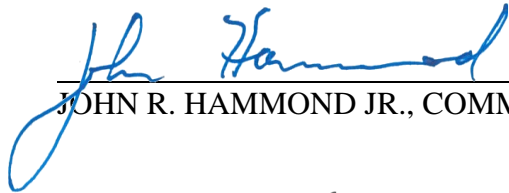
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Application is approved.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date upon this Order regarding any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* §§ 61-626 and 62-619.

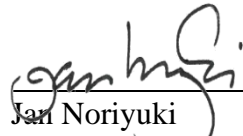
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 31st day of July 2023.


ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER


EDWARD LODGE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

I:\Legal\WATER\VEO-W-23-01_water main\orders\VEOW2301_FO_cb.docx