

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	
OF UNITED WATER IDAHO INC. TO)	CASE NO. UWI-W-07-04
IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM OF MONTHLY)	
BILLING AND FOR RECOVERY OF COSTS)	NOTICE OF APPLICATION
ASSOCIATED THEREWITH)	
)	NOTICE OF
)	INTERVENTION DEADLINE
)	
)	NOTICE OF
)	MODIFIED PROCEDURE
)	
)	ORDER NO. 30446

On September 17, 2007, United Water Idaho Inc. filed an Application seeking authority to implement a program of monthly billing and for authority to implement rates and charges to recover the increased cost of converting from bi-monthly to monthly billing. The Company requested that its Application be processed by Modified Procedure. With this Order the Commission authorizes the use of Modified Procedure, establishes a deadline to petition for intervention, and establishes a deadline for the submission of comments.

THE APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that United Water states that it believes it would be in the public interest to convert from bi-monthly to monthly billing for the following reasons: (1) a monthly bill should be easier for customers to budget for and to pay than a bi-monthly bill, especially in summer; (2) monthly billing can enhance water conservation and lower bills by sending a more timely price signal to customers and providing more timely information to customers regarding their consumption; (3) monthly billing would reduce the incidence of "high-bill" complaints from customers that result from bills that reflect charges for two months of usage; and (4) monthly billing would double the number of visits to customer premises by meter readers, enabling quicker detection and troubleshooting of leaks or meter problems.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company estimates that the additional annual cost of monthly billing will be \$1,125,905, reflecting the cost of additional personnel for meter reading, preparation and mailing of bills on a more frequent basis, increased collections

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processing, and administrative expenses. Recovery of this cost represents an overall increase in rates of 3.75% on average. The Company proposes to apply the increase to the fixed Customer Charge portion of customers' bills. This would raise rates for all customers by approximately \$1.15 per month, bringing the average annual residential customer bill from \$368.61 to \$382.44.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company estimates that it will require at least five months' lead time to hire and train additional personnel and to make the operational adjustments needed to implement monthly billing. It requests an effective date for the proposed tariff changes of May 1, 2008, and consequently an Order approving its request on or before December 1, 2007.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company filed with its Application revised tariff sheets showing the proposed changes from bi-monthly to monthly billing. The Company also filed the Direct Testimony of Gregory P. Wyatt that discusses the Company's Application and requests in more detail.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company's Application is merely a proposal subject to public review and Commission approval.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has jurisdiction over this matter and United Water, a public utility, pursuant to the authority and power granted under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and the Commission Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application and supporting workpapers, testimonies, and exhibits have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. The Application and testimonies are also available on the Commission's Website at www.puc.idaho.gov under the "File Room" and "Water Cases."

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has reviewed the filing of record in Case No. UWI-W-07-04. The Commission has preliminarily determined that the public interest may not require a hearing to consider the issues presented in this case and that issues raised by the Company's filing may be processed under **Modified Procedure**, i.e., by written submission rather than by hearing. IDAPA 31.01.01.201-204. In so doing, the Commission notes

that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission may not hold a hearing in this proceeding unless it receives written protests or comments opposing the use of Modified Procedure and stating why Modified Procedure should not be used. IDAPA 31.01.01.203.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no protests or written comments are received within the deadline, the Commission will consider the matter and enter its Order without a hearing. If protests or comments are filed within the deadline, the Commission will consider them and may, in its discretion, set the matter for hearing or decide the matter and issue its Order on the basis of the written positions before it. IDAPA 31.01.01.204.

NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that **persons desiring to intervene** in this matter for the purpose of presenting evidence or cross-examining witnesses at hearing **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. A written request for a hearing must be made along with the Petition to Intervene. Persons intending to participate at hearing must file a Petition to Intervene **on or before October 11, 2007**. Persons seeking intervenor status shall also provide the Commission Secretary with their electronic mail addresses to facilitate future communications in this matter.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to present their views without parties' rights of participation and cross-examination are not required to intervene and may present their comments without prior notification to the Commission or the parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission Secretary shall issue a Notice of Parties if any Petitions to Intervene are granted. The Notice of Parties shall assign exhibit numbers to each party in this proceeding. Depending on the number of intervenors, the Commission may direct that pleadings and testimony be filed electronically with the other parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that after the Notice of Parties is issued the Commission anticipates that the parties will informally convene to devise a recommended schedule to process this case. Once a schedule is developed, the Commission will subsequently issue a Notice of Hearing.

NOTICE OF COMMENT DEADLINE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that **the deadline for filing written comments or protests** with respect to the Application and the Commission's use of Modified Procedure in Case No. UWI-W-07-04 **is January 9, 2008**. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written Petition to Intervene.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that written comments concerning this case should be mailed to the Commission and to the Company at the addresses reflected below.

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address For Express Mail:
472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5983

Dean J. Miller
McDevitt & Miller LLP
420 W. Bannock Street
PO Box 2564-83701
Boise, Idaho 83702
E-mail: joe@mcdevitt-miller.com

Gregory P. Wyatt
United Water Idaho Inc.
PO Box 190420
Boise, Idaho 83719-0420
E-mail: greg.wyatt@unitedwater.com

These comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's homepage located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Comments and Questions" icon, and complete the comment form, using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. These comments must also be sent to United Water at the e-mail addresses listed above.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over United Water, its Application, and the issues involved in this case by virtue of Title 61, Idaho Code, specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-124, 61-125, 61-129, 61-501, 61-502, 61-503, 61-520, and 61-523, and the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

The Commission has preliminarily determined that the public interest may not require a hearing to consider the issues presented in this case, and that issues raised by the Company's filing may be processed under **Modified Procedure**, i.e., by written submission rather than by

hearing. IDAPA 31.01.01.201-204. In so doing, the Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this case be processed under Modified Procedure. Persons interested in submitting written comments regarding this case or protesting the use of Modified Procedure must do so no later than January 9, 2008.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that persons desiring to intervene in this case for the purpose of presenting evidence or cross-examination at hearing shall file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission no later than October 11, 2007. A written request for a hearing must be made along with the Petition to Intervene.

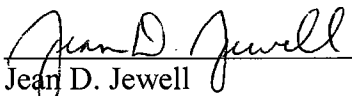
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 27th day of September 2007.


PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER


MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

O:UWI-W-07-04_dw

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