# **BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION ) OF UNITED WATER IDAHO, INC. FOR ) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES ) AND CHARGES IN THE STATE OF ) IDAHO. ) CASE NO. UWI-W-09-01 NOTICE OF APPLICATION NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE ORDER NO. 30901

#### **NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

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YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on September 3, 2009, United Water Idaho Inc. filed a general rate case Application for authority to increase rates by 15.21%, to be applied equally to all classes of customers.<sup>1</sup> If approved, the Company's revenues would increase by \$5.6 million annually. The Company requests that its proposed changes become effective October 3, 2009.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that United Water currently provides water service to approximately 83,900 customers within Ada County, Idaho, and has been providing service to the public in Boise City and the surrounding area for more than 100 years. Application at 2. The Company last increased its basic rates and charges in August 2006. Order No. 30104. United Water claims that it has made numerous major capital investments since the last rate case in order to continue to provide quality service to its customers. The Company asserts that it has invested \$2 million in treatment facilities, more than \$12 million in replacing aging infrastructure, almost \$1.4 million in booster station improvements, and over \$700,000 in auxiliary power generators at various sites throughout the water system. Wyatt Direct at 4.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company proposes a revenue increase of \$5.6 million, which amounts to an overall increase in rates of 15.21%.<sup>2</sup> United Water maintains that it seeks additional revenue to recover increased operating expenses and costs associated with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On July 2, 2009, the Company filed a Motion for Order Waiving Requirement for Cost of Service Study maintaining that there was no compelling need for a study to be included with its current rate case Application. The Commission granted the Company's request by Order No. 30865.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  The Company is not proposing a change to the current tariff design and intends to maintain the 25% differential between winter and summer volumetric rates. Wyatt Direct at 5.

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plant additions and to produce a fair rate of return, thereby enabling it to continue to provide adequate and reliable service to its customers. Application at 3. The Company's Application states that the proposed changes in rates and charges would produce a rate of return of 8.49%. *Id.* 

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company requests that its proposed new rates become effective October 3, 2009.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application together with 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 and exhibits are also available on the Commission's web site at <u>www.puc.idaho.gov</u> by clicking on "File Room" and then "Water Cases."

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that United Water'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.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the rates and charges for all United Water retail customers, both recurring and non-recurring, including those of any 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.

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. The Commission may approve, reject or modify existing or proposed relationships among and between customer classes or rate groupings.

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 customer classes or rate groupings of customers. YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the tariffs, practices, rules, services, instrumentalities, equipment, facilities, classifications and customer relations procedures of United Water are at issue, and the Commission may address any of them in its final Order.

# **DEADLINE FOR INTERVENTION**

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 the Commission's Rules of Procedure 72 and 73, IDAPA 31.01.01.072 and .073. Persons intending to participate at hearing must file a Petition to Intervene no later than twenty-one (21) days from the service date of this Order. Persons seeking intervenor status shall also provide the Commission Secretary with their electronic mail address to facilitate further 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 to other parties.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that once the deadline for intervention has passed, the Commission Secretary shall issue a Notice of Parties. The Notice of Parties shall assign exhibit numbers to each party in this proceeding.

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. In addition to the schedule, the parties may discuss discovery logistics, electronic service, and other scheduling matters.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 61 of the Idaho Code and specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-124, 61-125, 61-307, 61-502, 61-503, and 61-507. The Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

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

Due to the limited time between when the Company filed its Application and when it requests that its rates and charges become effective, the Commission finds that it cannot complete the processing of United Water's Application before the proposed effective date of

NOTICE OF APPLICATION NOTICE OF INTERVENTION DEADLINE ORDER NO. 30901 3 October 3, 2009. Pursuant to *Idaho Code* §§ 61-622 and 61-623, the Commission hereby suspends the proposed rate changes for a period of thirty (30) days plus five (5) months from October 3, 2009, or until such time as the Commission enters an Order accepting, rejecting or modifying the request in this matter.

## ORDER

IT IS HEREBY 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 twenty-one (21) days from the service date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that United Water's proposed new rates and other tariff changes are suspended for a period of thirty (30) days plus five (5) months from October 3, 2009, or until such time as the Commission enters an Order accepting, rejecting or modifying the request in this matter.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that after the Notice of Parties is issued, the Staff shall informally convene a prehearing conference with the parties to discuss the processing of this case.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this /7<sup>++</sup> day of September 2009.

JIM-D. KEMPTON, PRESIDENT

MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

well Jean D. Jewell

Commission Secretary

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