

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 11, 2017

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE August 1, 2017

DATE: June 27, 2017

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Joan Grindeland

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer, Bryan Conway, and Bruce Hellebuyck

SUBJECT: WILLAMETTE WATER COMPANY: (Docket No. ADV 598/
Advice No. 17-2) Revises Tariffs, to align with recent changes to Oregon
Administrative Rules (OAR) 860-036.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should approve Willamette Water Company (Willamette or Company) Advice No. 17-2, to become effective with service rendered on and after August 1, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve Willamette's Advice 17-2, which updates its tariff to be consistent with recently adopted changes in the Commission's Division 36 rules applicable to water utilities.

Applicable Law

ORS 757.205 requires each public utility to file with the Commission schedules showing all rates, tolls, charges, rules and regulations that pertain to service performed by the public utility. Tariff revisions or corrections may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-036-2000 and OAR 860-036-2010. Filings that make any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days prior to the effective date of changes; however, the Commission has the discretion to approve tariff filings on less than statutory notice.

Analysis

On January 1, 2017, existing Division 36 administrative rules were repealed and new rules were adopted in Order No. 17-017 in Docket AR 595. This rulemaking was initiated with the goal of improving the organization and clarity of the rules.

Due to the newly adopted administrative rules, Staff requested that rate-regulated water utilities file updated tariff sheets that reflect the changes in the Commission's administrative rules. In response, Willamette filed Advice No. 17-2 on June 27, 2017, with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon to align its tariff with the changes adopted in Order No. 17-017. Staff notes that although the Company filed all new tariff sheets with a rate-effective date of August 1, 2017, there is no requested change to the rates, tolls or charges approved by the Commission in Willamette's most recent general rate case. The Company's requested rate-effective date of August 1, 2017, is more than 30 days' notice for schedule changes.

Staff has reviewed Willamette's Advice 17-2 to ensure that all rates, tolls and charges remain unchanged and to determine whether the requested changes are consistent with the new Division 36 administrative rules.

Conclusion

Based on its review of Willamette's Advice 17-2, Staff concludes that the tariff sheets do not request a change to currently approved rates, tolls and charges, and are consistent with the new Division 36 administrative rules.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Willamette's Advice No. 17-2 to update its tariff, effective with service rendered on and after August 1, 2017.