



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Public Utility Commission

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April 30, 2007

OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
ATTENTION: FILING CENTER  
PO BOX 2148  
SALEM OR 97308-2148

RE: **Docket No. UW 119** - In the Matter of AGATE WATER COMPANY.  
Application for Rate Increase.

Enclosed for electronic filing in the above-captioned docket is the Staff Direct  
Testimony of Kathy Miller and Michael Dougherty.

*/s/ Kay Barnes*

Kay Barnes

Regulatory Operations Division

Filing on Behalf of Public Utility Commission Staff

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c: UW 119 Service List (parties)

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**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

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**UW 119**

**STAFF DIRECT TESTIMONY  
In Support  
of the Stipulation Between  
Staff and Agate Water Company**

**In the Matter of  
AGATE WATER COMPANY  
Application for Rate Increase**

**April 30, 2007**

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF  
OREGON**

**STAFF EXHIBIT 100**

**Direct Testimony  
In Support  
of the Stipulation Between  
Staff and Agate Water Company**

**April 30, 2007**

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, OCCUPATION, AND BUSINESS**  
2 **ADDRESS.**

3 A. My name is Kathy Miller. I am a Senior Utility Analyst for the Public Utility  
4 Commission of Oregon. My business address is 550 Capitol Street NE  
5 Suite 215, Salem, Oregon 97301-2551.

6 My name is Michael Dougherty. I am the Program Manager of the  
7 Corporate Analysis and Water Regulation Section of the Utility Program with  
8 the Public Utility Commission of Oregon. My business address is 550 Capitol  
9 Street NE Suite 215, Salem, Oregon 97301-2551.

10 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF STAFF TESTIMONY?**

11 A. The purpose of this Joint Testimony is to introduce and support the Stipulation  
12 entered into by Staff and Agate Water Company (Agate or Company) in  
13 settlement of all issues in this Docket. The interveners: David Westoby,  
14 Stephanie Michelsen, Lawrence Riser, Tim Kelley, David Anderson, Timothy  
15 Rogers, and Corine Fraser have not signed on to the stipulation.

16 **Q. DID YOU PREPARE AN EXHIBIT FOR THIS DOCKET?**

17 A. Yes. Staff prepared Exhibit Staff/101, consisting of 14 pages.

18 **Q. HOW IS STAFF'S TESTIMONY ORGANIZED?**

19 A. In the testimony, Staff will:

- 20 1. Describe Agate Water Company and summarize the results of its two  
21 previous rate cases, UW 72 and UW 108.
- 22 2. Explain the Company's general rate increase proposal.
- 23 3. Address customer concerns.

- 1 4. Describe Staff's recommendations.
- 2 5. Explain Staff's proposed adjustments.
- 3 6. Explain Staff's proposed rate design.
- 4 7. Address Intervenor Testimony.
- 5 8. Summarize the stipulation.

6 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE AGATE WATER.**

7 A. Agate is a medium sized privately-owned water company that currently  
8 provides service to approximately 1,116 customers outside of Bend in the  
9 Deschutes River Woods area. Agate came under PUC regulation on August 2,  
10 1999, when PUC notified Agate it had received petitions from over 20 percent  
11 of its customers requesting PUC rate regulation.

12 The owners of Agate also owned Apache Water Company (Apache).  
13 Apache came under PUC regulation in June 1999 when its customer count  
14 reached the 500 threshold for rate regulation. Agate and Apache merged and  
15 are now known as Agate Water Company.<sup>1</sup>

16 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESULTS OF AGATE'S FIRST RATE CASE,**  
17 **UW 72.**

18 A. Agate filed its first rate case, UW 72, in November 1999. In UW 72, the parties  
19 stipulated to an annual revenue requirement of \$159,275. The major cost  
20 drivers were Salaries and Wages and Repairs and Maintenance Expenses. As  
21 part of UW 72, the Company went from a flat rate to a three-tiered metered rate  
22 design. Customers who paid the Company's system development charge

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<sup>1</sup> The merger of Agate and Apache was approved by the Commission in Commission Order No. 02- 889 (UP 198), dated December 24, 2002.

1 (SDC) prior to PUC regulation were charged \$3.02 less in the monthly base  
2 rate than the customers who came on after PUC regulation and did not pay a  
3 SDC.

4 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE RESULTS OF AGATE'S SECOND RATE CASE,**  
5 **UW 108.**

6 A. In its second rate case, UW 108, filed on March 7, 2005, all but one party  
7 stipulated to an annual revenue requirement of \$564,710.

8 The major cost driver of the UW 108 increase was the addition of  
9 \$2,323,307 of utility plant.<sup>2</sup> At the time of the filing, the Company was in the  
10 final stages of closing a \$3.5 million capital improvement project financed by  
11 the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SDWSRLF) at 1 percent  
12 interest. Staff included the majority of improvement project plant into rate base,  
13 but held back some utility plant that was not yet used and useful.

14 In addition, Staff increased the differential between the two base rates for  
15 the customers who paid the SDC and the customers who did not pay the SDC,  
16 from \$3.02 to \$7.64. The change provides a 30-year payback to customers  
17 who paid the SDC, which paid for original utility plant. This was a reasonable  
18 approach because it matches the average plant life of 30 years.

19 It is important to note that the new plant added in both UW 108 and UW 119  
20 serves all customers. As such, all customers are paying a return on and  
21 recovery of the plant. As previously mentioned, the rate of return on Agate's  
22 plant was set at a low 1 percent.

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<sup>2</sup> As a result of continuing construction, actual net plant included in UW 108 was \$3,207,621.

**UW 119**

**Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE UW 119 EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE FILING OF THIS TESTIMONY.**

A. On October 31, 2006, Agate filed an application with the Commission requesting a general rate increase in the amount of \$202,800. Staff recommended at the Commission's Public Meeting on November 21, 2006, that the tariffs sheets be suspended for six months to give adequate time for Staff to investigate the rate filing. The Commission suspended Agate's tariff sheets per Order No. 06-647, entered November 24, 2006. The suspension expires on June 1, 2007.

A public comment meeting and prehearing conference were held on February 16, 2007. Seven persons intervened in the case. On April 12, 2007, a settlement conference was held in Bend. The Company and Staff stipulated. The interveners are not signatories to the stipulation.

**Q. WHAT REVENUE REQUIREMENT DID AGATE PROPOSE IN ITS CURRENT UW 119 APPLICATION?**

A. In its application, Agate proposed an increase of \$202,800 or 45.6 percent over test period revenues for a total annual revenue requirement of \$646,732. The Company requested a 1.75 percent return on a rate base of \$3,420,714.

**Q. WHAT ARE AGATE'S CURRENT RATES AND WHAT RATES DID THE COMPANY PROPOSE IN ITS APPLICATION?**

A. Agate's current rates and proposed rates are shown in the table below. The variable rate is for every 100 cubic feet (cf) of water used. Agate proposed

1 changing the current variable rate structure from three tiers to two tiers. See  
2 Table 1 below:

3 **Table 1 – Current and Company Proposed Rates**

	<b>Did Not Pay SDC Base Rate</b>	<b>Paid SDC Base Rate</b>	<b>0-2000 cf Tier 1 Rate per 100 cf</b>	<b>2001-4000 Tier 2 Rate per 100 cf</b>	<b>4001 &amp; Above Tier 3 Rate per 100 cf</b>
Current	\$31.19	\$23.55	\$.68	\$1.75	\$2.04
Proposed	\$34.68	\$27.04	\$1.04	\$2.75	

4  
5 **Q. WHAT CONCERNS DID THE CUSTOMERS HAVE?**

6 A. Staff has reviewed customer prehearing comments and all written and oral  
7 comments received throughout the case. Staff identified the following customer  
8 concerns:

9 1. Low Water Pressure

10 Neither the Commission nor the Company received any complaints  
11 regarding water pressure since March 2005. However, at the public  
12 comment meeting, three customers voiced concern regarding their water  
13 pressure during the summer of 2006.

14 The new system improvements, including a new 560,000 gallon  
15 reservoir, are complete and are on line. This should alleviate any pressure  
16 problems. Customers with a pressure problem should contact Agate  
17 immediately so the Company can investigate the cause of the low pressure.

18 2. Compensation for Customers Who Paid a SDC

19 At the public comment meeting, a customer(s) requested Staff consider  
20 changing the \$7.64 difference in the base rates between those customers



1 who paid the SDC and those that did not. Staff reviewed the previous  
2 methodology concerning the difference in base rates and concluded that the  
3 difference between the two base rates is fair and reasonable and should not  
4 be changed.

5 3. The Capital Improvement Project is to Serve Future Expansion

6 As explained below, the improvements to date to Agate's infrastructure have  
7 been to serve only the existing customers (Priority I Improvements).

8 Staff contacted Mike Solt, Regional Coordinator for the Oregon  
9 Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD). Mr. Solt is  
10 the Project Administrator of Agate's Capital Improvement Project. He  
11 oversees the loan and monitors the progress of the project activities to  
12 confirm that payment is appropriate for the work accomplished.

13 Mr. Solt provided a copy of Agate's engineered Capital Improvement  
14 Program, which was used to secure the loan from the SDWSRLF. In the  
15 document, the improvements were broken into three priorities. Water  
16 system improvements identified in the original master plan for Apache  
17 Water System were incorporated into the Priority I Improvements.

18 Priority I Improvements included the installation of a new reservoir and  
19 minimal improvements to the distribution system to correct primary system  
20 deficiencies.

21 Priority II Improvements include construction items that extend the  
22 systems to cover the entire service area and improves system hydraulic  
23 capabilities.

1           Priority III Improvements include upgrades to the pumping system that  
2 will be needed for future demands.

3           Mr. Solt noted that capacity to serve future expansion will require an  
4 additional 860,000 gallon tank and distribution improvements in the  
5 neighborhood of \$2,690,004, plus an additional \$58,823 to upgrade the  
6 pumping capacity. Staff has attached a copy of the Capital Improvement  
7 Program priorities as Staff/101 Miller-Dougherty/11-12.

8           4. Customers Request for Last Payment to be Printed on the Current Bill

9           Agate is investigating whether its billing software can include the customers'  
10 last payments on the bills. The Company is working with the software  
11 company and, if possible, will add this to their bills.

12           5. Poor Customer Service

13           To address concerns regarding customer service, Agate has adopted a  
14 written Customer Service Policy that states, among other things, "customers  
15 will be treated in a professional and understanding environment regarding  
16 their service." This policy is displayed in Agate's office. The policy also  
17 contains contact information for PUC's Consumer Services Section.

18           The Consumer Services Section reports that from March 2005 to  
19 December 2005, the Commission received 8 service complaints; during  
20 2006, the Commission received only four service complaints; and to date,  
21 the Commission has received only one service complaint. Rate protests are  
22 not included.

1           6. Inaccurate Billings

2           Agate uses computerized billings. If a customer believes there is a  
3           discrepancy on a bill, the customer should call the Company as soon as  
4           possible and it will be immediately addressed. Also, in the future, the  
5           Company will be including a message on its bills with the Company's  
6           telephone number to call if there are any problems.

7                 Consumer Services Section reports receiving 2 billing complaints since  
8           March 2005. One was regarding an installation fee and the other was  
9           concerning a transfer.

10          7. Whom to Call When Customers Have Issues with the Company

11          Customers may call the Commission's Consumer Services Section at  
12          1-800-522-2404 or TTY 711.

13          8. Agate Failed to Provide Adequate Business Services

14          No specific business services were identified by the customer. Any services  
15          that are not provided need to be brought to the attention of the Company so  
16          it may have an opportunity to address the problems.

17          9. Transparency of Business Records

18          With minor exceptions, Staff had available for review at the Settlement  
19          Conference, all the documentation of Agate's revenues, consumption,  
20          customer usage charts, expenses, capital expenditures, and other facts for  
21          the years 2005 and 2006, and Staff worksheets summarizing the above  
22          mentioned documents for years 2003 and 2004.

1 10. Staff Should Use Averages Instead of a Regulatory Snapshot to Calculate  
2 Revenue Requirement

3 As suggested by the customers in the UW 119 public comment meeting,  
4 Staff used (when applicable) three or four year averages (depending on the  
5 documentation) to determine expenses, consumption, and other items as  
6 appropriate.

7 11. Water Service is Getting Worse

8 No specific services or issues were identified to address. Inadequate  
9 service must be reported to the Company to allow it a chance to resolve the  
10 problem.

11 **Q. WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHANGES DRIVING THE INCREASE IN THE**  
12 **REVENUE REQUIREMENT?**

13 A. The major cost drivers are the addition of \$266,170 in utility plant from the  
14 capital improvement project that is now used and useful, and large increases  
15 in power, materials and supplies, property tax, and depreciation expenses.

16 **Q. AFTER INVESTIGATING THE COMPANY'S REQUEST, WHAT IS**  
17 **STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION?**

18 A. Staff recommends an increase of \$100,324 or 19.07 percent over test period  
19 revenues, resulting in total annual revenues of \$626,443, with a 1 percent  
20 return on a rate base of \$3,167,532. Please see Revenue Requirement,  
21 Staff/101 Miller-Dougherty/1.

22 Please note that during the 2005 test period, Agate did not realize the  
23 revenues approved in its last rate case UW 108. The percentage increase

1 of the recommended revenues in UW 119 over what was approved in  
2 UW 108 is actually 10.9 percent.

3 **Q. WHAT ARE STAFF'S RECOMMENDED RATES?**

4 A. Staff proposes rates as shown in the table below. The unit of measure for  
5 consumption is 100 cf.

6 **Table 2 – Staff Recommended Rates for Agate**

	<b>Did Not Pay SDC Base Rate</b>	<b>Paid SDC Base Rate</b>	<b>1-2000 cf Tier 1 Rate per 100 cf</b>	<b>2001 &amp; Above Tier 2 Rate per 100 cf</b>
<b>Staff Proposed</b>	<b>\$34.27</b>	<b>\$26.63</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$2.56</b>

7  
8 *In UW 72, the rates were designed with a low first tier rate and a sizeable*  
9 *rate hike in tier 2. In UW 108, Staff kept the first tier (0-2000 cf) low to avoid*  
10 *rate shock.*

11 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE STAFF'S RATE DESIGN IN UW 119.**

12 A. To determine Staff's proposed rate design, Staff divided the recommended  
13 revenue requirement of \$626,443, into a 40 percent and a 60 percent split  
14 between the variable rate and the base rate, respectively. *Staff's standard*  
15 *target split for water utilities for variable and fixed expenses is 40/60,*  
16 *respectively.*

17 Using these percentages, Staff assigned \$250,577 to the variable rate  
18 and \$375,865 to the base rate. Staff then calculated the rates necessary for  
19 both the base and variable rates to generate the required revenue. Staff

1 agreed with the Company's proposal to reduce the rate tiers from three to  
2 two.

3 **Q. WHY DID STAFF AGREE TO GO FROM A THREE-TIERED RATE TO A**  
4 **TWO-TIERED RATE?**

5 A. Staff agreed to a two-tiered rate design based on the customer usage patterns  
6 in 2005 and 2006. On average 80 percent of Agate's customers' water use  
7 was between 0 and 2,000 cubic feet (cf). In 2004, the customer percentage  
8 use between 0 and 2000 cf was 60 percent. The effect of the two-tier variable  
9 rate structure is that customers who use low or average amounts of water will  
10 pay less; customers using larger volumes will pay relatively more.

11 Staff proposes keeping the first tier separation at 2,000 cf. Using 2,001 cf  
12 and above for the second tier results in a significant difference in price between  
13 the first tier rate and the second tier rate.

14 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE BASIS FOR STAFF'S RECOMMENDED BASE**  
15 **RATE.**

16 A. Staff recommends the following base rates:

17 **Table 3 – Staff's Recommended Base Rates**

Monthly Base Rate for Customers Who Paid the SDC	\$26.63
Monthly Base Rate for Customers Who Did Not Pay the SDC	\$34.27

18 The base rate (60 percent of the revenue requirement) is divided between  
19 the customers that paid the SDC and those that did not. In UW 72, the  
20 difference between the two monthly base rates was \$3.02. In UW 108, the  
21 difference between the two monthly base rates was \$3.02. In UW 108, the  
22 difference between the two monthly base rates increased to \$7.64 per month.

1 In UW 119, Staff has maintained the same \$7.64 difference in the base  
2 rates. Staff believes it is appropriate for the customers to recover the SDC  
3 payments (which paid for utility plant) consistent with the average utility plant  
4 service life of 30 years. It is equitable and appropriate that there should be a  
5 difference in the base rate until such time that the SDC customers have  
6 recouped the money that was paid for the system infrastructure.

7 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE BASIS FOR STAFF'S RECOMMENDED**  
8 **VARIABLE TIERED RATES.**

9 A. The variable rate tiers were determined on the customers' usage patterns for  
10 2005 and 2006. Staff recommends the following variable tiered rates:

11 **Table 4 – Staff's Recommended Variable Rates**

Tier 1	Tier 2
1-2,000 cubic feet	2,001 and Above
\$1.00 per 100 cf	\$2.56 per 100 cf

12 Staff designed rates to capture the majority of customer usage in the first  
13 tier (0-2000 cf). *Two thousand cf of water equals 14,962 gallons per month.*

14 **Q. WHAT EFFECT DOES STAFF'S PROPOSED RATES HAVE ON THE**  
15 **CUSTOMERS' MONTHLY BILLS?**

16 A. The effect of Staff's proposed rates on customer bills based on a range of  
17 monthly consumption is shown below:  
18

1

**Table 5 – Rate Comparison – CUSTOMERS WHO PAID A SDC**

MONTHLY CONSUMPTION	COMPANY CURRENT	STAFF PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT AND STAFF PROPOSED RATES	
			Dollar Increase	Percentage Increase
Measured In Cubic Feet (cf)	Bill per Customer Per Month	Bill per Customer Per Month		
0	\$23.55	\$26.63	\$3.08	13.08%
1000	\$30.35	\$36.64	\$6.29	20.73%
<b>1312</b>	<b>\$32.47</b>	<b>\$39.77</b>	<b>\$7.30</b>	<b>22.47%</b>
1500	\$33.75	\$41.65	\$7.90	23.40%
2000	\$37.15	\$46.66	\$9.51	25.59%
3000	\$54.65	\$72.22	\$17.57	32.16%
4000	\$72.15	\$97.79	\$25.64	35.54%
5000	\$89.65	\$123.36	\$33.71	37.60%
6000	\$107.15	\$148.93	\$41.78	38.99%
8000	\$147.95	\$200.06	\$52.12	35.22%
10000	\$188.75	\$251.20	\$62.45	33.09%

2

3

**Table 6 - Rate Comparisons – CUSTOMERS WHO DID NOT PAY A SDC**

MONTHLY CONSUMPTION	COMPANY CURRENT	STAFF PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT AND STAFF PROPOSED RATES	
			Dollar Increase	Percentage Increase
Measured In Cubic Feet (cf)	Bill per Customer Per Month	Bill per Customer Per Month		
	\$	\$	\$	
0	\$31.19	\$34.27	\$3.08	9.87%
1000	\$37.99	\$44.28	\$6.29	16.56%
<b>1312</b>	<b>\$40.11</b>	<b>\$47.41</b>	<b>\$7.30</b>	<b>18.19%</b>
1500	\$41.39	\$49.29	\$7.90	19.08%
2000	\$44.79	\$54.30	\$9.51	21.22%
3000	\$62.29	\$79.86	\$17.57	28.21%
4000	\$79.79	\$105.43	\$25.64	32.14%
5000	\$97.29	\$131.00	\$33.71	34.65%
6000	\$114.79	\$156.57	\$41.78	36.39%
8000	\$155.59	\$207.71	\$52.12	33.49%
10000	\$196.39	\$258.84	\$62.45	31.80%

4

5

6

The increase to both base rates is \$3.08. However, the most significant percentage increase effect on customers is the second tier variable rate.



1 Depending upon the monthly usage, some customers could experience a  
2 38.99 percent increase.

3 The most significant impact on the majority of customers is in the first  
4 tier. In UW 72, the first tier rate was \$.69 per 100 cf of water consumed,  
5 resulting in customers who use less than the average amount of water paid  
6 a lower per unit rate. In UW 108, Staff maintained a low rate of \$0.68 per  
7 100 cf of water consumed for a total variable cost of \$8.92 per month, based  
8 on the current average monthly consumption of 1,312 cf.

9 In UW 119, Staff recommends a first tier rate of \$1.00 per 100 cf,  
10 resulting in a \$4.20 increase in the variable rate for the same amount of  
11 usage. The change is designed to cover 80 percent of Agate's monthly  
12 costs through the base rate and first tier, leaving the remaining 20 percent  
13 more at risk to the Company given variations in year-by-year water use.  
14 Should weather or another unexpected problem arise, the Company is at  
15 additional risk of not realizing even 80 percent earnings during the winter  
16 months.

17 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN STAFF'S ADJUSTMENTS TO REVENUE AND**  
18 **EXPENSES.**

19 A. Staff's adjustments, including a short summary, to Agate's revenue and  
20 expenses are shown in Staff/101 Miller-Dougherty/2. To determine annual  
21 expenses, Staff performed a rigorous review using actual documentation,  
22 such as invoices, checks, receipts, etc., for the years 2003, 2004, 2005, and  
23 2006 (depending on documentation). Staff removed non-utility items,

1 normalized, amortized, corrected accounts, capitalized, and/or made other  
2 appropriate adjustments to each expense category for each year. For most  
3 expenses, Staff then averaged the expense over the number of years of  
4 documentation. For each item below, Staff's adjustments are to Agate's  
5 2005 test year values.

6 1. Revenue

7 Staff's upward adjustment to revenue of \$82,187 represents a total  
8 calculation of \$526,119 annual revenue. Agate's documentation for  
9 revenue included such things as hook-up fees, return check charges,  
10 disconnect visit charges, etc. Staff removed these charges from revenues  
11 to determine the annual revenues. Staff also calculated the estimated  
12 additional revenues for the increased number of customers. Inclusive of  
13 these adjustments yields estimated revenues of \$626,443.

14 2. Salaries and Wages

15 Staff made an upward adjustment of \$3,871 to salaries and wages-  
16 employees that resulted in total salaries and wages for employees of  
17 \$182,862. To determine employee wages for the 6.5 full time equivalents  
18 (FTE), Staff used the American Water Work Association (AWWA) 2006  
19 Water Utility Compensation Survey and Deschutes County Prevailing  
20 Wages for each employee's occupation, adjusted for years of service. Staff  
21 then averaged the two wages and finally made a downward adjustment for  
22 reasonableness. Although Agate's employees and officer are paid a  
23 monthly salaries, Staff has broken out the hourly rate to highlight the

1 comparison between the Company's current hourly wage, AWWA hourly  
 2 wage, and hourly wages taken from the Oregon Employment Department's  
 3 – Oregon Labor Information System (OLMIS or prevailing wages).

4 **Table 7 – Wage Comparisons**

Employees		Current Hourly Wage	Selected AWWA Compensation	Deschutes OLMIS Wages	Avg of AWWA & OLMIS Wage	Staff Proposed Hourly Wage
Water Operations Manager	Drew Johnson	\$16.76	\$33.51	\$26.83	\$30.17	\$17.33
Admin Services Manager	Lynn Johnson	\$13.87	\$22.69	\$22.01	\$22.35	\$14.34
Intermediate Plant Operator	Brandon Johnson	\$11.56	\$18.74	\$19.52	\$19.13	\$11.95
Office & Administrative Support Worker	Laura Cortes	\$13.64	n/a	\$14.73	\$14.73	\$14.11
Maintenance & Repair Worker General	Greg Carder	\$12.02	\$18.74	\$14.23	\$16.49	\$12.43
Installation, Maintenance & Repair Worker, All Other	Irven Howell	\$8.38	\$16.82	\$15.50	\$16.16	\$8.67
Bookkeeping, Acct & Auditing Clerks	Marybeth Schilling	\$9.25	\$22.70	\$18.57	\$20.64	\$18.50
<b>Officer</b>						
Top Operations & Maint Executive	Fred Schilling	\$26.88	\$48.66	\$63.19	\$55.93	\$53.76

5  
 6 As can be seen from the above tables, wages to all employees of Agate are  
 7 lower than market rates. In addition to lower than market wages, because of  
 8 cash flow, Agate has not been able to provide health and life insurance benefits  
 9 to employees. The result is a considerably low overall wage expense in  
 10 customer rates. Since employees are paid on a monthly basis, no overtime is  
 11 included in the proposed wage expense. It is also important to note that office  
 12 hours and hours worked are not one in the same. Employees are required to  
 13 perform numerous tasks that are outside the scheduled office hours. In  
 14 addition, operators are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

1 Considering these facts, the result is a considerably low overall wage expense  
2 in customer rates.

3 Staff has previously used the OLMIS wages and substantiation of wages  
4 using the AWWA Wage Survey in recent water rate applications including  
5 Long Butte Water System (UW 110), Pete's Mountain (UW 117), and  
6 Sunriver (UW 118).

7 In addition to the employee wages for 6.5 FTE, Agate's 100 percent  
8 shareholder is receiving remuneration as an officer (0.5 FTE). Staff removed  
9 (\$1,450) from the owner'/officer test period salary. Mr. Schilling, as owner of  
10 the Company, is responsible for corporate governance duties. He maintains  
11 the responsibility of ensuring that Agate is a stable company that continues  
12 to provide water service to its customers. Mr. Schilling, in addition to  
13 performing management and operator duties, is accountable to customers  
14 for service delivery; tax, financial, risk, and facilities management;  
15 community and public relations; and regulatory matters. Mr. Schilling's  
16 officer salary affiliate interest agreement, Docket UI 263, is pending before  
17 the Commission.

18 Pursuant to OAR 860-036-0739, Allocation of Costs by a Water Utility, the  
19 amount paid by a utility to an affiliated interest is required to be at cost or the  
20 market rate, whichever is lower. Given the nature of the proposed contract,  
21 between the Company and a majority shareholder, Staff's affiliated interest  
22 review focused on analyzing the market rates since in these cases the terms

1 “market” and “cost” are the same given the uniqueness of the affiliated interest  
2 relationship and its human capital services.

3 To perform these analyses, Staff Analyst Marion Anderson used both the  
4 OLMIS and the American Water Works Association Water Utility Compensation  
5 Survey for a proxy to determine the market rate. As a result of the lower of cost  
6 or market analysis, Staff concluded that the proposed wages to Mr. Shilling are  
7 fair, reasonable, and not contrary to the public interest.

8 It is important to note that the affiliated interest application docketed as  
9 UI 263 satisfies the requirement of Commission Order No. 06-627; however,  
10 the actual determination of wage amounts in rates will be determined in the  
11 Commission’s final order in the matter of UW 119. Staff’s recommended  
12 condition No. 2 in UI 263 specifically states that the Commission reserves the  
13 right to review, for reasonableness, all financial aspects of this transaction in  
14 any rate proceeding or alternative form of regulation. As previously mentioned,  
15 Staff’s Analyst Marion Anderson performed a rigorous review of the UI 263  
16 application.

17 The following table compares overall wages and benefits between the  
18 Commission’s three Class B water utilities in Central Oregon (Agate, Roats,  
19 Crooked River Ranch Water Company<sup>3</sup>) with a similar customer base, that are  
20 not a subsidiary of a parent corporation. Staff did not include Cline Butte Utility,

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<sup>3</sup> Crooked River Ranch Water Company (CRRWC) was brought under the Commission’s regulation pursuant to Commission Order No. 06-642 (WJ 8), dated December 20, 2006. CRRWC has filed its first rate application, docketed as UW 120, on April 23, 2007. Because of the filing date, Staff has not had an opportunity to review CRRWC’s books and records, and as such, has not verified the reported costs with actual costs.

1 which is located in Eagle Crest, because many of the employee functions are  
 2 contracted out to its parent company. Although Staff includes the following  
 3 table as a comparison, a simple comparison of wages among utilities is not a  
 4 sufficient analysis from which to base revenue requirement recommendations.

5 **Table 8 – Class B Water Utilities Wage and Benefit Comparison**

	<b>Agate</b>	<b>Crooked River</b>	<b>Roats</b>
Total Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	7	6.5	6
Wages – Employees	\$182,862	\$343,500	\$116,103
Wages – Officers	\$55,800		\$101,518
Pension & Benefits	\$19,444	\$33,000	\$22,683
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$258,106</b>	<b>\$376,500</b>	<b>\$240,304</b>
Employee Expense per Revenue	\$0.41	\$0.50	\$0.30
Total Operating Expense per Customer per Year	\$356	\$427	\$457

6  
 7 Although Agate’s wages are slightly higher than Roats Water Company,  
 8 they are lower than Crooked River Ranch Water Company, as Table 8  
 9 indicates. Agate’s overall operating expense per customer per year is lower  
 10 than both Roats Water Company and Crooked River Ranch Water Company.

11 Staff also believes Intervenor Tim Kelly’s comparison to Connecticut Water  
 12 Services (Connecticut) is irrelevant. As a result of economies of scale, it is  
 13 reasonable to expect a declining employee to customer ratio as companies

1 become larger. However, it is interesting to note that the pay of  
2 Connecticut's five executives is almost five times the amount of Agate's  
3 entire payroll. Because it is important to use comparative companies when  
4 making a comparison,<sup>4</sup> Staff believes that the comparisons of Agate to  
5 Roats and Crooked River Ranch Water Company are more relevant. As  
6 previously mentioned, a simple comparison of wages among utilities is not a  
7 sufficient analysis from which to base revenue requirement recommendations.

### 8 3. Purchased Power

9 Staff's upward adjustment of \$9,799 to power expense represents total 2006  
10 annual power costs of \$51,162. Staff determined the amount using 2006 actual  
11 power invoices. Staff then applied PacifiCorp's percentage increase, approved  
12 by the Commission in Order No. 06-564 (UE 179), effective in 2007, to the  
13 appropriate rate schedules. The total power expense is the combination of  
14 2006 actual power costs adjusted for PacifiCorp's rate increase.

### 15 4. Materials and Supplies

16 Staff's upward adjustment of \$4,369 to materials and supplies represents a  
17 total annual expense of \$7,458. The total annual expense is a three-year  
18 average of actual costs. Staff determined the amount using actual  
19 documentation for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006.

### 20 5. Testing

21 Staff's downward adjustment of (\$2,300) to testing represents a total annual  
22 expense of \$5,000. Staff used the expertise of Umpqua Research Company to

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<sup>4</sup> Staff did not consider the other companies presented by Mr. Kelley, since they are not water utilities and are not comparative companies.

1 project Agate's testing cost over a three-year testing cycle (2007, 2008, and  
2 2009). Staff then averaged the three years to determine the total actual annual  
3 expense of \$4,993, rounded up to \$5,000 annually.

4 6. Transportation Expense

5 Staff's upward adjustment of \$2,924 represents a total annual expense of  
6 \$17,128. To determine this amount, Staff used actual (adjusted) documented  
7 costs for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006. Staff then averaged the three years  
8 to determine the annual expense.

9 7. Vehicle Insurance Expense

10 Staff downward adjustment of (\$1,262) to vehicle insurance expense  
11 represents the actual annual cost of \$2,080 for vehicle insurance expense.  
12 Since the last rate case, Agate no longer uses or insures the following vehicles:  
13 1966 GMC Pickup w/Compressor, 1991 Ford F250, and 1965 Ford Dump  
14 Truck.

15 8. General Liability Insurance

16 Staff's upward adjustment to general liability insurance of \$984 represents an  
17 annual expense of \$3,188. Staff used the actual insurance policy premium  
18 invoice to document the cost.

19 9. Amortization of Rate Case Expense

20 Staff's downward adjustment of (\$200) represents a disallowance of any rate  
21 case expenses. The work associated with the rate case is embedded in the  
22 normal day to day expenses of the Company.



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10. Bad Debt Expense

Staff's upward adjustment of \$2,189 represents the annual bad debt expense. Staff used four years of actual bad debt expense, minus collection, to determine a four-year average annual expense. The Company inadvertently did not include this expense in its application, but the expense does exist and is documented.

11. Training and Certification

Staff's downward adjustment of (\$475) to training and certification expense represents an annual expense of \$1,280. Staff determined this amount from actual training invoices and receipts. Staff removed \$135 for Company discounts and reimbursements.

12. Miscellaneous Expense

Staff's downward adjustment of (\$1,671) to miscellaneous expense represents an annual expense of \$2,320. The miscellaneous expense is made up of dues and subscriptions, the One Call Program, and bank charges. Staff used actual documented costs for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006. Staff then averaged the three years to determine the total annual expense.

13. Depreciation Expense

Staff's upward adjustment of \$78,811 to depreciation expense represents a total annual depreciation expense of \$132,655. Each year Agate is entitled to a depreciation expense on all utility plant in service (in this case from 2002 forward) for wear and tear on the property. *Each year's depreciation expense*

1 *is then added together to determine the accumulated depreciation. The*  
2 *accumulated depreciation is then deducted from utility plant and Agate's rate*  
3 *base.*

4 14. Property Tax

5 Staff's upward adjustment of \$35,514 to property tax represents an annual  
6 expense of \$49,941. Staff used the Company's 2006-2007 property tax  
7 statement to determine the annual expense. Adding \$3.5 million in  
8 infrastructure resulted in a higher property value, thus the taxes on the property  
9 increased. The property taxes for the office building are not included in this  
10 amount. The office building is leased from the Johnsons, and the Johnsons,  
11 and not Agate, are responsible for these taxes.

12 **Q. STAFF MENTIONED THE AFFILIATED INTEREST CONTRACT**  
13 **REGARDING MR. SHILLING'S WAGE. DOES AGATE HAVE ANY OTHER**  
14 **AFFILIATED INTEREST (AI) CONTRACTS?**

15 A. Yes, Agate has an approved AI contract for rental of the office building. The  
16 office building is rented from Lynn and Drew Johnson. Lynn Johnson is the  
17 daughter of the owner, Mr. Shilling.

18 On March 30, 2005, the Company filed an affiliated interest application  
19 under ORS 757.015, 757.495, and OAR 860-036-0730 for rental of a  
20 1,100 square foot office facility with outbuildings for equipment, work area,  
21 and storage of 720 square feet for \$1,000 per month.

22 Staff Analyst Marion Anderson investigated the application and determined  
23 compliance with the lower of cost or market by contacting five Bend commercial

1 property management companies for square footage cost quotes. The  
2 estimations resulted in charges higher than Agate's request for \$1,000 rent per  
3 month. The AI contract was approved in Order No. 05-204, entered  
4 April 29, 2005. The rental amount for the office was maintained at \$1,000 per  
5 month in the application.

6 However, an additional rental expense of \$300 per month was included in  
7 the application for the lease payments of the property that the reservoir tank is  
8 located on. The property is leased from a third party and did not require an  
9 affiliated interest application.

10 **Q. PLEASE GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF ADJUSTMENTS TO EXPENSE**  
11 **INVOICES IN WHICH YOU REMOVED A PORTION OF THE EXPENSE.**

12 A. As previously mentioned Staff adjusted expenses to remove non-utility items,  
13 (including 50 percent of beverages bought on the same invoice), normalized,  
14 amortized, corrected accounts, capitalized, and other expense adjustments,  
15 including, but not limited to: removing duplicate charges, late fees, interest on  
16 suppliers' accounts, company credits, company returns, and customers'  
17 backflow prevention devices for each invoice/receipt for each year. The  
18 following are samples of Agate's expenses where Staff adjusted individual  
19 items:

20 1. Office Supplies

21 **Table 9 – Office Supplies**

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total Invoices/Receipts	\$4,205	\$1,602	\$3,526
Total Adjustment	(\$2,803)	(\$239)	(\$2,110)

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2. Materials and Supplies

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**Table 10 – Materials and Supplies**

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total Invoices/Receipts	\$11,820	\$12,331	\$13,843
Total Adjustment	(\$875)	(\$6,942)	(\$7,666)

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3. (Outside) Labor Expense

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**Table 11 – Outside Labor Expense**

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total Invoices/Receipts	\$3,194	\$6,845	\$11,682
Total Adjustment	(\$2,649)	(\$3,883)	(\$1,750)

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4. Computer/Electronic Expense

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**Table 12 – Computer/Electronic Expense**

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total Invoices/Receipts	\$671	\$455	\$1,431	\$1,677
Total Adjustment	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$850)	(\$928)

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5. Transportation

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**Table 13 – Transportation Expense**

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total Invoices/Receipts	\$18,886	\$20,317	\$18,026
Total Adjustment	(\$5,350)	(\$643)	(\$2,563)

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6. Training

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**Table 14 – Training Expense**

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total Invoices/Receipts	\$1,452	\$0	\$1,415
Total Adjustment	(\$260)	(\$0)	(\$135)

21

1 As can be seen from the above adjustments, Staff was extremely thorough  
2 in its review of operating expenses.

3 **Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN STAFF'S ADJUSTMENTS TO PLANT AND RATE**  
4 **BASE.**

5 A. Agate's original utility plant, constructed in 1981, was financed by the SDCs  
6 paid by the customers prior to regulation (1999). The SDC payments would  
7 have been booked as Contributions in Aid of Construction (CIAC) if the  
8 Company had been regulated. Staff determined in UW 108 that the net effect  
9 of the SDCs would result in a negative rate base.

10 In UW 119, Staff has included only the plant in service from 2002 to date in  
11 Agate's utility plant. Since the construction of the new project commenced in  
12 2002, Staff believes starting with 2002 plant is reasonable. Staff adjustments  
13 to plant are:

14 Utility Plant

15 Staff's upward adjustment of \$266,170 to utility plant represents a total utility  
16 plant of \$3,751,767.

17 Depreciation Reserve or Accumulated Depreciation

18 Staff's upward adjustment of \$270,799 represents a 2007 total accumulated  
19 depreciation of 366,852. Although the adjustment appears to be an upward  
20 adjustment, it is a deduction from utility plant and represents all depreciation  
21 taken on plant from 2002 through 2007. A larger depreciation reserve results  
22 in a lower rate base, which results in lower net income.

23 Contributions in Aid of Construction (CIAC)

1 Staff upward adjustment of \$250,000 to CIAC is also a deduction to utility plant  
2 and represents the \$250,000 loan forgiveness given to Agate from the Oregon  
3 Economic and Community Development Department and the Drinking Water  
4 Program as part of its loan from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan  
5 Fund. It is deducted to ensure that the customers do not pay for plant that was  
6 gifted to the Company at no cost. See Agate's Plant and Depreciation  
7 Schedule, Staff/101, Miller-Dougherty/7-10.

8 Staff added \$20,034 in inventory and \$32,618 in working cash to Agate's  
9 net plant resulting in a proposed rate base of \$3,167,533.

10 **Q. HOW DID YOU DETERMINE A 1 PERCENT RATE OF RETURN ON RATE**  
11 **BASE?**

12 A. Agate's cost of debt is one percent. The Company is 100 percent debt.  
13 Applying percent return on Staff's proposed rate base of \$3,167,533 results in  
14 \$31,675 net income. While other utilities are generally allowed between 9.5 to  
15 10.4 percent on rate base, Agate's financing is through an EPA/State 1 percent  
16 loan. Therefore, Staff recommended, and the Company agreed to, a 1 percent  
17 rate of return. Agate's proposed return of \$31,675 provides Agate with funds to  
18 cover the annual interest payment on its loan. The Company understands that  
19 it has only a small annual revenue "buffer" in its net operating income should  
20 Agate realize the revenues in Staff's proposal. Agate has agreed to take the  
21 financial risk in order to keep rates as low as possible.

1 **Q. ALTHOUGH THE RATE DESIGN SOFTENS THE RATE IMPACT ON**  
2 **AVERAGE AND LOW USERS, IS IT TRUE THAT LARGE USERS WILL**  
3 **SEE RATE INCREASES AS HIGH AS 38.99 PERCENT.**

4 A. Yes, depending on how much water is used per month. However, all  
5 customers control the amount of water they use and can take actions to  
6 conserve water and reduce consumption to maintain lower monthly bills.

7 **Q. WHERE DOES THE PRINCIPAL PAYMENT FOR THE LOAN COME**  
8 **FROM?**

9 A. The principal payment for Agate's loan comes from the depreciation expense.  
10 Staff aligned the Company's depreciation expense by using a shortened  
11 service life for some plant to match the expense with the payment stream on  
12 the loan.

13 **Q. PLEASE SUM UP THE DIFFERENCE IN THE COMPANY'S RESULT OF**  
14 **OPERATIONS AND STAFF'S RESULT OF OPERATIONS?**

15 A. The best way to summarize the difference between the Company's proposed  
16 case and Staff's proposed case is to use a table.

17 **Table 15 – Comparison of Agate's and Staff's Proposed Results of**  
18 **Operations**

	<b>Results of Operations</b>	
	<u>Company Case</u>	<u>Staff Case</u>
Proposed percentage increase	45.60%	19.07%
Proposed increase in dollars	\$202,800	\$100,324
Proposed annual revenues	\$646,732	\$626,443
Proposed rate of return	1.75%	1.00%
Proposed rate base	\$3,420,714 (corrected)	\$3,167,532

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**Proposed Rates**

Proposed Base Rate for SDC customers	\$27.04	\$26.63
Proposed Base Rate for NON-SDC customers	\$34.68	\$34.27
Proposed tier 1 variable rate	\$1.04	\$1.00
Proposed tier 2 variable rate	\$2.75	\$2.56

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**DISCUSSION OF INTERVENOR TESTIMONY**

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**Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE COMPANY SHOULD STAY OUT OF A  
RATE CASE AND ALLOW MORE TIME TO DETERMINE IF THE  
CURRENT RATES ARE SUFFICIENT TO MEET ITS CURRENT  
OPERATING EXPENSES AND OTHER REVENUE DEDUCTIONS?**

10

A. The decision to request a rate increase solely rests upon the Company;  
however, based on a review of Agate's financial records, it does not appear  
that the current rates will result in sufficient revenue to cover Agate's current  
and future obligations.

14

As an illustration, Staff has included the following table that only focuses on  
net income (to pay interest expense) and depreciation expense (to pay loan  
principal) and highlights the financial strain the Company is currently  
experiencing. Staff used a four-year review since customers requested that  
Staff average out expenses over a three- to four-year time period. Please note  
that negatives (losses) are annotated in parenthesis. All data is taken from the  
Company's federal income tax returns.

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**Table 16 – Comparison of Company’s Income and Depreciation Expense for the Previous Four Years and Current Loan Obligations**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	Need Based on SDWRLF <sup>5</sup>
Net Income	(\$53,255)	(\$22,769)	\$11,897	\$51,133	\$31,485
Depreciation Expense	\$42,794	\$40,247	\$33,108	\$26,536	\$100,064
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$8,458)</b>	<b>\$19,482</b>	<b>\$47,010</b>	<b>\$79,675</b>	<b>\$131,549</b>
4-Year average Net Income	(\$12,904)				
4-Year average Depreciation Expense	\$35,671				
<b>4-Year average Total</b>	<b>\$22,767</b>				

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As the above table illustrates, the 2006 total return on and of plant was only approximately 61 percent of the funds the Company needs to recover in order to make payments on the SDWSRLF loan. The four-year average of total payments shows a bleaker picture, it is only 17 percent of what is needed for annual loan payments.

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Although Staff is illustrating a four-year average of loan payments, the actual 2006 payment was set at \$172,390. As the amounts for 2006 indicate, the Company did not recover enough revenue to make this payment. This inability to recover enough to make the loan payment is partially attributed to the current low first tier rate of \$0.68 and customer consumption patterns.

<sup>5</sup> The SDWSRLF interest and principal payments are a four-average (2007 – 2010). Payment information was taken from information provided by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

1 Without some type of change to the rate design including an increase in first tier  
2 rate, it is highly unlikely that Agate will recover enough revenue to make its loan  
3 payment. The inability to service its loan would be detrimental to both the  
4 Company and customers.

5 **Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE LOAN PAYMENT TO OREGON**  
6 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT?**

7 A. According to Mr. Solt at OECDD, Agate is behind in its 2006 loan payment.  
8 OECDD is working with the Company on the loan schedule and payments. At  
9 this time, no amendment to the schedule of payments has been made for the  
10 2006 payment. In discussions with Mr. Solt, he is concerned that Agate's  
11 return on and of the investment will generate sufficient funds to cover the loan  
12 payments.

13 **Q. REVIEWING STAFF/101, MILLER-DOUGHERTY/1, IT APPEARS THAT**  
14 **DEPRECIATION EXPENSE AND NET INCOME IS LESS THAN THE 2006**  
15 **PAYMENT. PLEASE EXPLAIN.**

16 A. The combined depreciation expense and net income equals \$164,330. This is  
17 \$8,360 less than the 2006 payment, but \$18,640 above the three-year average  
18 payment of \$145,690. The recommended rate design is only projected to  
19 recover 80 percent of the required revenue in the base rate and first tier  
20 consumption rate. As a result, if Agate only recovers 80 percent of required  
21 revenue, the Company will earn a return on and recovery of its investment of  
22 \$131,464, which is approximately equal to the annual loan payment of  
23 \$131,550.

1 As a result of Staff's rate design, the low 1 percent rate of return assigned to  
2 the Company, and customer consumption patterns, Agate will continue to be at  
3 risk of insufficient earnings if customer usage is low due to conservation or if  
4 rainfall is greater than average.

5 **Q. TABLE 16 INDICATES THAT THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE**  
6 **COMPANY HAS IMPROVED OVER THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD. IS**  
7 **THERE A RISK OF THE COMPANY OVER EARNING?**

8 A. Over earning is a possibility; however, because of the low rate of return, Staff's  
9 rigorous review of expenses, and recommended rate design, Staff believes that  
10 the opportunity for the Company to over earn is low.

11 **Q. BECAUSE CUSTOMERS ARE CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY**  
12 **THAT THE COMPANY COULD OVER EARN, WHAT PROCESSES ARE IN**  
13 **PLACE TO ENSURE CUSTOMERS ARE NOT PAYING MORE IN RATES**  
14 **THAN THE COST OF SERVICE INDICATES?**

15 A. The Commission re-initiated an audit function several years ago, which has  
16 conducted approximately 40 energy utility audits and three water utility audits in  
17 the past four years. These audits included an operational audit of Cascade  
18 Natural Gas that led to a show cause of Cascade (UG 173) due to over  
19 earning. These audits incorporate thorough examinations of a utility's books  
20 and records. Additionally, Staff examines the annual reports of all water  
21 utilities, including a review of the actual rate of return.

22 As a result of previous audits, and the Commission's statutes and rules,  
23 Staff has confidence that Commission Staff would be able to adequately review

1 all information concerning Agate's earnings, earning trends, and operations.

2 Table 16 indicates that Agate has consistently under earned over the past  
3 few years. This is true for the vast majority of water utilities.

4 **Q. CAN YOU ADDRESS INTERVENOR TIM KELLY'S REFERENCE OF THE**  
5 **COMMISSION'S FOSTERING THE USE OF COMPETITIVE MARKETS?**

6 A. Yes. Mr. Kelly is correct about the Commission's mission statement about  
7 fostering the use of competitive markets; however, this statement refers to  
8 Direct Access Regulation (ORS 757.600 – 691) concerning electricity and is  
9 not relevant to water utilities.

10 Agate's exclusive service territory was approved in WA 39, Commission  
11 Order No. 02-848 and WA 38, Commission Order No. 02-847 (Apache). As  
12 such no other water utility can serve in the exclusive territory of Agate.

13 The filings of exclusive territory make complete sense since water is  
14 delivered through transmission and distribution piping. If another company  
15 desired to serve in Agate's service territory, duplicate and unnecessary piping  
16 would be required to be placed in rights of way. Additionally, any Company that  
17 would want to serve this area would have to make a similar intensive capital  
18 investment as Agate has been required to do.

19 On July 14, 1999, Governor Kitzhaber signed into law Chapter 695, OR  
20 Laws 1999 (SB 712) to become effective October 23, 1999, a law that required  
21 all public water utilities to apply to the Commission for an exclusive service  
22 territory allocation by February 22, 2000. At the time Agate applied for a

1 service territory, it was required. Since that time, the law has been changed  
2 from mandatory to voluntary.

3 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 1**  
4 **REGARDING THE 2005 TEST YEAR.**

5 A. The Company filed a 2005 test year; however, as previously mentioned, 2005  
6 did not represent a normal year for Agate. Therefore, Staff used a three- to  
7 four-year review, where appropriate, which resulted in a more normalized and  
8 reliable picture of Agate's financial status.

9 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 2**  
10 **REGARDING HOOK UP FEES REVENUE.**

11 A. Staff does not include hook up fees in the ratemaking process. Rates are  
12 based on water sales. Hook up fees are set to approximately cover the cost of  
13 the connection. The expenses (material and labor) for hook ups are considered  
14 CIAC and are not included in Agate's rate base. Including revenue from hook  
15 ups, but excluding expenses of hook ups would be a violation of Generally  
16 Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) matching principle.

17 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 4**  
18 **REGARDING THE SCHEDULE OF LOAN PAYMENTS TO THE SDWSRLF.**

19 A. Per OEDCC, Agate's current schedule of loan payments is shown in Staff/101,  
20 Miller-Dougherty/13-14. This should answer any questions regarding the  
21 amount of the payments on the SDWSRLF loan.

1 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 5**  
2 **REGARDING THE BASE RATE LISTED IN THE COMPANY'S**  
3 **APPLICATION.**

4 A. Agate's application is a statement of the Company's finances during the test  
5 year and what the Company proposes for the near future. It may or may not be  
6 correct; however, it is not the final result. In its case, Staff has taken what the  
7 Company stated in its application and made adjustments. The final results are  
8 Staff's rate proposal.

9 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 6**  
10 **REGARDING TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE FOR FRED AND BETH**  
11 **SCHILLING.**

12 A. Staff's proposed transportation expense represents transportation adjusted  
13 costs. Staff adjusted the expenses and removed any fuel purchased out of the  
14 Bend area.

15 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 8**  
16 **REGARDING VARIOUS EXPENSES.**

17 A. Mr. Riser questions various expenses in the Company's application. Listed  
18 below are the specific expenses Mr. Riser is concerned with. The first four  
19 columns in Table 17 shows the expense category, the Company's test year  
20 expense, the additional funds requested by the Company in its application, and  
21 the total Company requested expense.

22 Staff also questioned these expenses. The last column shows Staff's  
23 recommended adjusted expenses.

1 **Table 17 – Expenses**

Expenses	Company Test Year	Company Add'l Request	Total Company Request	Staff per its Rate Proposal
Engineering	0	81,000	81,000	0
Legal	88	1,000	1,088	745
Testing	7,300	8,225	15,525	5,000
Miscellaneous	3,991	98,579	102,570	2,320

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3 As can be seen from the above table, Staff thoroughly reviewed these  
4 expenses, and made major adjustments to these expenses.

5 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 10**  
6 **REGARDING THE LATE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE OF**  
7 **JULY 3, 2006, AND ITS RELEVANCE TO ORS 757.355(2).**

8 A. ORS 757.355 states (emphasis added):

9 Costs of property not presently providing utility service  
10 excluded from rate base; exception. (1) Except as provided in  
11 subsection (2) of this section, a public utility may not, directly or  
12 indirectly, by any device, charge, demand, collect or receive from  
13 any customer rates that include the costs of construction, building,  
14 installation or real or personal property not presently used for  
15 providing utility service to the customer.

16 **(2) The Public Utility Commission may allow rates for a**  
17 **water utility that include the costs of a specific capital**  
18 **improvement if the water utility is required to use the**  
19 **additional revenues solely for the purpose of completing the**  
20 **capital improvement.**

21  
22 In 2003, the Legislature allowed the ratemaking principle of Construction  
23 Work in Progress (CWIP) exclusively to water utilities. The application of CWIP  
24 is that utility plant that is in progress of construction may be included in rate  
25 base upon Commission approval.

26 In UW 108, Staff allowed CWIP that was scheduled to be completed in six  
27 months into rates. Timely construction is subject to many delays and lingering

1 items are not unusual. The law does not specify any specific time line by which  
2 the CWIP must be completed in order to include it in rates. As previously  
3 mentioned, in UW 108, Staff also withheld utility plant that was not used and  
4 useful.

5 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 13**  
6 **REGARDING INCOMPLETE REPORTING.**

7 A. Generally, water utility applications and documentation are not as good or  
8 accurate as the Commission would like. This does not deter Staff from  
9 performing a rigorous review of revenues and expenses. Staff thoroughly  
10 researches missing information. Whenever available, Staff uses actual  
11 documentation to determine its recommendation. At times, Staff must use its  
12 judgment and estimate the monthly expenses based on the previous balance  
13 due, the monthly expense prior to and after the missing documents, or an  
14 amount based on a reasonable basis.

15 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S ITEM NO. 14**  
16 **REGARDING COMPARISON OF RATES WITH OTHER COMPANIES.**

17 A. The most relevant comparison would be between companies that are  
18 approximately the same size and in the same geological area. However,  
19 making comparisons between water utilities can be misleading. No two  
20 companies are the same. A specific comparison cannot be made. Not only  
21 would the companies need to have the same number of customers and be in  
22 the same geographical area, both companies would have to have (but not  
23 limited to) the same number of wells, reservoirs, pumps, pipes, topography,



1 gravitational flow, water capacity, distance to transmit and deliver the water,  
2 and employees.

3 **Q. PLEASE ADDRESS INTERVENOR LAWRENCE RISER'S CONCLUSION**  
4 **TO HIS TESTIMONY REGARDING HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT THE**  
5 **COMMISSION APPOINT A REGENT TO OPERATE AND MANAGE THE**  
6 **SYSTEM PURSUANT TO OAR 860-036-0365.**

7 A. OAR 860-036-0365 states (emphasis added):

8 **Compliance Enforcement by Commission Appointment of**  
9 **Regent(s) to Operate and Manage a Water System**

10 (1) In **extreme circumstances** when the water utility owner,  
11 operator, or representative demonstrates to the Commission's  
12 satisfaction an **unwillingness or incapacity or refusal to**  
13 **effectively operate and manage the water system to provide**  
14 **safe and adequate service to its customers** in compliance with  
15 Oregon statutes, rules, and standards, the Commission may  
16 appoint a regent(s) to operate and manage the water system.  
17 This procedure will be accomplished under an Interim Operating  
18 Agreement until long-term water provision can be ensured.

19 (2) The regent(s) appointed to operate, maintain, and repair the  
20 system must be a certified operator(s) or a qualified water  
21 utility(ies).

22 (3) The appointment of the regent(s) may also include  
23 responsibility for billing and collection, customer service, and  
24 administration of the system.

25 (4) If the Commission authorizes an operating account for  
26 receiving and dispersing funds by the regent(s), a Commission  
27 staff member will be a signator on such account to monitor all  
28 transactions.

29 (5) The regent will record all transactions in a general ledger and  
30 shall supply a copy of the ledger and bank statement to  
31 Commission staff member each month.

32 (6) At the end of the Interim Operating Agreement, Commission  
33 staff will make a final accounting of all monies received and  
34 transacted. Disbursement of surplus funds will be determined by  
35 the Commission.  
36

1           The specific purpose of the rule above is to provide a recourse the  
2 Commission may use should a company exhibit egregious behavior, such as  
3 refusal to operate the system. The Commission has used this remedy only  
4 once. In that situation, the owner of the system notified the customers not to  
5 call him about any problems because he would do nothing about it. Basically,  
6 the owner walked away from the responsibility of the system, while still claiming  
7 financial benefits.

8           Agate demonstrates no such egregious behavior. It is willing and able to  
9 operate and manage the water system to provide safe and adequate service to  
10 its customers in compliance with Oregon statutes, rules, and standards. As  
11 previously mentioned, the Commission's Consumer Services Section received  
12 eight service complaints from March to December 2005, four service  
13 complaints in 2006, and only one service complaints in 2007 so far. The low  
14 number of complaints, considering the customer count of 1,116, shows a strong  
15 commitment to service by the Company.

16 **Q. BECAUSE OF CUSTOMER CONCERNS, SHOULD STAFF EXTEND THE**  
17 **PROFIT PERIOD OF AGATE PER INTERVENOR TIM KELLY'S**  
18 **TESTIMONY?**

19 A. No. Staff does not have this authority. Because there was no stay out  
20 provision in UW 108, the Company is allowed to file a rate application  
21 whenever the Company believes it is necessary. As previously mentioned,  
22 Staff performed a complete, thorough, and independent review of the  
23 Company's rate application. As a result of Staff's rigorous review, the

1 requested percent revenue increase was reduced from 45.68 percent to  
2 19.07 percent and overall revenue requirement was reduced by \$20,000.

3 Please see Table 15.

4 **Q. DID STAFF MAINTAIN A NEUTRAL STANCE DURING THE REVIEW AND**  
5 **SETTLEMENT PROCESS?**

6 A. Yes. Staff has provided an independent, expert analysis, and has made  
7 recommendations to the Commission based on this analysis. As required,  
8 Staff critically examined all pertinent positions and facts presented by Agate  
9 and all parties. Unfortunately, the interveners did not present any specific  
10 information for Staff to consider during discovery or at the settlement  
11 conference. It is only now, through testimony, the interveners are bringing  
12 issues to Staff.

13 Staff continues to review its proposal even after the settlement conference.  
14 Staff found two minor errors that it did not previously catch. Staff has corrected  
15 the errors, which are reflected in Staff's proposal in this testimony. However,  
16 the changes Staff made did not have any effect on the proposed rates. The  
17 Company has agreed with Staff's changes and they are reflected in the  
18 Stipulation.

19 **STIPULATED RESULTS**

20 **Q. WHAT ARE THE STIPULATED RESULTS OF UW 119?**

21 A. The Stipulation is made up of Staff's recommended revenue requirement and  
22 rates, as shown in the Company tariffs, attached to the Stipulation. Staff and

1 the Company stipulated to total annual revenues of \$626,443 and the following  
2 rates:

3 **Table 18 – Stipulated Rates**

	<b>Did Not Pay SDC Base Rate</b>	<b>SDC Paid Base Rate</b>	<b>1-2000 cf Tier 1 Rate per 100 cf</b>	<b>2001 &amp; Above Tier 2 Rate per 100 cf</b>
<b>Stipulated Rates</b>	<b>\$34.27</b>	<b>\$26.63</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>\$2.56</b>

4  
5 **Q. ARE THE NEW RATES JUST AND REASONABLE?**

6 A. Yes. Based on Staff's thorough investigation and documentation, the  
7 stipulated revenue requirement and rates are just and reasonable. As a  
8 result, the Commission should adopt the Stipulation. Despite the many  
9 claims made by interveners, the stipulated revenue requirement is based on  
10 actual, examined data. The review was done at the invoice level. As  
11 previously mentioned on several occasions, the Company is still at risk of  
12 not recovering the required revenue to make its loan payments. A rejection  
13 of the stipulation would increase this risk and have a possible detrimental  
14 result for both the Company and customers.

15 **Q. DID ALL PARTIES STIPULATE TO STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS?**

16 A. No. Only the Company and Staff stipulated to Staff's proposal. The seven  
17 interveners in the case have not expressed support to the stipulation.

18 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE STAFF DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

19 A. Yes.

CASE: UW 119  
WITNESS: K. Miller/M. Dougherty

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF  
OREGON**

**STAFF EXHIBIT 101**

**Exhibits  
In  
Support of Direct Testimony**

**April 30, 2007**

Agate Water Company  
Rate Application UW 119  
Test Year: 2005

Company Case  
45.68%

Staff Case  
19.07%

UW 108 564,710  
UW 119 626,443  
% Above UW108 10.9%  
CPI 9.3%

Acct. No.		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
		Balance Per Application Test Year: 2005	Proposed Company Adjustments	Adjusted Results (A+B=C)	Interest Expense Tax Affect	Proposed Staff Adjustments	Adjusted Results (A+D=E)	Staff Proposed Rev Changes	Proposed Results (E+F=G)
<b>REVENUES</b>									
1	461.1	Residential Water Sales	443,932	202,800	646,732	82,187	526,119	100,323	626,442
2	461.2	Commercial Water Sales			0	0	0	0	0
3	462.1	Public Fire Protection			0	0	0	0	0
4	462.2	Private Fire Protection			0	0	0	0	0
5	471	Misc. Revenues			0	0	0	0	0
6		Special Contracts			0	0	0	0	0
7		<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>443,932</b>	<b>202,800</b>	<b>646,732</b>	<b>82,187</b>	<b>526,119</b>	<b>100,323</b>	<b>626,442</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>									
10	601	Salaries and Wages - Employees	178,991	3,579	182,570	3,871	182,862		182,862
11	603	Salaries and Wages - Officers	57,250		57,250	(1,450)	55,800		55,800
12	604	Employee Pension & Benefits	19,464		19,464	0	19,464		19,464
13	610	Purchased Water	0		0	0	0		0
14	611	Telephone/Communications	4,591		4,591	(266)	4,325		4,325
15	615	Purchased Power	41,363	2,068	43,431	9,799	51,162		51,162
16	618	Chemical / Treatment Expense	0		0	0	0		0
17	619	Office Supplies	1,357	24	1,381	36	1,393		1,393
18	619.1	Postage	7,028	380	7,408	(1,080)	5,948		5,948
19	620	Materials/Supplies	3,089		3,089	4,369	7,458		7,458
20	621	Repairs to Water Plant	696		696	968	1,664		1,664
21	631	Contract Svcs - Engineering	0	81,000	81,000	0	0		0
22	632	Contract Svcs - Accounting	1,000		1,000	(150)	850		850
23	633	Contract Svcs - Legal	88	1,000	1,088	657	745		745
24	634	Contract Svcs - Management Fees	0		0	0	0		0
25	635	Contract Svcs - Testing	7,300	8,225	15,525	(2,300)	5,000		5,000
26	636	Contract Svcs - Labor	3,793		3,793	403	4,196		4,196
27	637	Contract Svcs - Billing/Collection	0		0	0	0		0
28	638	Contract Svcs - Meter Reading	0		0	0	0		0
29	639	Contract Svcs - Other (Repairs)	0		0	0	0		0
30	641	Rental of Building/Real Property	15,600		15,600	0	15,600		15,600
31	642	Rental of Equipment	0		0	0	0		0
32	643	Small Tools	334		334	83	417		417
33	648	Computer/Electronic Expenses	746		746	(17)	729		729
34	650	Transportation	14,204		14,204	2,924	17,128		17,128
35	656	Vehicle Insurance	3,342		3,342	(1,262)	2,080		2,080
36	657	General Liability Insurance	2,204		2,204	984	3,188		3,188
37	658	Workers' Comp Insurance	4,347	217	4,564	(505)	3,842		3,842
38	659	Insurance - Other	0		0	0	0		0
39	660	Public Relations/Advertising	0		0	0	0		0
40	666	Amortz. of Rate Case	200		200	(200)	0		0
41	667	Gross Revenue Fee (PUC)	1,110	507	1,617	205	1,315	252	1,568
42	668	Water Resource Conservation	0		0	0	0		0
43	670	Bad Debt Expense	0		0	2,189	2,189		2,189
44	671	Cross Connection Control Program	0		0	0	0		0
45	672	System Capacity Dev Program	0		0	0	0		0
46	673	Training and Certification	1,755		1,755	(475)	1,280		1,280
47	674	Consumer Confidence Report	200		200	0	200		200
48	675	General Expense	3,991		3,991	(1,671)	2,320		2,320
48a	675		0		0	0	0		0
49		<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>374,043</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>471,043</b>	<b>17,112</b>	<b>391,155</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>391,407</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE DEDUCTIONS</b>									
50	403	Depreciation Expense	53,844		53,844	78,811	132,655		132,655
51	407	Amortization Expense	0		0	0	0		0
52	408.11	Property Tax	14,427		14,427	35,514	49,941		49,941
53	408.12	Payroll Tax	10,818		10,818	7,228	18,046		18,046
54	408.13	Other	0		0	0	0		0
55	409.11	Oregon Income Tax	10	4,725	4,735	(3,560)	(5,727)	6,605	878
56	409.10	Federal Income Tax	0	10,030	10,030	(4,620)	(7,558)	14,020	1,843
57		<b>TOTAL REVENUE DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>453,142</b>	<b>111,755</b>	<b>564,897</b>	<b>127,546</b>	<b>573,892</b>	<b>20,877</b>	<b>594,769</b>
58		<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>(9,210)</b>	<b>91,045</b>	<b>81,835</b>	<b>6,796</b>	<b>(45,359)</b>	<b>79,448</b>	<b>31,675</b>
59	101	Utility Plant in Service	3,485,597		3,485,597	266,170	3,751,767		3,751,767
60		Less:							
61	108.1	Depreciation Reserve	96,053		96,053	270,799	366,852		366,852
62	271	Contributions in Aid of Const	0		0	250,000	250,000		250,000
63	272	Amortization of CIAC	0		0	0	0		0
64	281	Accumulated Deferred Income Tax	0		0	0	0		0
65		Net Utility Plant	3,389,544	0	3,389,544	(254,629)	3,134,915	0	3,134,915
66		Plus: (working capital)			3,389,544		3,134,915		3,134,915
67	151	Materials and Supplies Inventory	0		0	20,034	20,034		20,034
68		Working Cash (Total Op Exp /12)	31,170		31,170	1,426	32,596	21	32,617
69		<b>TOTAL RATE BASE</b>	<b>3,420,714</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,420,714</b>	<b>(253,203)</b>	<b>3,167,511</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3,167,532</b>
70		Rate of Return	-0.27%		2.39%		-1.51%		1.00%

\$100,881  
man input j col

594,769  
31,674

cash flow \$164,330  
op exp/cuct/year \$356

2006 Payment 172,690  
2007 Payment 131,550  
3-Yr ave. payment 145,690  
2007 Interest 32,974

Return on & of recover 164,330  
over 3-yr ave 18,640  
over 2007 payment 32,780  
under 2006 (8,360)

**Agate Water Company**  
**Rate Application UW 119**  
**SUMMARY OF ADJUSTMENTS**

**Staff/101**  
**Miller-Dougherty/2**

				<b>Company Adjustments to Rev Req Column</b>	<b>Brief Explanation of Staff Adjustments</b>
		<b>REVENUES</b>			
1	461	Residential Water Sales		82,187	Adjusted to reflect actual income 2006 plus revenue from additional customers
2	461	Commercial Water Sales		0	
3	465	Public Fire Protection		0	
4	462	Private Fire Protection		0	
5	471	Misc. Revenues		0	
6		Special Contracts		0	83040
7		<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>82,187</b>	
8					
9		<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
10	601	Salaries and Wages - Employees		3,871	Adjust employee wages
11	603	Salaries and Wages - Officers		(1,450)	Adjust officer wage
12	604	Employee Pension & Benefits		0	No adjustment; Yvonne Katter Pension
13	610	Purchased Water			
14	611	Telephone/Communications		(266)	3-year average of Communications Expense
15	615	Purchased Power		9,799	Cost of 2006 power and 1/1/07 PacifiCorp increase
16	618	Chemical / Treatment Expense			
17	619	Office Supplies		36	3-year average; office supplie, garbage, paper,
18	619	Postage		(1,080)	Based on 1116 customers; .39 per stamp; 13 mailouts
19	620	Materials/Supplies		4,369	3 year average; valves, bushings, pipe, fittings
20	621	Repairs to Water Plant		968	3 yr average; fil material, pump repair, propane,
21	631	Contract Svcs - Engineering		0	No engineering exp, capital expenditure
22	632	Contract Svcs - Accounting		(150)	Adjust down to \$850 - 2006 annual expense
23	633	Contract Svcs - Legal		657	Amortization of \$1456+ 2004 + 2005 expense averaged.
24	634	Contract Svcs - Management Fees		0	
25	635	Contract Svcs - Testing		(2,300)	3 year estimated testing expense testing based on testing schedule.
26	636	Contract Svcs - Labor		403	4-yr avg; electrician; pot holing
27	637	Contract Svcs - Billing/Collection		0	
28	638	Contract Svcs - Meter Reading			
29	639	Contract Svcs - Other (Repairs)			
30	641	Rental of Building/Real Property		0	No adjustment; \$15,600 annual
31	642	Rental of Equipment		0	
32	643	Small Tools		83	4-yr average; cable pulls, blower, lazer level
33	648	Computer/Electronic Expenses		(17)	4-yr average; software, computer repair, maintenance agree
34	650	Transportation		2,924	3-year average; gas & auto parts & maintenance
35	656	Vehicle Insurance		(1,262)	Annual expense \$2,080 per insur policy
36	657	General Liability Insurance		984	Annual expense \$3,188 per insur policy
37	658	Workers' Comp Insurance		(505)	Annual premium (per SAIF) is \$3842
38	659	Insurance - Other			
39	660	Public Relations/Advertising			
40	666	Amortz. of Rate Case		(200)	None allowed
41	667	Gross Revenue Fee (PUC)		205	Calculated
42	668	Water Resource Conservation			
43	670	Bad Debt Expense		2,189	4-yr average
44	671	Cross Connection Control Program			
45	672	System Capacity Dev Program		0	
46	673	Training and Certification		(475)	OAWU conf; operator renewals; excavation safety
47	674	Consumer Confidence Report		0	No Adjustment; 200 annual contract service
48	675	General Expense		(1,671)	bank chgs; dues & subscriptions; & One Call service
48a	675			0	
49		<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>		<b>17,112</b>	Calculated
		<b>OTHER REVENUE DEDUCTIONS</b>			
50	403	Depreciation Expense		78,811	Staff Plant minus Company Figure
51	407	Amortization Expense		0	
52	408	Property Tax		35,514	Per actual 2006-2007 assessment
53	408	Payroll Tax		7,228	Per quarterly tax statements
54	408	Other		0	
55	409	Oregon Income Tax		(3,560)	Calculated
56	409	Federal Income Tax		(7,558)	Calculated
57		<b>TOTAL REVENUE DEDUCTIONS</b>		<b>127,546</b>	Calculated
58		<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>		<b>(45,359)</b>	Calculated
59	101	Utility Plant in Service		266,170	Staff Plant minus Company Figure
60		Less:			
61	108	Depreciation Reserve		270,799	Less Accumulated Depreciation (See Plant Schedule)
62	271	Contributions in Aid of Const		250,000	Less \$250,000 loan forgiveness
63	272	Amortization of CIAC		0	
64	281	Accumulated Deferred Income Tax		0	
65		Net Utility Plant		(254,629)	Calculated
66		Plus: (working capital)			
67	151	Materials and Supplies Inventory		20,034	Staff's adjusted total inventory
68		Working Cash (Total Op Exp /12)		1,426	1/12 Lead/Lag to cover time differential between paid bills and received income
69		<b>TOTAL RATE BASE</b>		<b>(253,203)</b>	
70		<b>Rate of Return</b>		<b>1.00%</b>	

Agate Water Company  
Rate Application UW 119

REVENUE SENSITIVE COSTS

Revenues			1.0000
O&M - Uncollectibles			0.0000
Franchise Fees			0.0000
OPUC Fee			0.0025
Short-term Interest			0.0000
State Taxable Income			0.9975
State Income Tax @	6.60%		0.0658
Federal Taxable Income			0.9317
Federal Income Tax @	15.00%		0.1397
Total Income Taxes			0.2056
Total Revenue Sensitive Costs			0.2081
Utility Operating Income			0.7919
Net-to-Gross Factor			1.2628

COST OF CAPITAL

		Capital		Weighted
Debt		Structure	Cost	Cost
Bank	\$0	0.00%	0.00%	0
Bank	\$0	0.00%	0.00%	0
SDWSRLF*	\$3,395,000	100.00%	1.00%	1.00%
<b>Cost of Debt</b>	<b>\$3,395,000</b>			<b>1.00%</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>10.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Rate of Return</b>	<b>\$3,395,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>1.00%</b>
* Loan minus \$250,000 Loan Forgiveness				
* Loan over 30 years				



**Agate Water Company**  
**Rate Application UW 119**  
**RESIDENTIAL RATE DESIGN**

Proposed Revenues of: **\$626,442**

Base/Commodity Split  
Variable Rate 40.00% Proposed Rev = **\$250,577**

Base Rate 60.00% Proposed Rev = **\$375,865** \$375,874  
**\$626,442**

Size of Line	Number of Customers	Current Monthly Base Rate	Proposed Monthly Base Rate	Total Annual Revenues
5/8"	906	\$23.55	\$26.63	\$289,515
3/4"		\$0.00	\$26.63	\$0
1"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
1.5"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
2"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
3"	906	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0

Non-SDC 5/8" or 3/4"

1"	210	\$31.19	\$34.27	\$86,359
1.5"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
2"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
3"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
4"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
6"		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0

**TOTALS** 210 **\$375,874** \$375,865  
1,116 PERCENT 12.3% increase

**VARIABLE/COMMODITY RATE**  
Revenue to be collected \$250,577

TIER ONE	Rate	Consumption	Revenue
% of Assigned Revenue	\$1.00	PER 100 CUBIC FEET	Plugged < 2,000
	\$127,794	divided by 127,626	= \$1.00

**TIER TWO**  
Revenue to be collected \$250,577

% of Assigned Revenue	Rate	Consumption	Revenue
49.00%	\$2.56	PER 100 CUBIC FEET	Plugged > 2,000
	\$122,783	divided by 48,022	= \$2.56

14,961 gallons Average use  
1,312

SDC	Current	Proposed	Increase
3/4"	\$32.47	\$39.76	22.46%
1"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
1 1/2"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

**Current Company Rates**

Avg Usage	SDC	Non SDC	Est Consumption	SDC Avg User/mo	Non SDC Avg User/mo
1,312	\$23.55	\$31.19	Base	\$23.55	\$31.19
Per 100 of below 2000	\$0.68	8,200,200	Base	\$8.92	\$8.92
Per 100 of 2001-4000	\$1.75	4,937,900	Variable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Per 100 of 40001 & abv	\$2.04	4,943,900	Variable	\$0.00	\$0.00
		16,082,000	Total	\$32.47	\$40.11

**Staff Proposed Rates**

Avg Usage	SDC	Non SDC	Est Consumption	SDC Avg User/mo	Non SDC Avg User/mo
1,312	\$26.63	\$34.27	Base	\$26.63	\$34.27
Per 100 of below 2000	\$1.00	12,762,600	Base	\$13.13	13.13
Per 100 of above 2000	\$2.56	4,802,200	Variable	\$0.00	\$0.00
		17,564,800		\$39.76	\$47.40

Revenue at Current Rates: **\$256,036**

Revenue at Proposed Rates: **\$375,865** \$375,874

SDC	Meter Size	Present rates	Factors Used	Rate Required	AWWA Factors	Difference
906	5/8"	\$23.55	1.00	\$26.63	1	\$3.08
0	3/4"	\$0.00	1.00	\$26.63	1	\$26.63
0	1"	\$0.00		\$0.00	2.5	\$0.00
0	1.5"	\$0.00		\$0.00	5	\$0.00
0	2"	\$0.00		\$0.00	8	\$0.00
0	3"	\$0.00		\$0.00	15	\$0.00
0	6"	\$0.00		\$0.00	50	\$0.00

Non-SDC (\$7.64 differential between SDC and Non-SDC per 3/4" or 5/8" meter)

210	1"	\$31.19	1.00	\$34.27	1	\$3.08
0	1.5"	\$0.00		\$0.00	2.5	\$0.00
0	2"	\$0.00		\$0.00	5	\$0.00
0	3"	\$0.00		\$0.00	8	\$0.00
0	4"	\$0.00		\$0.00	15	\$0.00
0	6"	\$0.00		\$0.00	50	\$0.00

0.80 % of revenues  
2,000

**Estimated Consumption % by Tier**

0 Allowance	0.00%
T1 Usage	72.66%
T2 Usage	27.34%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,564,833</b>

Estimated Consumption based on customer consumption UW 108

**Consumption - SDC (Projected)**  
5/8" x 3/4" 14,403,163 cf  
1" 1" cf  
1 1/2" 1 1/2" cf

**Consumption - SDC (Test)**  
5/8" x 3/4" 14,754,460 cf  
1" 1" cf  
1 1/2" 1 1/2" cf

2"	cf	
3"	cf	
		14,403,163
<b>Consumption - Non-SDC (Projected)</b>		
5/8" x 3/4"	cf	3,162,982
1"	cf	
1 1/2"	cf	
2"	cf	
3"	cf	
4"	cf	
6"	cf	3,162,982
		17,566,145
		\$250,577

2"	cf	
3"	cf	
		14,754,460
<b>Consumption - Non-SDC (Test)</b>		
5/8" x 3/4"	cf	2,810,373
1"	cf	0
1 1/2"	cf	0
2"	cf	0
3"	cf	0
4"	cf	0
6"	cf	0
		2,810,373
		17,564,833
		\$205,990

Test

2"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
3"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
			Increase
5/8" x 3/4"	\$40.11	\$47.40	18.18%
1"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
1 1/2"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
2"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
3"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
4"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
6"	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

Consumption Customer	Annual	Consumption	# of Cust	Avg Use/Cust
	2003	0	0	0
	2004	17,924,338	1,052	1,420
	2005	16,610,558	1,065	1,300
	2006	18,159,602	1,119	1,356
	Average	52,694,499	3	
		17,564,833	1,312	
		Use Avg Consumpt	17,564,833	
		Avg use/person	1312	
		UW	108	
			1358	

**Basis for Base Rates**

**Pd SDC**

**Did Not Pay**

net left to recou divided by diff months left to pay  
 2342.96 ← 7.64 306.6701571 months left  
 12 divided by 12 months  
 25.55584642 left to recoup in years  
 4.4 already recouped in years  
 29.95584642 total years to recoup SDC  
 avg plant life is approx 30 yrs

2500 original SDC  
 -157.04 already recoup  
 2342.96 left to recoup

3.02 difference in base rate  
 52 months at old rate  
 157.04 prev rate effect



Agate Water Company  
Rate Application UW 119  
PLANT & DEPRECIATION

3,574,791 3,573,523

0 AH AI AJ

Account No	Account Description	C	D	E	F	G	H	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ
		Date Acquired	Utility Plant Orig Cost	Less Excess Capacity Adj to Plant	Total Adj Plant	Adjusted Asset Life	Annual Deprec	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Accum Depr thru 2007	Remaining Plant 2007	Depr Exp 2007
301	Organization															
302	Franchises															
303	Land and Land Rights															
	Land Rights	Jan 2004	1,223		1,223	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,223	0
	Water Rights	Jan 2004	139		139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	0
	Easements	Dec 2004	18		18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0
	Land & Land Rights		3,601		3,601	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,601	0
304	Structures and Improvements															
	Fence	May 2005	8,000		8,000	30	267	0	0	0	178	267	267	712	7,288	267
		1/1/03	28,209		28,209	30	940	0	940	940	940	940	940	3,760	24,449	940
	Land Improvements	7/1/02	7,406		7,406	30	247	247	247	247	247	247	247	988	6,418	247
		1/1/03	13,588		13,588	30	453	453	453	453	453	453	453	1,812	11,776	453
	Land Improvements	1/1/03	10,873		10,873	30	362	362	362	362	362	362	362	1,448	9,425	362
	Land Improvements 1/3	1/3/03	7,740		7,740	30	258	0	258	258	258	258	258	1,032	6,708	258
	Misc Land Improvements	7/1/03	3,890		3,890	30	130	65	130	130	130	130	130	455	3,435	130
311	Fencing	8/14/08	410		410	30	14	0	0	0	0	6	14	6	404	6
305	Collecting and Impounding Reservoirs															
306	Lake, River and Other Intakes															
307	Wells and Springs															
308	Infiltration Galleries and Tunnels															
309	Supply Main															







Backhoe	1/15/02	24,100	10	2,410	2,410	2,410	2,410	2,410	2,410	2,410	14,460	9,640	2,410
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>346 Communication Equipment</b>													
Communications Equipment (moved from 2005 O&M)	11/4/05	858	10	85	0	0	21	85	85	191	659	85	85
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>347 Electronic/Computer Equipment</b>													
Computer System	Jan 2004	2,348	5	470	0	0	470	470	470	1,880	468	470	470
Printer	May 2005	235	5	47	0	0	35	47	47	129	106	47	47
Computer System for telemetry & Software	May 2005	1,764	5	353	0	0	265	353	353	971	793	353	353
Computer Expeditors	Jun 2006	973	5	195	0	0	0	114	195	309	664	195	195
Computer	1/1/04	3,524	5	705	0	0	59	705	705	2,174	1,350	705	705
			5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>348 Miscellaneous Equipment</b>													
Road Safety Signs	Jun 2003	464	10	46	0	27	46	46	46	211	253	46	46
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>3,751,767</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,474</b>	<b>9,284</b>	<b>18,182</b>	<b>72,660</b>	<b>131,001</b>	<b>132,655</b>	<b>386,852</b>	<b>3,384,918</b>	<b>132,647</b>	<b>132,647</b>

Original Plant In Service Cost 3,751,767  
 Less: Excess Capacity 0  
 "Used & Useful" Plant 3,751,767  
 Less CIAC (\$250,000 Loan Forgiveness) (250,000)  
 Less Accum Depreciation (366,852)  
**NET PLANT 3,134,915**

Depreciation Expense 132,655

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The prioritization given below is the consultant's ranking of which needs are most important and thus should be corrected first. This ranking was developed based on the urgency of the system needs.

The information presented in this section is a summary of the recommendations. Table 6-1 gives the Summary of Proposed Water System Improvements with their associated cost. Table 6-2 gives the priority ranking and cost of the capital improvements for the next 10 years. The chronological order of the project signifies their priority. Water system improvements and their associated costs identified in the original master plan for the Apache water system have been incorporated into the proposed Priority I Improvements. The costs are shown in both 2002 dollars and the expected cost at the year of construction.

The priority was set considering the criteria shown below:

- Public Safety
- Meeting Customer Service Needs
- System Efficiency
- Operational Flexibility
- Operational Preferences

From the proposed improvements, as described in chapter 5 and shown on the proposed Master Plan drawings, the construction has been broken into three priorities. Priority I improvements include the installation of the storage tank and the minimal improvements to the distribution system to correct primary system deficiencies. Priority II improvements include construction items that extends the systems to cover the entire service area and improves system hydraulic capabilities. Priority III improvements includes upgrades to the pumping system that will be needed for future demands.

Priority I improvements include:

- Construction of the 540,000 gallon tank,
- 3305 feet of transmission main,
- an automated control system w/ telemetry,
- new access road and site improvements,
- 69,228 feet of distribution mains.

Priority II improvements include:

- Construction of 860,000 gallon tank
- 1300 feet of transmission main,
- automated control system w/telemetry,
- 38,080 feet of distribution main.



Priority III improvements include:

- Installing 3-phase power supply,
- Installing new 20 hp pumps at Indian Summer and Agate wells,
- Installing new 50 hp pump at Choctaw well.

A detailed listing of project costs are located in Appendix G, Table 6-1 is a summary of the improvements and their associated costs.

**Table 6-1 Summary of Proposed Water System Improvements**

Proposed Improvement	Project Cost
<b>Priority I</b>	
540,000 Gallon Tank & Transmission Main	\$ 401,669
Phase 1 Distribution Improvements	\$3,331,996
<b>Priority I Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$3,733,665</b>
<b>Priority II</b>	
860,000 Gallon Tank Improvements	\$ 823,392
Phase 2 Distribution Improvements	\$1,866,612
<b>Priority II Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$2,690,004</b>
<b>Priority III</b>	
Upgrade Pumping Capacity	\$ 58,823
<b>Priority I,II, &amp; III Total</b>	<b>\$6,482,492</b>

**Loan Payments**

SAFE DRINKING WATER  
SAFE DRINKING WATER FINANCING PROGRAM  
\*\*\*\*\*ANNUAL PAYMENT\*\*\*\*\*

S03007	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT:	\$3,395,000
Agate Water Company	INTEREST RATE:	1.00%
Water System Improvements	LOAN TERM IN YEARS:	30
145263.4	CLOSING DATE:	1-Dec-05

PAYMENT DATE	PAYMENT	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL	CUMULATIVE INTEREST	CUMULATIVE PRINCIPAL	UNPAID BALANCE
01-Dec-2006	172,690.39	75,090.54	97,599.84	75,090.54	97,599.84	3,297,400.16
01-Dec-2007	131,549.84	32,974.00	98,575.84	108,064.54	196,175.69	3,198,824.31
01-Dec-2008	131,549.84	31,988.24	99,561.60	140,052.78	295,737.29	3,099,262.71
01-Dec-2009	131,549.84	30,992.63	100,557.21	171,045.41	396,294.51	2,998,705.49
01-Dec-2010	131,549.84	29,987.05	101,562.79	201,032.46	497,857.30	2,897,142.70
01-Dec-2011	131,549.84	28,971.43	102,578.41	230,003.89	600,435.72	2,794,564.28
01-Dec-2012	131,549.84	27,945.64	103,604.20	257,949.53	704,039.92	2,690,960.08
01-Dec-2013	131,549.84	26,909.60	104,640.24	284,859.13	808,680.16	2,586,319.84
01-Dec-2014	131,549.84	25,863.20	105,686.64	310,722.33	914,366.81	2,480,633.19
01-Dec-2015	131,549.84	24,806.33	106,743.51	335,528.66	1,021,110.32	2,373,889.68
01-Dec-2016	131,549.84	23,738.90	107,810.94	359,267.56	1,128,921.27	2,266,078.73
01-Dec-2017	131,549.84	22,660.79	108,889.05	381,928.35	1,237,810.32	2,157,189.68
01-Dec-2018	131,549.84	21,571.90	109,977.94	403,500.25	1,347,788.27	2,047,211.73
01-Dec-2019	131,549.84	20,472.12	111,077.72	423,972.37	1,458,865.99	1,936,134.01
01-Dec-2020	131,549.84	19,361.34	112,188.50	443,333.71	1,571,054.50	1,823,945.50
01-Dec-2021	131,549.84	18,239.46	113,310.38	461,573.17	1,684,364.88	1,710,635.12
01-Dec-2022	131,549.84	17,106.35	114,443.49	478,679.52	1,798,808.37	1,596,191.63

Staff/101  
Miller-Dougherty/14

PAYMENT DATE	PAYMENT	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL	CUMULATIVE INTEREST	CUMULATIVE PRINCIPAL	UNPAID BALANCE
01-Dec-2023	131,549.84	15,961.92	115,587.92	494,641.44	1,914,396.30	1,480,603.70
01-Dec-2024	131,549.84	14,806.04	116,743.80	509,447.48	2,031,140.10	1,363,859.90
01-Dec-2025	131,549.84	13,638.60	117,911.24	523,086.08	2,149,051.35	1,245,948.65
01-Dec-2026	131,549.84	12,459.49	119,090.35	535,545.57	2,268,141.70	1,126,858.30
01-Dec-2027	131,549.84	11,268.58	120,281.26	546,814.15	2,388,422.97	1,006,577.03
01-Dec-2028	131,549.84	10,065.77	121,484.07	556,879.92	2,509,907.04	885,092.96
01-Dec-2029	131,549.84	8,850.93	122,698.91	565,730.85	2,632,605.95	762,394.05
01-Dec-2030	131,549.84	7,623.94	123,925.90	573,354.79	2,756,531.86	638,468.14
01-Dec-2031	131,549.84	6,384.68	125,165.16	579,739.47	2,881,697.02	513,302.98
01-Dec-2032	131,549.84	5,133.03	126,416.81	584,872.50	3,008,113.84	386,886.16
01-Dec-2033	131,549.84	3,868.86	127,680.98	588,741.36	3,135,794.82	259,205.18
01-Dec-2034	131,549.84	2,592.05	128,957.79	591,333.41	3,264,752.62	130,247.38
01-Dec-2035	131,549.84	1,302.46	130,247.38	592,635.87	3,395,000.00	0.00

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

**UW 119**

I certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding by delivering a copy in person or by mailing a copy properly addressed with first class postage prepaid, or by electronic mail pursuant to OAR 860-13-0070, to the following parties or attorneys of parties.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 30th day of April, 2007.



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**UW 119  
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