

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 2280

In the Matter of

SUN COUNTRY WATER, INC.

Investigation into Billing Practices and  
Functions of a Water Utility.

RULING AND MEMORANDUM

**DISPOSITION: REQUEST FOR HEARING GRANTED**

On March 24, 2023, the Staff of the Public Utility Commission issued a notice of proposed financial penalties against Sun Country Water, Inc. under OAR 860-036-1720, OAR 860-036-1700, and ORS 757.994. The notice proposed financial penalties against Sun Country for failure to comply with Order No. 22-462 instructing the company to file for a general rate revision within 90 days of the order and failure to comply with Order No. 12-189 and Order No. 19-086 requiring the company to read and bill meters monthly.<sup>1</sup> The notice stated that Sun Country could request a hearing by April 17, 2023. On April 17, 2023, Sun Country filed a request for a hearing to challenge the proposed penalties.

Consistent with ORS 757.994 and OAR 860-036-1720, the Commission will hold a hearing regarding Staff's proposed penalties for noncompliance by Sun Country.<sup>2</sup> This hearing will be conducted as a contested case hearing consistent with ORS 757.994 and ORS 183.746(4). The Commission will hold a hearing on June 5, 2023, followed by one round of briefs to be filed simultaneously.

Prior to the hearing, the parties should file testimony that identifies the issues that they intend to raise at the hearing, as well as any exhibits that they intend to offer into the record, consistent with the schedule below.

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Sun Country Water, LLC, An Investigation Pursuant to ORS 756.515 to Determine Jurisdiction*, Docket No. WJ 45, Order No. 22-462, Appendix A at 3 (Dec. 1, 2022); *In the Matter of Sun Country Water, LLC, Investigation into Billing Practices*, Docket No. UM 1598, Order No. 12-189, Appendix A at 6 (May 23, 2012); Order No. 19-086, Appendix A at 3-4 (Mar. 13, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> The notice also stated that Staff is investigating the need for a Commission order under OAR 860-036-1700 to appoint a regent to operate Sun Country. This hearing will only address the proposed financial penalties and will not address any issues related to appointing a regent.

Accordingly, the schedule for these proceedings is as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Testimony and Exhibits	May 26, 2023
Hearing	June 5, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.
Simultaneous Briefs	June 12, 2023

Given the accelerated nature of this proceeding, I encourage the parties to conduct any necessary discovery collaboratively and expeditiously. Any discovery disputes should be elevated to me in a timely manner, so that I may resolve them in a manner that allows relevant information subject to discovery to be considered in this proceeding.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, at Salem, Oregon.



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Sarah Spruce  
Administrative Law Judge

Attachment: Notice of Contested Case Rights and Procedures