

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UW 190

In the Matter of

HELTON WATER COMPANY, LLC,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

MEMORANDUM

On August 30, 2022, Mr. Soules called the office of the Administrative Hearings Division of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon and left a voice message. He asked for information about the nature of a settlement in principle, as referenced in Staff's motion to suspend the procedural schedule, filed on August 26, 2022.

I called Mr. Soules and explained that a settlement in principle means the parties had met in settlement discussions and reached agreement on the issues in the docket but that the settlement positions had not yet been documented. I explained the procedural nature of Staff's motion to suspend the procedural schedule and the next steps.

Mr. Soules wanted to know if he would be informed about how much rates would rise. He expressed concern about the proposed rates. I explained that the parties would file a stipulation addressing all issues and terms, including rate changes. I indicated that he would be able to access the stipulation the same way he accessed Staff's motion. I said that although he was not a party, he could participate as an interested person.

He was concerned that the "users" of the water system were not represented. I indicated that Staff works in the public interest of all consumers, but that none of the "users" had intervened as a party and did not participate in settlement discussions. He wanted to know if the "users" of the water system would have an opportunity to comment. I explained that as an interested person, he could submit comments. He asked if there would be an opportunity to make comments in person. I indicated that he (or anyone else) could request that opportunity in comments. He started to make statements regarding concerns about the proposed rate increases, and I told him that I could not speak to the substance of the issues.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2022, at Salem, Oregon.



Traci Kirkpatrick
Administrative Law Judge