

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

WJ 3

In the Matter of)	
)	
NORTHRIDGE WATER COMPANY)	ORDER
)	
An Investigation Pursuant to ORS 756.515)	
to Determine Jurisdiction)	

DISPOSITION: JURISDICTION ASSERTED

NORTHRIDGE WATER COMPANY (Northridge Water or Company) provides water service to its customers at a rate that exceeds the \$18 average annual monthly residential rate threshold for exemption from regulation (ORS 757.061(5)). On January 28, 2005, the Staff of the Public Utility Commission sent a letter to Northridge Water notifying the Company that it appeared to meet the definition of a public utility pursuant to ORS 757.005 and ORS 757.061. The letter stated that Commission jurisdiction would be asserted unless Northridge Water Company requested a hearing by February 28, 2005, to explain why the Company was not subject to jurisdiction. A copy of Staff's letter is attached as Appendix A and incorporated by reference. Northridge Water Company did not request a hearing, and the time for doing so has expired.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Northridge Water Company does not meet the exemption for water regulation because it charges above the \$18 average annual monthly residential rate threshold pursuant to ORS 757.061(5).

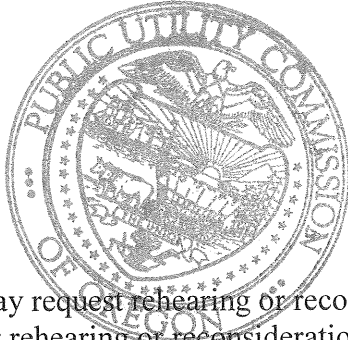
CONCLUSION OF LAW

Northridge Water Company is a public utility under ORS 757.005. Northridge Water Company is subject to service regulation pursuant to ORS 757.061. Northridge Water Company should be classified as a public utility.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that Northridge Water Company is a public utility subject to Commission jurisdiction pursuant to ORS 757.005 and 757.061.

Made, entered and effective MAR 25 2005.



Lee Sparling
Lee Sparling
Director
Utility Program

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

ORDER NO. 05-151

Public Utility Commission

550 Capitol Street NE, Suite 215

Mailing Address: PO Box 2148

Salem, OR 97308-2148

Consumer Services

1-800-522-2404

Local: 503-378-6600

Administrative Services

503-373-7394

January 28, 2005

Northridge Water Company
Craig Reese, & Associates
P.O. Box 4745
Medford, OR 97501

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ASSERT OF JURISDICTION

The Public Utility Commission (Commission) is directed by the Legislature to regulate privately-owned water companies providing service directly or indirectly to or for the public. *See Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 757.005 (attached).* The Commission regulates service quality (water quality, water pressure, customer service, and plant maintenance) for private water companies designated as public utilities. To be designated as a public utility, the company must charge more than an average annual monthly charge of \$18, provide discriminatory or inadequate service. Additionally, the Commission regulates rates of water companies that either: (1) serve over 500 customers; or (2) charge more than an average annual monthly charge of \$24 for water service and whose customers have petitioned for Commission review. *See ORS 757.061.*

Our records show Northridge Water Company (Northridge) is charging over an average annual monthly charge of \$18. The Commission intends to designate Northridge as a public utility subject to service regulation and an annual gross revenue fee of .25 percent (.0025) of annual revenues.

HEARING RIGHTS

Northridge has the right to a hearing to dispute the Commission's assertion of jurisdiction. The Company may formally request a hearing. The request must be filed within 30 days from the date of this letter. The request for hearing must include information that demonstrates that Northridge is not subject to Commission jurisdiction. A request for hearing should be mailed to:

Public Utility Commission
Administrative Hearings Division
PO Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308-2148

If no request for hearing is filed within 30 days, the Commission will designate the information in its files as the record in this matter and issue an order asserting jurisdiction.

Finally, our records indicate that you are charging over \$24 a month for residential service. If the Commission asserts jurisdiction over Northridge, the Company will be required to send out a notice to its customers of their Right to Petition the PUC for Northridge to become rate regulated. If the Commission receives a petition(s) from 20 percent or more of Northridge's

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APPENDIX A

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customers, the Commission will assert rate regulation. Northridge will then have 60 days to file a rate case with the Commission for approval of rates.

If you have any questions or do not believe the information is correct, please contact me at the number listed below or Kathy Miller at 503-373-1003 or kathy.miller@state.or.us.



Rebecca Trujillo
Program Manager
Corporate Analysis and Water Regulation
Voice: 503-378-6164; Fax 503-373-7752
e-mail: rebecca.trujillo@state.or.us