

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

WJ 9

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
RICE HILL WATER DISTRICT	)	ORDER
	)	
Assertion of Jurisdiction pursuant to	)	
ORS 757.	)	

**DISPOSITION: JURISDICTION ASSERTED**

Pursuant to ORS Chapter 757, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) regulates privately-owned water companies providing service directly or indirectly to or for the public. The Commission regulates service quality (water quality, water pressure, customer service, and plant maintenance) for certain private water companies designated as public utilities. *See* ORS 757.005. 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 and 757.063.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Rice Hill Water District (Rice Hill or Company), located in the vicinity of Oakland, provides water service to the public and meets the definition of a public utility pursuant to ORS 757.005.

On September 28, 2006, the Commission received written petitions from 10 customers of Rice Hill. Rice Hill serves no more than 15 customers. Consequently, receipt of 10 petitions exceeds the statutory threshold of 20 percent of customers. *See* ORS 757.061(6)(b). In addition, Rice Hill's annual average monthly rates are over \$30, exceeding the Commission-established threshold of \$24 per month. Therefore, pursuant to ORS 757.061(6)(b), upon receipt of a sufficient number of valid petitions, Rice Hill is now a water utility subject to rate regulation.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Rice Hill is a public utility under ORS 757.005 and is subject to service and financial regulation pursuant to ORS 757.061. Rice Hill should be classified as a financial regulated public utility.

Rice Hill may challenge the Commission's assertion of jurisdiction by requesting reconsideration pursuant to ORS 756.561. The request must be filed within 60 days of the date of service of this order and include information that demonstrates that Rice Hill is not subject to Commission jurisdiction.

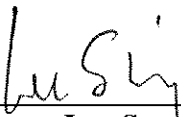
**ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Rice Hill Water District is a regulated utility pursuant to ORS 757.005 and 757.061.
2. Rice Hill Water District shall file appropriate tariffs within 60 days of the date of this order.

Made, entered, and effective DEC 19 2006.



  
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**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 by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480-183.484.