

ORDER NO. 15 256

ENTERED SEP 08 2015

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

AR 591

In the Matter of Rulemaking to Implement
SB 329 Relating to Annual Fee Percentage
Rate.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: MODIFICATIONS TO RULES ADOPTED

I. INTRODUCTION

In this order, we adopt changes to OAR 860-021-0034, 860-021-0036, 860-032-0095, 860-034-0095, 860-036-0095, and 860-037-0095 to implement 2015 Senate Bill 329 changes to 756.310. The changes to ORS 756.310 became effective on June 8, 2015. The changes increase the maximum percentage rate of gross revenues that may be imposed from 25 one-hundredths of one percent (0.25 percent) to three-tenths of a one percent (0.3 percent).

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On July 15, 2015, we filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Statement of Need and Fiscal Impact for this rulemaking with the Secretary of State, and we provided notice to all interested persons on the service lists established under OAR 860-001-0030(1)(b) and to legislators specified in ORS 183.335(1)(d). Notice of the rulemaking was published in the August 2015 *Oregon Bulletin*. The notice established a comment due date of August 24, 2015. No comments were filed.

III. PROPOSED RULEMAKING

This rulemaking makes changes to sections governing natural gas utilities, large and small telecommunications utilities, competitive providers, water utilities, and wastewater utilities. The changes amend the rules to eliminate references the old gross revenue fee rate cap of 0.25 percent. No change was required to the section addressing electric utilities because that section did not previously cite the percentage rate cap.

As amended, the rule sections are similar for energy utilities (electric and gas) and do not reference the new 0.3 percent rate cap because that amount is set out ORS 756.310. The sections

that apply to the other providers (telecommunication carriers, water and wastewater providers) include a reference to the rate cap at Staff's request to assist those providers.

IV. COMMENTS

On August 24, 2015, PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power, filed comments recommending the use of deferred accounting to address annual fee amounts that exceed amounts under the previous 0.25 percent cap. Because PacifiCorp's comments relate to the implementation of the rules and not to the rules themselves, we do not address them here. PacifiCorp may request its proposed treatment to address the potential financial impact of the increase in the annual fee.

V. ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The modifications to OAR 860-021-0034, 860-021-0036, 860-032-0095, 860-034-0095, 860-036-0095, and 860-037-0095, as shown in Appendix A, are adopted.
2. The rule changes become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

SEP 08 2015

Made, entered, and effective _____

Susan K. Ackerman

Susan K. Ackerman
Chair



John Savage

John Savage
Commissioner

Stephen M. Bloom

Stephen M. Bloom
Commissioner

A person may petition the Public Utility Commission of Oregon for the amendment or repeal of a rule under ORS 183.390. A person may petition the Oregon Court of Appeals to determine the validity of a rule under ORS 183.400.

860-021-0034**Annual Fees Payable to the Commission by Gas Utility or Steam Heat Utility**

(1) On statement forms prescribed by the Commission, each gas utility and steam heat utility must provide the requested information for the subject year.

(2) Each gas utility and steam heat utility must pay to the Commission an annual fee on gross operating revenues derived within Oregon at a rate determined by Commission orders entered on or after March 1 of each year.

(3) Each gas utility and steam heat utility must pay to the Commission:

(a) A minimum annual fee of \$10. The annual fee is due on or before April 1 of the year after the calendar year on which the annual fee is based. ~~The annual fee rate will not exceed 25 hundredths of one percent (0.25 percent) of the Oregon revenue during the prior calendar year.~~

(b) A late statement fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050, if the Commission has not received the utility's statement form, completed in compliance with section (1) of this rule, on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the fifth business day following the due date.

(c) A penalty fee for failure to pay the full amount when due, as required under ORS 756.350.

(d) A service fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050 for each payment returned for non-sufficient funds.

(e) All costs incurred by the Commission to collect a past-due annual fee from the utility.

(4) The annual fee payment must be received by the Commission no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the due date. A payment may be by cash, money order, bank draft, sight draft, cashier's check, certified, or personal check. A payment made by check will be conditionally accepted until the check is cleared by the bank on which it is drawn.

(5) For any year in which a gas utility or steam heat utility's statement form was due, the Commission may audit the utility as the Commission deems necessary and practicable:

(a) The Commission's audit must begin no later than three (3) years after the statement form's due date.

(b) If the Commission determines that the utility has underreported its subject revenues, the Commission may assess an additional annual fee, along with a penalty fee for failure to pay under ORS 756.350.

(c) If the Commission determines that the utility has overpaid its annual fee, the Commission may, at its discretion, recompense the utility with a refund or a credit against annual fees subsequently due.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, 756 & 757

Stats. Implemented: ORS 756.310, 756.320 & 756.350

Hist.: PUC 11-1999, f. & cert. ef. 11-18-99; PUC 16-2001, f. & cert. ef. 6-21-01; PUC 15-2003, f. & cert. ef. 7-24-03; PUC 20-2003, f. & cert. ef. 11-14-03; PUC 16-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-1-04; PUC 18-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-30-04; PUC 10-2007, f. & cert. ef. 9-13-07

860-021-0036**Annual Fees Payable to the Commission by a Large Telecommunications Utility**

(1) On statement forms prescribed by the Commission, each large telecommunications utility must provide the requested information for the subject year.

(2) Each large telecommunications utility must pay to the Commission:

(a) A minimum annual fee of ~~no less than~~ \$100. The annual fee is due on or before April 1 of the year after the calendar year on which the annual fee is based. The annual fee rate will not exceed ~~25 hundredths~~ three tenths of one percent (~~0.250.3~~ percent) of the gross retail intrastate revenue during the calendar year on which the annual fee is based.

(b) A late statement fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050, if the Commission has not received the utility's statement form, completed in compliance with section (1) of this rule, on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the fifth business day following the due date.

(c) A penalty fee for failure to pay the full amount when due, as required under ORS 756.350 and OAR 860-032-0008(1).

(d) A service fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050 for each payment returned for non-sufficient funds.

(e) All costs incurred by the Commission to collect a past-due annual fee from the utility.

(3) The annual fee payment must be received by the Commission no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the due date. A payment may be by cash, money order, bank draft, sight draft, cashier's check, certified, or personal check. A payment made by check will be conditionally accepted until the check is cleared by the bank on which it is drawn.

(4) Each large telecommunications utility must:

(a) Collect the annual fee by charging an equitable amount to each retail customer, using apportionment methods that are consistently applied by the utility throughout Oregon, and

(b) Describe the amount of the apportioned charge upon each retail customer's bill.

(5) If the annual fee charge is embedded in the large telecommunications utility's Commission-approved retail rates, and:

(a) If the utility does not separately charge the customer an additional amount for the apportioned annual fee, then the utility may comply with section (4) of this rule by merely describing the apportioned amount of the charge on the retail customer's bill.

(b) If the utility separately charges the customer an additional amount for the apportioned annual fee, then the utility must comply with ORS 756.310(6)(c).

(6) For any year in which a large telecommunications utility's statement form was due, the Commission may audit the utility as the Commission deems necessary and practicable:

(a) The Commission's audit must begin no later than three (3) years after the statement form's due date.

(b) If the Commission determines that the utility has underreported its subject revenues, the Commission may assess an additional annual fee, along with a penalty fee for failure to pay under ORS 756.350.

(c) If the Commission determines that the utility has overpaid its annual fee, the Commission may, at its discretion, recompense the utility with a refund or a credit against annual fees subsequently due.

(7) Each large telecommunications utility must:

(a) Maintain its records in sufficient detail to readily provide gross retail intrastate revenue from Oregon telecommunications services, as defined in OAR 860-032-0080;

(b) Follow the revenue allocation procedures in OAR 860-032-0090; and

(c) Make its revenue accounting records available to the Commission upon the Commission's request.

(8) If the Commission receives a public record request for the confidential information required by this rule, the Commission may assert that, subject to the limitations of the Public Records Law, the materials are trade secrets and, therefore, exempt from disclosure.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, 192, 756 & 759

Stats. Implemented: ORS 756.310, 756.320 & 756.350

Hist.: PUC 13-1999, f. & cert. ef. 12-7-99; PUC 16-2001, f. & cert. ef. 6-21-01; PUC 8-2003, f. & cert. ef. 4-28-03; PUC 20-2003, f. & cert. ef. 11-14-03; PUC 16-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-1-04; PUC 18-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-30-04

860-032-0095

Annual Fees Payable to the Commission by a Competitive Provider

(1) On statement forms prescribed by the Commission, each competitive provider must provide the requested information for the subject year.

(2) Each competitive provider must pay to the Commission:

(a) An **minimum** annual fee of ~~no less than~~ \$100. The annual fee is due on or before April 1 of the year after the calendar year on which the annual fee is based. The annual fee rate will not exceed **25 hundredths three tenths** of one percent (**0.2503** percent) of the gross retail intrastate revenue during the calendar year on which the annual fee is based.

(b) A late statement fee in accordance with OAR 860-011-0110, if the Commission has not received the competitive provider's statement form, completed in compliance with section (1) of this rule, on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the fifth business day following the due date.

(c) A penalty fee for failure to pay the full amount when due, as required under ORS 756.350 and OAR 860-032-0008(1).

(d) A service fee in accordance with OAR 860-011-0110 for each payment returned for non-sufficient funds.

(e) All costs incurred by the Commission to collect a past-due annual fee from the competitive provider.

(3) The annual fee payment must be received by the Commission no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the due date. A payment may be by cash, money order, bank draft, sight draft, cashier's

check, certified, or personal check. A payment made by check will be conditionally accepted until the check is cleared by the bank on which it is drawn.

(4) Each competitive provider must:

(a) Collect the annual fee by charging an equitable amount to each retail customer, using apportionment methods that are consistently applied by the competitive provider through Oregon, and

(b) Describe the amount of the apportioned charge upon each retail customer's bill.

(5) Each competitive provider must:

(a) Maintain its records in sufficient detail to readily provide gross retail intrastate revenue from Oregon telecommunications services, as defined in OAR 860-032-0080;

(b) Follow the revenue allocation procedures in OAR 860-032-0090; and

(c) Make its revenue accounting records available to the Commission upon the Commission's request. A competitive provider must keep all records supporting each statement form for three (3) years, or until a Commission review or audit is complete, whichever is later.

(6) For any year in which a competitive provider's statement form was due, the Commission may audit the competitive provider as the Commission deems necessary and practicable:

(a) The Commission's audit must begin no later than three years after the statement form's due date. However, if the competitive provider failed to obtain a certificate of authority, an audit may occur at any time.

(b) If the Commission determines that the competitive provider has underreported its subject revenues, the Commission may assess an additional annual fee, along with a penalty fee for failure to pay under ORS 756.350.

(c) If the Commission determines that the competitive provider has overpaid its annual fee, the Commission may, at its discretion, recompense the competitive provider with a refund or a credit against annual fees subsequently due.

(7) If the Commission receives a public record request for the confidential information required by this rule, the Commission may assert that, subject to the limitations of the Public Records Law, the materials are trade secrets and, therefore, exempt from disclosure.

(8) A cooperative that is a competitive provider must pay an annual fee only on the gross retail intrastate revenue from telecommunications services that are provided under the cooperative's ORS 759.020 certificate of authority. A cooperative should not pay an annual fee on revenue from telecommunications services that are provided under the cooperative's ORS 759.025 certificate of authority.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, 192, 756 & 759

Stats. Implemented: ORS 756.310, 756.320 & 756.350

Hist.: PUC 13-1999, f. & cert. ef. 12-7-99; PUC 8-2003, f. & cert. ef. 4-28-03; PUC 20-2003, f. & cert. ef. 11-14-03; PUC 16-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-1-04; PUC 18-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-30-04

860-034-0095**Annual Fees Payable to the Commission by a Small Telecommunications Utility**

(1) On statement forms prescribed by the Commission, each small telecommunications utility must provide the requested information for the subject year.

(2) Each small telecommunications utility must pay to the Commission:

(a) ~~An~~ **minimum** annual fee of ~~no less than~~ \$100. The annual fee is due on or before April 1 of the year after the calendar year on which the annual fee is based. The annual fee rate will not exceed ~~25 hundredths~~ **three tenths** of one percent (~~0.250.3~~ percent) of the gross retail intrastate revenue during the calendar year on which the annual fee is based.

(b) A late statement fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050, if the Commission has not received the utility's statement form, completed in compliance with section (1) of this rule, on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the fifth business day following the due date.

(c) A penalty fee for failure to pay the full amount when due, as required under ORS 756.350 and OAR 860-032-0008(1).

(d) A service fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050 for each payment returned for non-sufficient funds.

(e) All costs incurred by the Commission to collect a past-due annual fee from the utility.

(3) The annual fee payment must be received by the Commission no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the due date. A payment may be by cash, money order, bank draft, sight draft, cashier's check, certified, or personal check. A payment made by check will be conditionally accepted until the check is cleared by the bank on which it is drawn.

(4) Each small telecommunications utility must:

(a) Collect the annual fee by charging an equitable amount to each retail customer, using apportionment methods that are consistently applied by the utility throughout Oregon; and

(b) Describe the amount of the apportioned charge upon each retail customer's bill.

(5) Each small telecommunications utility must:

(a) Maintain its records in sufficient detail to readily provide gross retail intrastate revenue from Oregon telecommunications services, as defined in OAR 860-032-0080;

(b) Follow the revenue allocation procedures in OAR 860-032-0090; and

(c) Make its revenue accounting records available to the Commission upon the Commission's request.

(6) For any year in which a small telecommunications utility's statement form was due, the Commission may audit the utility as the Commission deems necessary and practicable:

(a) The Commission's audit must begin no later than three years after the statement form's due date.

(b) If the Commission determines that the utility has underreported its subject revenues, the Commission may assess an additional annual fee, along with a penalty fee for failure to pay under ORS 756.350.

(c) If the Commission determines that the utility has overpaid its annual fee, the Commission may, at its discretion, recompense the utility with a refund or a credit against annual fees subsequently due.

(7) If the Commission receives a public record request for the confidential information required by this rule, the Commission may assert that, subject to the limitations of the Public Records Law, the materials are trade secrets and, therefore, exempt from disclosure.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183, 192, 756 & 759

Stats. Implemented: ORS 756.310, 756.320 & 756.350

Hist.: PUC 13-1999, f. & cert. ef. 12-7-99; PUC 15-2001, f. & cert. ef. 6-21-01; PUC 8-2003, f. & cert. ef. 4-28-03; PUC 20-2003, f. & cert. ef. 11-14-03; PUC 16-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-1-04; PUC 18-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-30-04

860-036-0095

Annual Fees Payable to the Commission by a Water Utility

(1) On statement forms prescribed by the Commission, each water utility must provide the requested information for the subject year.

(2) Each water utility must pay to the Commission:

(a) A minimum annual fee of \$10. The annual fee is due on or before April 1 of the year after the calendar year on which the annual fee is based. The annual fee rate will not exceed **25 hundredths three tenths** of one percent (**0.250.3** percent) of the Oregon revenue during the prior calendar year.

(b) A late statement fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050, if the Commission has not received the utility's statement form, completed in compliance with section (1) of this rule, on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the fifth business day following the due date.

(c) A penalty fee for failure to pay the full amount when due, as required under ORS 756.350.

(d) A service fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050 for each payment returned for non-sufficient funds.

(e) All costs incurred by the Commission to collect a past-due annual fee from the utility.

(3) The annual fee payment must be received by the Commission no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the due date. A payment may be by cash, money order, bank draft, sight draft, cashier's check, certified, or personal check. A payment made by check will be conditionally accepted until the check is cleared by the bank on which it is drawn.

(4) For any year in which a water utility's statement form was due, the Commission may audit the utility as the Commission deems necessary and practicable:

(a) The Commission's audit must begin no later than three (3) years after the statement form's due date.

(b) If the Commission determines that the utility has underreported its subject revenues, the Commission may assess an additional annual fee, along with a penalty fee for failure to pay under ORS 756.350.

(c) If the Commission determines that the utility has overpaid its annual fee, the Commission may, at its discretion, recompense the utility with a refund or a credit against annual fees subsequently due.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183 & 756

Stats. Implemented: ORS 756.310, 756.320 & 756.350

Hist.: PUC 11-1999, f. & cert. ef. 11-18-99; PUC 15-2003, f. & cert. ef. 7-24-03; PUC 20-2003, f. & cert. ef. 11-14-03; PUC 16-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-1-04; PUC 18-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-30-04

860-037-0095

Annual Fees Payable to the Commission by a Wastewater Utility

(1) On statement forms prescribed by the Commission, each wastewater utility must provide the requested information for the subject year.

(2) Each wastewater utility must pay to the Commission:

(a) A minimum annual fee of \$10. The annual fee is due on or before April 1 of the year after the calendar year on which the annual fee is based. The annual fee rate will not exceed **25 hundredths three tenths** of one percent (**0.2503** percent) of the Oregon revenue during the prior calendar year.

(b) A late statement fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050, if the Commission has not received the utility's statement form, completed in compliance with section (1) of this rule, on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the fifth business day following the due date.

(c) A penalty fee for failure to pay the full amount when due, as required under ORS 756.350.

(d) A service fee in accordance with OAR 860-001-0050 for each payment returned for non-sufficient funds.

(e) All costs incurred by the Commission to collect a past-due annual fee from the utility.

(3) The annual fee payment must be received by the Commission no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Time on the due date. A payment may be by cash, money order, bank draft, sight draft, cashier's check, certified, or personal check. A payment made by check will be conditionally accepted until the check is cleared by the bank on which it is drawn.

(4) For any year in which a wastewater utility's statement form was due, the Commission may audit the utility as the Commission deems necessary and practicable:

(a) The Commission's audit must begin no later than three (3) years after the statement form's due date.

(b) If the Commission determines that the utility has underreported its subject revenues, the Commission may assess an additional annual fee, along with a penalty fee for failure to pay under ORS 756.350.

(c) If the Commission determines that the utility has overpaid its annual fee, the Commission may, at its discretion, recompense the utility with a refund or a credit against annual fees subsequently due.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183 & 756

Stats. Implemented: ORS 756.310, 756.320 & 756.350

Hist.: PUC 14-2000, f. & cert. ef. 8-23-00; PUC 15-2003, f. & cert. ef. 7-24-03; PUC 20-2003, f. & cert. ef. 11-14-03; PUC 16-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-1-04; PUC 18-2004, f. & cert. ef. 12-30-04