

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

WJ 33

In the Matter of

MOUNTAIN HOME WATER DISTRICT

Investigation Under ORS 757.061  
to Determine Jurisdiction.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: JURISDICTION ASSERTED**

The Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) regulates private and investor-owned water utilities that meet the definition of a public utility in ORS 757.005, and the definitions of either “rate regulated” or “service regulated” set forth in ORS 757.061(1).

Service regulated utilities are subject to Commission oversight for service-related issues, including but not limited to: water quality, water pressure, customer service, and plant maintenance ORS 757.061(1)(b).

ORS 757.061(3) sets forth the circumstances under which a public water utility may become subject to Commission financial (rate) regulation. Under ORS 757.061(3)(d), a water utility serving fewer than 500 customers may become subject to rate regulation if it proposes to charge rates that exceed the maximum rate threshold established by Commission rule. ORS 757.061(6) also requires water utilities with fewer than 500 customers to provide written notice of any rate increase exceeding the threshold set by the Commission advising the customers of their right to file a petition for rate regulation. If the Commission receives petitions from 20 percent or more of the water utility’s customers, the Commission may assert jurisdiction over the utility for service and rates. OAR 860-036-1910(1) sets the threshold at an annual average monthly charge of \$42 per residential customer for unmetered customers with a pipe diameter of one inch or less. For unmetered customers with a pipe diameter larger than one inch, the threshold is \$119.

Mountain Home Water District (Mountain Home) is a privately owned water utility that provides water service to four residences, near West Linn, Oregon. Two residences are owned by the owner or a member of his family, and two residences are owned by neighbors (customers). The Company provides water service to residential customers on an unmetered basis.

On May 31, 2017, Mountain Home notified its customers it proposed to increase its rates from \$80 per month to \$200 per month effective August 1, 2017, which is above the Commission established thresholds found in OAR 860-036-1910 of \$42. In accordance with ORS 757.061(6) and OAR 860-036-1910, the Company provided customers with more than 60 days' written notice of the proposed rate increase.

On June 26, 2017, the Commission received a petition requesting rate regulation from one customer, which represents a sufficient number of customer petitions requesting rate regulation to meet the statutory threshold of 20 percent.

### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. MOUNTAIN HOME WATER DISTRICT is a rate and service regulated water utility under ORS 757.005, 757.020, and 757.061.
2. MOUNTAIN HOME WATER DISTRICT shall file appropriate tariffs within 60 days of the date of this order.

Made, entered, and effective JUL 12 2017.



*Jason Eisdorfer*  
 Jason Eisdorfer  
 Director  
 Utility Program

A party to this docket may request reconsideration under ORS 756.561. The request must be filed within 60 days of the date of service of this order and identify all grounds for reconsideration in accordance with OAR 860-001-0720. Pursuant to ORS 756.610, a party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480-183.497.