

SERVICE DATE
Nov 16, 2015

PSC REF#: 277981

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Simplified Water Rate Case for the Rio Municipal Water Utility,
Columbia County, Wisconsin

5100-WQ-100

FINAL DECISION

Introduction

On October 7, 2015, the Rio Municipal Water Utility (Utility) filed an application for a water rate increase under Wis. Stat. § 196.193, a Simplified Rate Case (SRC) process that does not require a hearing. Commission staff reviewed the information submitted by the Utility in support of its application and determined the water rate increase is justified as requested.

Findings of Fact

1. The revenue increase is calculated by multiplying the Utility's prior year revenue from sales of utility service by the 2015 rate increase factor (3.0 percent) set by the Commission.
2. The revenue increase combined with the Utility's prior year net operating income results in an overall rate of return that does not exceed 5.9 percent, the Commission's 2015 established overall rate of return applicable to a municipally owned water or combined water and sewer public utility.
3. The effective date of the rate increase is not less than 12 months from the effective date of a previous SRC increase and is not less than 45 days from the date of this application.
4. The Utility's last rate increase authorized pursuant to a hearing under Wis. Stat. § 196.20 has been in effect for at least a calendar year (i.e., January through December).
5. The Utility has less than 4,000 customers and the total of all prior rate increases granted since the last hearing under Wis. Stat. § 196.20 does not result in rates that are more than 40 percent higher than the base rates previously authorized by a hearing under Wis. Stat. § 196.20.

6. The Utility notified all its customers of the proposed rate increase.

Conclusion of Law

1. The Commission has jurisdiction under Wis. Stat. §§ 196.02, 196.193 and 196.39, and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 185.

2. The Commission has authority under Wis. Stat. § 15.02(4) to delegate to the Administrator of the Division of Water, Telecommunications, and Consumer Affairs, those functions vested by law as enumerated above.

Order

1. The Utility shall increase its rates for general service and public fire protection uniformly by the 3.0 percent rate increase factor.

2. The new rates will be effective January 1, 2016, and will be on file with the Commission as Amendment 14, provided that the Utility makes a copy of the new rates available to the public before this date by placing a copy of the new rates at locations where customer payments are accepted, on the Utility's Internet site, or in a form and place that is otherwise readily accessible to the public. If a copy of the new rates is not made available to the public by this date, the new rates shall take effect on the date they are so made available.

3. The Utility shall inform each customer of the new rates authorized by this order.

4. The Utility's current rates and rules shall be available for public inspection.

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5. The Utility shall keep on permanent file all its previous rates.
6. Jurisdiction is retained.
7. This order is effective one day after the date of service.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, November 16, 2015

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Stone". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Stone" clearly distinguishable.

Jeff Stone
Division Administrator
Division of Water, Telecommunications, and Consumer Affairs

JAS:CNCS:pc DL:01272113

See attached Notice of Rights

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN
610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

**NOTICE OF RIGHTS FOR REHEARING OR JUDICIAL REVIEW, THE
TIMES ALLOWED FOR EACH, AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE
PARTY TO BE NAMED AS RESPONDENT**

The following notice is served on you as part of the Commission's written decision. This general notice is for the purpose of ensuring compliance with Wis. Stat. § 227.48(2), and does not constitute a conclusion or admission that any particular party or person is necessarily aggrieved or that any particular decision or order is final or judicially reviewable.

PETITION FOR REHEARING

If this decision is an order following a contested case proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3), a person aggrieved by the decision has a right to petition the Commission for rehearing within 20 days of the date of service of this decision, as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. The date of service is shown on the first page. If there is no date on the first page, the date of service is shown immediately above the signature line. The petition for rehearing must be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and served on the parties. An appeal of this decision may also be taken directly to circuit court through the filing of a petition for judicial review. It is not necessary to first petition for rehearing.

PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

A person aggrieved by this decision has a right to petition for judicial review as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.53. In a contested case, the petition must be filed in circuit court and served upon the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin within 30 days of the date of service of this decision if there has been no petition for rehearing. If a timely petition for rehearing has been filed, the petition for judicial review must be filed within 30 days of the date of service of the order finally disposing of the petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition of the petition for rehearing by operation of law pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.49(5), whichever is sooner. If an *untimely* petition for rehearing is filed, the 30-day period to petition for judicial review commences the date the Commission serves its original decision.¹ The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin must be named as respondent in the petition for judicial review.

If this decision is an order denying rehearing, a person aggrieved who wishes to appeal must seek judicial review rather than rehearing. A second petition for rehearing is not permitted.

Revised: March 27, 2013

¹ See *Currier v. Wisconsin Dep't of Revenue*, 2006 WI App 12, 288 Wis. 2d 693, 709 N.W.2d 520.

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rio Municipal Water Utility

Public Fire Protection Service

Under Wis. Stat. § 196.03(3)(b), the municipality has chosen to have the utility bill the retail general service customers for public fire protection service.

This service shall include the use of hydrants for fire protection service only and such quantities of water as may be demanded for the purpose of extinguishing fires within the service area. This service shall also include water used for testing equipment and training personnel. For all other purposes, the metered or other rates set forth, or as may be filed with the Public Service Commission shall apply.

Quarterly Public Fire-Protection Service Charges:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|----------------------|----------|
| 5/8 - inch meter - \$ | 18.45 | 3 - inch meter - \$ | 276.25 |
| 3/4 - inch meter - \$ | 18.45 | 4 - inch meter - \$ | 460.41 |
| 1 - inch meter - \$ | 46.04 | 6 - inch meter - \$ | 920.82 |
| 1 1/4 - inch meter - \$ | 67.98 | 8 - inch meter - \$ | 1,473.93 |
| 1 1/2 - inch meter - \$ | 92.08 | 10 - inch meter - \$ | 2,209.35 |
| 2 - inch meter - \$ | 147.39 | 12 - inch meter - \$ | 2,947.86 |

Customers who are provided service under Schedules Mg-1, Ug-1, Mgt-1 and Mz-1 shall also be subject to the charges in this schedule.

Billing: Same as Schedule Mg-1.

RATE FILE

Sheet No. 1 of 1

Schedule No. F-1

Amendment No. 14

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rio Municipal Water Utility

| |
|----------------------------------------------|
| <p>Public Fire Protection Service</p> |
|----------------------------------------------|

The annual charge for public fire protection service to the Village of Rio shall be 69,010.

This service shall include the use of hydrants for fire protection service only and such quantities of water as may be demanded for the purpose of extinguishing fires within the service area. This service shall also include water used for testing equipment and training personnel. For all other purposes, the metered or other rates set forth, or as may be filed with the Public Service Commission shall apply

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rio Municipal Water Utility

General Service - Metered

Quarterly Service Charges:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------|
| 5/8 - inch meter - \$ | 21.63 | 3 - inch meter - \$ | 105.06 |
| 3/4 - inch meter - \$ | 21.63 | 4 - inch meter - \$ | 145.23 |
| 1 - inch meter - \$ | 30.90 | 6 - inch meter - \$ | 222.48 |
| 1 1/4 - inch meter - \$ | 40.17 | 8 - inch meter - \$ | 309.00 |
| 1 1/2 - inch meter - \$ | 49.44 | 10 - inch meter - \$ | 401.70 |
| 2 - inch meter - \$ | 71.07 | 12 - inch meter - \$ | 494.40 |

For PSC use only: base 5/8-inch meter charge for SRC purpose – \$15.50

Plus Volume Charges:

| | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------------------------------------|
| First | 50,000 | gallons used each quarter - \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons |
| Next | 100,000 | gallons used each quarter - \$2.88 per 1,000 gallons |
| Over | 150,000 | gallons used each quarter - \$1.75 per 1,000 gallons |

Billing: Bills for water service are rendered quarterly and become due and payable upon issuance following the period for which service is rendered. A late payment charge of 3 percent but not less than 50 cents will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This ONE-TIME 3 percent late payment charge will be applied only to any unpaid balance for the current billing period's usage. This late payment charge is applicable to all customers. The utility customer may be given a written notice that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued and unless payment or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made within the next 10 days, service may be disconnected pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 185.

Combined Metering: Volumetric meter readings will be combined for billing if the utility for its own convenience places more than one meter on a single water service lateral. Multiple meters placed for the purpose of identifying water not discharged into the sanitary sewer are not considered for utility convenience and shall not be combined for billing. This requirement does not preclude the utility from combining readings when metering configurations support such an approach. Meter readings from individually metered separate service laterals shall not be combined for billing purposes.