

**PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PA 17120**

Public Meeting held June 15, 2023

Commissioners Present:

Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, Chairman
Stephen M. DeFrank, Vice Chairman
Ralph V. Yanora
Kathryn L. Zerfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

v.

Columbia Water Company

Docket Nos.

R-2023-3040258

C-2023-3040567

C-2023-3040746

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On April 28, 2023, Columbia Water Company (Columbia Water), Utility Code 210540, filed Supplement No. 121 To Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 7 (Supplement No. 121) with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) to become effective June 27, 2023. Supplement No. 121 would increase Columbia Water’s total annual operating revenues for water service by approximately \$999,900, or 14.2%.

On May 9, 2023, the Office of Small Business Advocate filed a formal complaint at Docket No. C-2023-3040567. On May 17, 2023, the Office of Consumer Advocate filed a formal complaint at Docket No. C-2023-3040746. Pursuant to Section 1308(d) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 1308(d), the filing will be suspended by operation of law until January 27, 2024, unless permitted by Commission Order to become effective at an earlier date.

Investigation and analysis of this proposed tariff supplement and the supporting data indicates that the proposed changes in rates, rules, and regulations may be unlawful,

unjust, unreasonable, and contrary to public interest. It also appears that consideration should be given to the reasonableness of Columbia Water's existing rates, rules, and regulations; **THEREFORE,**

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That an investigation on Commission motion be, and hereby is, instituted to determine the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the rates, rules, and regulations contained in Columbia Water Company's proposed Supplement No. 121 To Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 7.

2. That Columbia Water Company's proposed Supplement No. 121 To Tariff – Water Pa. P.U.C. No. 7 is suspended by operation of law until January 27, 2024, unless otherwise directed by Order of the Commission.

3. That within ten (10) days following the entry date of this Order, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 53.71, Columbia Water Company shall e-file (or file) a tariff supplement, which shall bear no effective date, with the Commission and post the tariff supplement at the offices of Columbia Water Company announcing that the aforementioned tariff supplement is suspended until January 27, 2024. A sample copy of a suspension supplement is provided in Attachment A of this Order.

4. That the investigation instituted in Ordering Paragraph No. 1 of this Order shall include consideration of the lawfulness, justness, and reasonableness of the existing rates, rules, and regulations of Columbia Water Company.

5. That this case be assigned to the Office of Administrative Law Judge for Alternative Dispute Resolution, if possible, and for the prompt scheduling of such hearings as may be necessary culminating in the issuance of a recommended decision.

6. That a copy of this Order shall be served upon Columbia Water Company, the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, and any persons who have filed formal complaints against the proposed tariff supplement.

BY THE COMMISSION,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemary Chiavetta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: June 15, 2023

ORDER ENTERED: June 15, 2023

ATTACHMENT A
Sample Suspension Supplement

Supp. No. _____ to
_____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____.

(COMPANY NAME)

(TERRITORY SERVED BY COMPANY)

The application of rates proposed in Supplement No. _____ to Tariff _____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____ filed to become effective _____, is hereby suspended until _____, at Docket No. _____. Presently effective rates contained in Tariff _____ Pa. P.U.C. No. _____ and supplements thereto, will continue in effect until otherwise amended. Issued in compliance with Title 66 Pa. C.S. § 1308.