

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



0000050789

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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JEFF HATCH-MILLER
CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER

2006 MAY 26 P 4: 20

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
ARIZONA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY,
INC., AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR
AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT AN ARSENIC
COST RECOVERY MECHANISM FOR ITS
HAVASU WATER DISTRICT.

Docket Nos. W-01303A-05-0280
WS-01303A-02-0867
WS-01303A-02-0869
WS-01303A-02-0870

RUCO'S EXCEPTIONS

The Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") hereby files its exceptions to the Recommended Order filed by the Utilities Division ("Staff") on May 11, 2006. RUCO apologizes for the lateness of this filing, but it was not aware of Staff's May 11 filing until May 24 when it received the Commission's Open Meeting Agenda Notice that included the matter as Agenda Item U-6.

BACKGROUND

On April 4, 2006, Arizona-American Water Company filed its application to implement an arsenic cost recovery mechanism ("ACRM") for its Havasu system. On May 8, 2006, RUCO filed a Report on its audit of the application. On May 11, 2006, Staff filed its Staff Report and a proposed order.

1 RUCO's report proposed two adjustments to the application. The first adjustment
2 related to recognition of AFUDC. RUCO's report identified an adjustment of \$7,591 to the
3 Arsenic Plant in Service related to the AFUDC (see RUCO Schedule ACRM-1, lines 43-
4 54). RUCO's second adjustment was to disallow \$45,655 of overhead costs that could not
5 be directly charged to a specific task order, but were allocated to all the arsenic
6 construction projects. RUCO objected to the inclusion of such costs in the context of the
7 abbreviated ACRM proceeding that was to be limited to specifically identifiable arsenic
8 plant.

9 Staff's Report and proposed order make no reference to RUCO's filing and
10 proposed adjustments. Staff does propose an adjustment related to the debt and equity
11 rate applied to Construction Work in Progress ("CWIP"). This adjustment substantially the
12 same as the adjustment RUCO made and labeled as related to AFUDC.¹ However, the
13 Staff Report does not address RUCO's adjustment for overhead, and makes no similar
14 adjustment of its own.

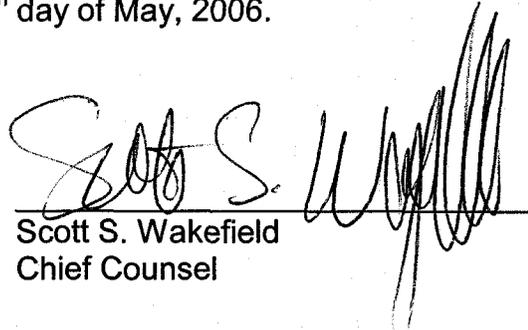
15
16 **THE COMMISSION SHOULD AMEND THE PROPOSED ORDER TO IDENTIFY RUCO'S
PARTICIPATION AND TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES RUCO RAISED**

17 The Commission is required to address all of the issues raised before it. *Post v.*
18 *Industrial Commission*, 160 Ariz. 4, 7, 770 P.2d 308, 311 (1989). Therefore, the
19 Commission should amend the proposed order to identify that RUCO had filed a report
20

21
22
23 ¹ In reviewing Staff's CWIP adjustment, RUCO discovered an error in its original \$7,591 calculation of
24 the adjustment, and concurs with Staff's proposed computation of \$26,968. Attached as Exhibit 1 is RUCO's
revised schedule RUCO ACRM-1.

1 proposing two adjustments, and to make an explicit ruling on the issues RUCO raised.
2 RUCO had included Exhibit 2, which is its proposed amendment that would indicate
3 RUCO's participation in the proceeding, and adopt RUCO's adjustment related to
4 overhead costs.

5
6 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 26th day of May, 2006.

7
8 
9 Scott S. Wakefield
10 Chief Counsel

11 AN ORIGINAL AND NINETEEN
12 COPIES of the foregoing filed this
13 26th day of May, 2006 with:

14 Docket Control
15 Arizona Corporation Commission
16 1200 West Washington Street
17 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

18 COPY of the foregoing hand delivered/
19 mailed this 26th day of May, 2006 to:

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By 
Ernestine Gamble
Secretary to Scott Wakefield

EXHIBIT 1

RUCO ADJUSTMENT TO ACRM - HAVASU WATER DISTRICT

LINE NO.	DESCRIPTION	[A] COMPANY AS FILED	[B] RUCO ADJUSTMENT	[C] RUCO AS ADJUSTED
1	Arsenic Plant Revenue Requirement			
2	Arsenic Plant in Service/Rate Base	SEE NOTE A \$ 1,941,792	(72,762)	\$ 1,869,030
3	Depreciation rate	3.44%		3.44%
4	Depreciation expense	66,733		64,233
5	Depreciation expense net of tax savings ¹	40,975		39,440
6	Recoverable O&M costs	-		-
7	Recoverable O&M costs net of tax savings ¹	-		-
8	Arsenic Operating Income	\$ (40,975)		\$ (39,440)
9	Rate of return	-2.11%		-2.11%
10	Required Rate of Return ²	6.50%		6.50%
11	Required Operating Income	126,217		121,487
12	Operating Income deficiency	167,192		160,927
13	Gross revenue conversion factor ²	1.62863		1.62863
14	Revenue deficiency	\$ 272,294		\$ 262,090

¹ 38.5986 % tax rate per Dec. 67093

² Decision No. 67093

COMPANY PROPOSED

RATES	CURRENT RATES DEC. NO. 67093	ACRM SURCHARGE	TOTAL PROPOSED
Basic Monthly Minimum Service Charge			
5/8" Meter	\$ 11.78	\$ 5.84	\$ 17.62
Commodity Rates Per 1,000 Gallons			
0 to 4,000 gallons	\$ 1.0500	\$ 0.6547	\$ 1.7047
4,001 to 13,000 gallons	1.5550	0.6547	2.2097
13,001 gallons and over	1.8700	0.6547	2.5247

RUCO PROPOSED

RATES	CURRENT RATES DEC. NO. 67093	ACRM SURCHARGE	TOTAL PROPOSED
Basic Monthly Minimum Service Charge			
5/8" Meter	\$ 11.78	\$ 5.62	\$ 17.40
Commodity Rates Per 1,000 Gallons			
0 to 4,000 gallons	\$ 1.0500	\$ 0.6302	\$ 1.6802
4,001 to 13,000 gallons	1.5550	0.6302	2.1852
13,001 gallons and over	1.8700	0.6302	2.5002

NOTE A

51	RUCO Adjustment		
52	105260 - OVERHEAD		(45,655)
53	105350 - AFUDC DEBT (AFUDC Reduced Since July 2004 By Effective Rates In Dec. No. 67093)		(1,945)
54	105375 - AFUDC EQUITY (AFUDC Reduced Since July 2004 By Effective Rates In Dec. No. 67093)		(25,162)
55	TOTAL ADJUSTMENT		\$ (72,762)

EXHIBIT 2

RUCO's Proposed Amendment

Page 5, Line 10

INSERT

RUCO's Position

On May 8, 2006, the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") filed a report of its audit findings on the application. RUCO proposed two adjustments. RUCO's first adjustment is substantially the same as the CWIP issue raised by Staff and addressed above. In addition, RUCO proposed an adjustment of \$45,655 in allocated overhead costs. We agree with RUCO that due to the abbreviated nature of this proceeding, it is not proper to include an allocation of overhead costs that cannot be directly identified with a specific task order related to the arsenic plant.

Page 5, Line 24

INSERT new Finding of Fact as follows:

4. RUCO's proposed adjustment, to disallow in plant balances amounts related to an allocation of overhead costs that cannot be directly identified with a specific task order related to the arsenic plant, should be adopted.

Further amendment to attached ACRM Schedule DRR-1 to conform.