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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION

- 1
- 2 JIM IRVIN  
Commissioner - Chairman
- 3 RENZ D. JENNINGS  
Commissioner
- 4 CARL J. KUNASEK  
Commissioner
- 5

6 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
 OF E&R WATER COMPANY, INC. AND )  
 7 WILLIAMSON WATERWORKS, INC. FOR )  
 APPROVAL OF A CURTAILMENT IN THEIR )  
 8 PINE, ARIZONA, WATER SYSTEMS )

DOCKET NO. W-02137A-98-0383  
 DECISION NO. 61072  
ORDER

9  
 10 Open Meeting  
 August 4 and 5, 1998  
 11 Phoenix, Arizona

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**  
 AUG 7 1998

12 BY THE COMMISSION:

FINDINGS OF FACT

DOCKETED BY *Juel*

14 1. On July 10, 1998, E&R Water Company, Inc. (E&R or Applicants) and Williamson  
 15 Waterworks, Inc. (WWW or Applicants) filed an application with the Commission requesting  
 16 authority to implement a water curtailment plan for their respective systems in Pine, Arizona, as part  
 17 of their Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Emergency Operations Plan. Staff  
 18 has bifurcated the applications for administrative purposes and will address each application  
 19 separately.

20 2. WWW is a public service corporation, which provides water utility service to the public  
 21 in a portion of Gila County, Arizona, which includes the Pine area.

22 3. In its application, WWW indicates that the customers have regularly experienced  
 23 insufficient water supplies during the summer months of previous years, which has necessitated the  
 24 Applicants having to frequently transport water to distribution points within its water system.

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1           4.     In an effort to improve the water systems, significant capital amounts have been  
2 invested, including exploration for new supplemental water sources. Although the Applicants have  
3 been successful in discovering new water sources in the area of their Pine water systems, such  
4 discoveries and other aggregate water systems improvements have not yet yielded sufficient water  
5 sources to meet existing customer demand.

6           5.     During the summer months of 1998, the Applicants believe that the supplemented and  
7 improved Pine water supplies will likely be unable to meet customer demand. However, to date, no  
8 potable water has been transported into these two systems.

9           6.     The Applicants state that the present water conservation guidelines being followed are  
10 in "Stages". These "Stages" are listed below:

- 11           a.     Stage 1 exists when the water storage is at least 700,000 gallons (82 percent of total  
12 storage).
- 13           b.     Stage 2 exists when the water storage is at least 600,000 gallons (70 percent of total  
14 storage).
- 15           c.     Stage 3 exists when the water storage is at least 500,000 gallons (58 percent of total  
16 storage).
- 17           d.     Stage 4 exists when the water storage is at least 450,000 gallons (52 percent of total  
18 storage).
- 19           e.     Stage 5 exists when the water storage is at least 350,000 gallons (40 percent of total  
20 storage).

21           7.     Applicants request that the amount of curtailment implemented be as follows:

- 22           a.     Under Stage 1, there would be no curtailment of water usage.
- 23           b.     Under Stage 2, **Voluntary** customer water conservation measures should be  
24 employed to reduce daily consumption by approximately ten percent  
25 (10%). Outside watering on weekends and holidays should be curtailed. Outside  
26 vegetation watering may occur during weekday periods on even days of the month  
27 for even numbered lots and odd numbered days of the month for odd numbered lots.
- 28           c.     Under Stage 3, **Voluntary** water conservation measures should be employed to  
reduce daily consumption by approximately twenty-five percent (25%). Outside  
watering should be completely curtailed except for permitted livestock. Indoor  
water conservation techniques should be employed wherever possible. Restaurant

patrons should be served water only upon request.

d. Under Stage 4, **Voluntary** water conservation measures should be employed to reduce consumption by approximately forty percent (40%). Outside watering should be completely curtailed and livestock should be watered only when necessary. Mandatory indoor water conservation techniques should be employed throughout customer residences. Restaurant patrons should be served water only upon request.

e. Under Stage 5, **Mandatory** water conservation restrictions shall be in effect pursuant to regulatory enforcement proceedings. Such regulatory restrictions may be in the form of moratoriums, curtailment orders, meter disconnection without notice or the like. Customers should confine themselves to not more than one-half of their usual indoor daily water consumption except for permitted livestock. No outside watering should be conducted. Restaurant patrons should be served water only upon request.

8. Staff recommends, after review of the application, that the curtailment request be granted with certain modifications as follows:

Stage 2 shall be implemented when total water storage has been less than 85 percent full for at least forty-eight (48) consecutive hours.

Stage 3 shall be implemented when total water storage has been less than 70 percent full for at least twenty-four (24) consecutive hours.

Stage 4 shall be implemented when total water storage has been less than 60 percent full for at least twenty-four (24) consecutive hours.

Stage 5 shall be implemented when total water storage has been less than 50 percent full for at least eight (8) consecutive hours.

9. Staff recommends that Stage 5 shall identify the specific **mandatory** water conservation restrictions as follows:

a. Irrigation of outdoor lawns, trees, shrubs, or any plant life is prohibited;

b. Washing of any vehicle is prohibited;

c. The use of water for dust control or any outdoor cleaning uses is prohibited;

d. The use of drip or misting systems of any kind is prohibited;

e. The filling of any swimming pools, spas, fountains, or ornamental ponds is prohibited;

f. The filling of storage tanks is prohibited;

- 1 g. Restaurant patrons shall be served water only upon request; and
- 2 h. Any other outdoor water intensive activity shall be prohibited.
- 3 10. Staff further recommends that:
- 4 a. WWW shall notify the Utilities Division Director at least twelve (12) hours prior to
- 5 implementing Stage 5. This notification shall include:
- 6 • The time Stage 5 will go into effect.
- 7 • The expected duration of Stage 5.
- 8 b. Customers shall be notified of their first violation of the mandatory water use
- 9 restrictions contained in Stage 5. Such notice shall include the specific violation and
- 10 an explanation of the corrective action to be taken by the customer. On
- 11 determination of a second violation, water service shall be terminated without
- 12 notification after contacting the Consumer Services Section of the Arizona
- 13 Corporation Commission.
- 14 c. A terminated customer shall be required to pay all applicable tariffs before having
- 15 service restored.
- 16 d. WWW shall post several (at least five) signs in highly visible locations in the service
- 17 area. The signs shall indicate at which Stage the water system is operating.
- 18 e. If Stage 5 is implemented, the water company shall notify the Consumer Services
- 19 Section as soon as possible (within 4 hours) after each of Stages 4, 3, 2 and 1 are
- 20 restored.
- 21 f. There shall be a complete moratorium on any new service connections to the water
- 22 system anytime it is operating in Stage 5.
- 23 g. The WWW shall notify all its customers of this curtailment with a bill insert in the
- 24 billing immediately following the effective date of this Decision.
- 25 11. Staff further recommends that the Applicant file this curtailment plan as a tariff and
- 26 incorporate it into its ADEQ Emergency Operations Plan.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 25 1. WWW is a public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV of the Arizona
- 26 Constitution.
- 27 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over WWW of the subject matter of the application.
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