

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 6332

Tariff filing of Citizens Utilities Company)
requesting a rate increase in the amount of)
10.48%, to take effect January 14, 2000)

Order entered: 1/7/2000

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF FILING

REPORT

On November 30, 1999, Citizens Utilities Company ("Citizens") filed a petition and revised tariffs with the Public Service Board requesting an increase in its retail rates in the amount of 10.48% (for a revenue increase of \$2.4 million), to take effect on a service-rendered basis commencing January 14, 2000 (Tariff Filing No. 3652). Citizens further requested that if the Board suspends the rate filing, that it grant the requested increase on an immediate, temporary basis.

Citizens notified its customers of the proposed rate change via newspaper publication in the *Newport Dailey*, the *Burlington Free Press*, the *Caledonian Record* and the *St. Albans Messenger*.

On December 29, 1999, the Vermont Department of Public Service("Department"), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 225, informed the Board that it had reviewed the filing and recommended that it be suspended and investigated, and that Citizens' request for a temporary rate increase be denied.

On January 5, 2000, Citizens filed a letter in response to the Department's recommendation. Citizens requested the Board not suspend the rate request, but instead allow the rates to take effect as requested, subject to refund and investigation under 30 V.S.A. § 227.

On January 6, 2000, the Department filed a response to Citizens' January 5th request. The Department informed the Board that it continues to recommend that the rate increase requested by Citizens be suspended and investigated.

TEMPORARY ORDER

Under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Section 226 and for the reasons set out by the Department,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the tariff filing submitted by Citizens on November 30, 1999, is hereby suspended and shall not become effective until final determination of the proceedings hereby instituted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Board will investigate the changes proposed by Citizens to determine whether or not such changes are just and reasonable.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Sections 11(a)(2) and 226(a), that a prehearing conference on the permanent rate request, and a preliminary hearing on the temporary rate request, will be held in this matter.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 7th day of January, 2000.

VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

BY: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Filed: January 7, 2000

Attest: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board of any technical errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made.

