CASE: UW 194 WITNESSES: SCOTT SHEARER (STAFF) FRANK DAY (CROOKED RIVER RANCH WATER)

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

STIPULATING PARTIES EXHIBIT 100

Joint Testimony of Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon and Crooked River Ranch Water In Support of the Stipulation

July 31, 2023

Docket No: UW 194

Q. Please state your names, occupations, and business addresses.
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A. My name is Scott Shearer. I am an Analyst employed in the Rates, Finance, and Audits Division of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC or the Commission). My business address is 201 High Street SE., Suite 100, Salem, Oregon 97301.

My name is Frank Day. I am the General Manger of Crooked River Ranch Water ("CRR" or the "Company"). My business address is 13845 SW Commercial Loop Rd, Terrebonne, Oregon 97660.

Q. Mr. Shearer, please describe your educational background and work experience.

A. My witness qualification statement is found in Exhibit Stipulating Parties/101.

Q. Mr. Day, please describe your educational background and work experience.

- A. My witness qualification statement is found in Exhibit Stipulating Parties/102.
 - Q. What is the purpose of this Joint Testimony?
- A. The purpose of our Joint Testimony is to introduce and support the Stipulation entered into by CRR and Commission Staff (Staff) in Docket No. UW 194, CRRs request for a general rate revision.
- Q. Who are the parties in Docket No. UW 193?
- A. The parties in Docket No. UW 194 are CRR and Staff (Stipulating Parties);
 Todd Hill, Barbara Oakley, and Jeff Murtaugh, representing themselves; and
 Bob Beveridge, Randy Peterson, Julia Randell, representing the Crooked River
 Ranch Homeowners Association (collectively, the Intervenors).

Q. Did the Parties reach a settlement in this docket?

 A. Yes. The Stipulation entered was agreed to by CRR and Staff resolves all issues in this docket. The remaining Intervenors have agreed not to oppose the stipulation.

Q. Did you prepare any exhibits for this docket?

A. Yes. Mr. Shearer individually sponsors Exhibit Stipulating Parties/101,

consisting of one page (Witness Qualification Statement). Mr. Day individually

sponsors Exhibit Stipulating Parties/102, consisting of one page (Witness

Qualification Statement). Both Mr. Shearer and Mr. Day sponsor Exhibit

Stipulating Parties/103, consisting of eight pages (Revenue Calculation and

Rate Design). Mr. Shearer individually sponsors Exhibit Stipulating

Parties/104, consisting of one page (Public Comments) and Exhibit Stipulating

Parties/105 consisting of one page (Rate Impact Comparison).

Q. How is your Joint Testimony organized?

A. Following this section with background information, our Joint Testimony is organized, as follows:

Issue 1 – Summary Recomendation	
Issue 2 – Summary Of General Rate Filling	
Issue 3 – Rate Effective Date	9
Issue 4 – Rate Base	
Issue 5 – Operating Expense Adjustments	
Issue 6 – Other Items	
Issue 7 – Revisions To Tariff	14

ISSUE 1 – SUMMARY RECOMENDATION

Q. Please summarize the Stipulating Parties' recommendation in this case.

A. The Stipulating Parties recommend that the Commission adopt in its entirety the Stipulation agreed to in Docket No. UW 194. The Parties agree to and support a total revenue requirement, exclusive of irrigation assessment revenues, of \$1,334,551, as shown in Attachment A to the Stipulation, to be collected in rates as set forth in Exhibit Stipulating Parties/105. This revenue requirement includes an agreed-upon 1.87 percent rate of return on a total rate base of \$4,974,011, and represents an increase of \$319.419, or 31.43 percent, over 2022 test period revenues of \$1,015,402.

Q. What are the effects of this increase on Crooked River's customers?

A. By rate class, rate increases are approximately 26 to 135 percent for residential and commercial customers depending on meter size, as shown in Exhibit Stipulating Parties/105. The bigger increase for large meter sizes is mainly driven by the move from a single base rate for all customers, to a meter size allocation factor used by the American Water Works Association, to more properly align the cost to serve based on the capacity of larger meter sizes. The Stipulating Parties believe that the stipulated revenue requirement and adjustments represent a reasonable financial settlement of the issues in this docket, and that, taken together, the adjustments result in an overall revenue requirement that will produce rates that are fair, just, and reasonable. As such, the Stipulating Parties agree that the Stipulation is in the public interest.

Docket No: UW 194

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Q. What did Staff consider in evaluation of Crooked Rivers application for a general rate case?

A. Staff's investigation and analysis of CRR's Application included a comprehensive examination of the Company's revenues, expenses, revenue deductions, rate base, capital structure, and rate spread and design. Staff also reviewed the various comments provided by members of the public during the course of the proceeding and has summarized those comments in Exhibit Stipulating Parties/104. Staff also prepared 32 discovery requests that have been answered by the Company. Staff used the following rationale when considering whether settlement would produce fair, just and reasonable rates in this case.

- Analysis of Company revenues and in conjunction with rate design, assuring just and reasonable rates across rate classes.
 - Specific analysis of Non-Profit status of the utility to ensure proper accounting for costs to the specific rate class.
- Analysis and comparison of wages and benefits with the American Water Works Association wage survey for 2021, using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to forward escalate wages through mid-year 2023, and making adjustments to match estimated benefit costs for similarly situated companies.
 - Analyzing plant items to ensure accuracy of the system reporting, accounting for items in place as of 2022.

Q. Please explain why Staff and the Company believe that the Commission

Docket No: UW 194

should adopt the Stipulation.

A. Staff and the Company have carefully reviewed the Company's Initial Filing and responses to data requests and have thoroughly analyzed the issues during multiple days of settlement conferences. Staff and the Company believe that the adjustments and agreements in the Stipulation provide a fair and reasonable resolution of the issues in this docket and the resulting rates are fair, just, and reasonable.

1 **ISSUE 2 – SUMMARY OF GENERAL RATE FILLING** 2 Q. Please describe Crooked River Ranch Water 3 A. It is organized as a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation, for the benefit of members. The Company serves approximately 1650 residential and 4 5 commercial customers in Terrebonne, Oregon and is regulated by the 6 Commission for rates and service. 7 Q. Please describe the Crooked River's general rate case application? 8 A. On February 16, 2023, CRR initiated this proceeding, Docket No. UW 194, by 9 filing a request for a general rate increase (Application), with proposed rates to 10 become effective on March 24, 2023. In its Application, the Company 11 requested to increase its revenues from \$1,015,402 to \$1,385,974, or an 12 additional \$370.572 (36.5 percent). 13 Q. What are the primary drivers Crooked River's requested rate increase? 14 A. Per the Application, the Company states: 15 The utility is seeking this change in rates because for the past 12 years we 16 have had a private contractor that supported our field staff with mainline 17 repairs along with other projects. The contractor was available nights and 18 weekends to provide support and manpower for emergencies. In September 19 of 2022 they notified CRRWater that they could no longer be available to us. 20 We had to make some changes quickly. We hire 2 more field staff for a total 21 of 3 to be able to have the manpower needed for emergencies and day-to-22 day operations. We also added the position of field supervisor (part of the 3) 23 to oversee the field operations. 2 additional field staff also meant we had to

Docket No: UW 194

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	add equipment and resources to support the additional staff. We have had to
	increase our wages to keep up with the market along with the increased cost
	of goods from inflation.
Q.	What procedural actions have taken place since Crooked River filled its
	application for a rate increase?
A.	Since the filling of the application in February 2023, the following procedural
	actions have taken place:
	1. By Order No. 23-050, entered February 23, 2023, Chief Administrative
	Law Judge ("ALJ") Moser suspended the effective date for a period of
	time not to exceed nine months until December 24, 2023.
	2. ALJ Allwein held a public comment hearing and prehearing conference
	by video conference on April 26, 2023.
	3. Todd Hill, Barbara Oakley, and Jeff Murtaugh, representing
	themselves; and Bob Beveridge, Randy Peterson, Julia Randell,
	representing the Crooked River Ranch Homeowners Association filed
	motions to intervene which were all granted by the Administrative Law
	Judge.
	4. The Stipulating Parties held settlement conferences via video
	conference on May 31, and June 7, 2023.
	5. Staff filed a motion on June 27, 2023, to temporarily suspend the
	procedural schedule. ALJ Allwein granted that motion on July 17,
	2023, directing the filing of a stipulation, supporting testimony and
	affidavits or declarations, and a motion to admit and adopt the

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stipulation, or alternatively, a joint status report or revised procedural schedule on or before July 31, 2023.

Q. What Public Comments were received from customers of Crooked River in regard to the rate case?

 A. Staff received comments through the Commission's Consumer Services Section, the Administrative Hearings Division, and the Public Comment Hearing. All comments received related to CRRs rate filling are included in Exhibit Stipulating Parties/104.

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ISSUE 3 – RATE EFFECTIVE DATE

Q. What is the rate effective date in the Stipulation?

A. As a result of their settlement discussions and in the context of the overall

settlement, the Stipulating Parties agree to and support rates becoming

effective on September 22, 2023.

ISSUE 4 – RATE BASE

Q. Do the Stipulating Parties agree to make certain adjustments to rate base in the Stipulation?

A. Yes. As a result of their settlement discussions and in the context of the overall settlement, the Stipulating Parties agree that the stipulated rates in this case reflect rate base adjustments to Depreciation Expense (Account 403).

Q. What is the adjustment to Depreciation Expense (Account 403)?

A. The Stipulating Parties agree that utility plant in service includes all rate base additions from the Company's last rate case through the Company's filing of this rate case. In addition, the Stipulating Parties agree to make a depreciation amortization adjustment of the "1 million gallon elevated water reservoir not including SCADA (2016 Project) Schedule 1," as well as make general corrections to the original calculations in the Company's plant schedule that incorrectly totaled the depreciation amount. The Stipulating Parties agree that these rate base additions are used and useful for the provision of utility service and reflect prudently incurred costs. The Stipulating Parties agree that these actions result in a total depreciation expense of \$289,605 on a net plant in service of \$4,979,167.

Q. What is the adjustment to Working Capital?

A. The Stipulating Parties agree to an adjustment of (\$13,178) to reflect the amount of operating expenses agreed upon by the Stipulating Parties. This is the result of an automatic adjustment based on 1/12 of the final total operating expense figure totaling \$74,011 (working cash).

1		ISSUE 5 – OPERATING EXPENSE ADJUSTMENTS
2	Q.	Do the Stipulating Parties agree to make certain adjustments to
3		operating expense in the Stipulation?
4	A.	Yes. As a result of their settlement discussions and in the context of the
5		overall settlement, the Stipulating Parties agree that the stipulated rates in this
6		case reflect operating expense adjustments to: Employee Salaries and Wages
7		(Account 601); Employee Pension & Benefits (Account 604); Contract
8		Services – Accounting (Account 632); Gross Revenue Fee (PUC)
9		(Account 667); Miscellaneous Expense (Account 675); Cell Tower Lease
10		Payment to HOA (Account OE 2); USDA Annual Loan Payment w/Interest
11		(Account OE 4); And Contingency Deposit (Account OE 5).
12	Q.	What is the adjustment to Employee Salaries and Wages
13		(Account 601)?
14	A.	The Stipulating Parties agree to an increase to the filed request of \$5,037 for a
15		total of \$386,755.
16	Q.	What is the adjustment to Employee Pension & Benefits (Account 604)?
17	A.	The Stipulating Parties agree to an increase to the filed request of \$3,013 for a
18		total of \$62,538.
19	Q.	What is the adjustment to Contract Services – Accounting (Account 632)?
20	A.	The Stipulating Parties agree to an increase to the filed request of \$7,500 for a
21		total of \$13,266.
22	Q.	What is the adjustment to Gross Revenue Fee (PUC) (Account 667)?

Docket No: UW 194

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A. The Stipulating Parties agree to an adjustment of (\$235) to reflect the reduced revenues when compared to the original application, as generated by the Stipulation. This is a result of automatic adjustments based the final total revenue figure, for a total of \$5,739.

Q. What is the adjustment to Cell Tower Lease Payment to HOA (Account OE 2)?

- A. The Stipulating Parties agree to an increase of \$13,020 as filed in the case for a total of \$37,020. Staff notes that the application accounted only for the direct income to the Company for the lease of \$24,180, excluding the payment to the HOA of \$13,020. However, Staff felt the proper accounting was to account for the full payment received for the lease, listed \$37,020 revenues, then show the payment to the HOA as a separate expense. This adjustment has no direct change in the outcome of the revenue requirement.
- Q. What is the adjustment to USDA Annual Loan Payment w/Interest (Account OE4)?
- A. The Stipulating Parties agree to a decrease of (\$175,244) for a total of zero.
- Q. What is the adjustment to Contingency Deposit (Account OE5)?
- A. The Stipulating Parties agree to an increase adjustment of \$15,000 for a total of \$30,000.

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Q. Are there other items the Parties agreed to in the Stipulation? A. Yes, the Parties agreed to the following items in addition to the cost structure previously described: Accounting – the Company will identify and separate the individual costs and funding for USDA Replacement Short Lived Assets Fund, the USDA Loan payment with interest fund, and the Contingency Deposit. This is to ensure that costs and expenditures from the funds can be properly accounted for from both expense and plant costs going forward. Staff has agreed to work with the company to complete this task.

2. Audits – the Company will have the following audits performed:

 a. A traditional financial audit based on 2023 accounting, that reviews and confirms the Company's financial standing and adherence to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The Company will submit a report to the Commission no later than April 1, 2024.

b. A compliance audit conducted by one of the Commission's Consumer Services Compliance Specialists, based on compliance with the newly approved Tariffs in this docket that reviews and confirms the Company's compliance with Oregon statutes, Commission Rules, and Company Tariffs. A report will be submitted to the Commission no later than April 1, 2024.

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ISSUE 7 – REVISIONS TO TARIFF

Q. Do the Stipulating Parties agree upon the disposition of the tariff revisions proposed by the Company in this rate case?

A. Yes. As a result of their settlement discussions and in the context of the overall settlement, the Stipulating Parties agree to recommend and support the tariff revisions proposed by the Company in this rate case, with the rates adjusted to reflect the Stipulation including the Rate Spread and Rate Design methodologies proposed by Staff. In addition to the changes in the rate schedule, the Stipulating Parties agree to the following changes to the company's Rules and Regulations:

- Removal of Rule 12 Multiple Residences/Commercial Users, as it doesn't apply to the company's current rate schedule calculations and could be determinantal to potential customers in the future.
- Revision of Rule 42 Request to Relocate or Modify Facilities, makes changes to the language to more clearly define who and when this rule applies to.

The tariff revisions and adjusted rates are reflected in Attachment B to the Stipulation. Subject to the approval of the Stipulation, CRR will file revised rate schedules as a compliance filing in Docket UW 193, to be effective in accordance with Paragraph 2 of the Stipulation, reflecting the rates and rule revisions agreed to in the Stipulation. The Company will make that compliance filing within three business days after the Commission order in this proceeding or September 22, 2023, whichever is later. Docket No: UW 194

Q. Does this conclude your Joint Testimony?

A. Yes.

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CASE: UW 194 WITNESS: SCOTT SHEARER

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

STIPULATING PARTIES EXHIBIT 101

Witness Qualifications Statement

July 31, 2023

WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT

NAME:	Scott Shearer
EMPLOYER:	Public Utility Commission of Oregon
TITLE:	Utility Analyst Rates, Safety, and Utility Performance Program
ADDRESS:	201 High Street SE. Suite 100 Salem, OR. 97301
EDUCATION:	Corban University Salem, Oregon Bachelor of Science in Business, Organizational Leadership
EXPERIENCE:	2014 - Current - Heritage Grove Credit Union Board of Directors Provide strategic direction for a credit union with assets of 130 million dollars. Reviewing and approving monetary expenditures and budget.
	2007 - Current - Oregon Public Utility Commission Utility Analyst Research and analysis of utility company filings; including rulemaking, affiliated interests, utility purchase and sale, jurisdiction, and rate case dockets. Telecommunications Specialist/Consumer Specialist/Senior Compliance Specialist Reviewing and applying Oregon Administrative Rules to tariffs in relation to consumer complaints.
	 2006 - 2007 - Oregon Department of Justice/Division of Child Support, Administrative Specialist Researching responsible parties in Child Support orders 1999 - 2006 - EPIQ Systems/Poorman Douglas Corp. Claims Analyst/Senior Claims Analyst Reviewing and implementing orders and settlements for the largest Class Action Lawsuit administrator in the United
	States. Auditing and processing class action lawsuits with payouts from two-hundred thousand to over one billion dollars to claimants.

CASE: UW 194 WITNESS: FRANK DAY

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

STIPULATING PARTIES EXHIBIT 102

Witness Qualifications Statement

July 31, 2023

WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT

NAME:	Frank Day
EMPLOYER:	Crooked River Ranch Water Company
TITLE:	General Manager
ADDRESS:	PO Box 2319 Terrebonne, Or. 97760
EDUCATION:	Diploma from Sweet Home High School
EXPERIENCE:	2011 – Current – Crooked River Ranch
	Water Company
	General Manager
	2019 – Current – Oregon Volunteer Fire
	fighters Association
	Board of Directors
	2010 – Current – Crooked River Ranch
	Fire and Rescue
	Response EMT, Fire Fighter, Lieutenant
	1992 – 2010 – WalMart Stores Inc.
	Assistant Manager, Co-Manager

CASE: UW 194 WITNESSES: SCOTT SHEARER AND FRANK DAY

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

STIPULATING PARTIES EXHIBIT 103

Revenue Calculation and Rate Design

July 31, 2023

Program Increase Increase 31.4.3% 31.4.3% 400 Ummetered 5 411.1 Residential 947,181 36,508 400 Ummetered 5 - 5 411.1 Residential 947,181 36,508 5 - 5 411.1 Residential 32,009 14,900 5 - 5 - 426 Irreproteion Sales 5 - 5 - 5 - 445 Irrigation Water Sales 5 - 5 - 5 - 446 Water Sales 1,076 (10,002) 5 1,074 5 1,074 472 Cell forwer Losse 10,0540 \$ 5 1,074 5 1,074 473 Cheat Prover Losse 5,015,402 \$ 3,0427 \$ 3,847 3,848 473 Creat Prover Losse 5,015,402 \$ 3,014,80 \$ 2,027 \$ 3,048 474 Horee	Compan	y Name	Crooked River Ranch				
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		TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$ 992,334	\$ 53,972	\$ 1,046,306	\$ (128,170)	\$ 918,136

OTHER REVENUE DEDUCTIONS

403	Depreciation Expense		288,884	\$	288,884	\$	721	\$	289,605
406	Amort of Plant Acquisition Adjustment			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
407	Amortization Expense			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
408.11	Property Tax	724	26	\$	750	\$	-	\$	750
408.12	Payroll Tax	22,149	10,648	\$	32,797	\$	-	\$	32,797
408.13	Other			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
409.10	Federal Income Tax	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
409.11	Oregon Income Tax	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
409.13	Extraordinary Items Income Tax			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
	TOTAL REVENUE DEDUCTIONS	\$ 1,015,207	\$ 353,530	\$	1,368,737	\$	(127,449)	\$	1,241,288
	Net Operating Income	\$ 195	\$ 17,042	\$	17,237	\$	76,026	\$	93,263
	UTILITY RATE BASE								
101	Utility Plant in Service			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
105	Construction Work in Progress			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
108	- Accumulated Depreciation of Plant			\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
271	- Contributions in Aid of Construction			Ś	-	Ś	-	Ś	-

271	- Contributions in Aid of Construction
272	+ Accumulated Amortization of CIAC
281	- Accumulated Deferred Income Tax
	Loan Amount
	- Excess Capacity

- = NET RATE BASE INVESTMENT
- Plus: (working capital) 151 Materials and Supplies Inventory Working Cash (Total Op Exp /12) TOTAL RATE BASE Rate of Return

87,189		\$ \$	- 87,189	\$ \$	- (13,178)	\$ \$	- 74,011
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Residential/Commercial

Revenue Allocation: 1,296,277

Allocated to Base Rates: 69.00% Allocated to Commodity Rates: 31.00%

Base Rates

Revenue Allocation: **894,431**

			Customer		R	levenue		
Meter Size	Customers	Factors	Equivalency	% of Total	А	llocation	В	ase Rate
5/8"	1,562	1.0	1,562	88.35%	\$	790,216	\$	42.16
3/4"		1.5	-	0.00%	\$	-	\$	63.24
1"	102	1.5	153	8.65%	\$	77,403	\$	63.24
1 1/2"	2	2.5	5	0.28%	\$	2,529	\$	105.40
2"	12	4.0	48	2.71%	\$	24,283	\$	168.63
3"		15.0	-	0.00%	\$	-	\$	632.37
4"		25.0	-	0.00%	\$	-	\$	1,053.96
6"		50.0	-	0.00%	\$	-	\$	2,107.92
8"		80.0	-	0.00%	\$	-	\$	3,372.67
TOTAL	1,678		1,768	100.00%	\$	894,431		

Commodity Rate

Revenue Allocation: 401,846

Annual Consumption	
Unit of Measurement	
Annual Units of Consumption	

Commodity Rate:

26,558,400 Cubic Feet 100 Cubic Feet 265,584 Units

\$ 1.51307 per unit

CASE: UW 194 WITNESS: SCOTT SHEARER

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

STIPULATING PARTIES EXHIBIT 104

Public Comments

July 31, 2023

From: Sent:	Wednesday, March 22, 2023 8:00 PM
То:	PUC PUC.PublicComments * PUC
Subject:	Crooked River Ranch Water Company (CRRWC) Docket# UW 194

Follow Up Flag:Follow upFlag Status:Flagged

I have been a member of the Crooked RIver Ranch Water Company since March 2019, I have some questions that I am hoping you can answer for me, or maybe it will spark some curiosity by the PUC.

1. Does CRRWC have a Budget Committee that creates an Annual Operating Budget or reviews the Capital Reserve Plan who are not either employees or Board of Directors?

2. How many hours of after hour support did Avion Water Company provide to CRRWC over the last 10 years?

3. Was it necessary for CRRWC to hire two full time employees to cover the services that Avion Water company has provided, ie Emergency Services? What was the cost to CRRWC for the support Avion Water Company provided in comparison to the two new employees hired?

4. Why is CRRWC just now applying for an increase in rates when they could have applied for increases in years past to help offset the amount of the increase they are asking for now? The budget deficits have not happened overnight, this shows a lack of financial review processes year over year.

5. Why has CRRWC not posted their meeting minutes until recently to their website since May 2022 that could have provided transparency to the conversations the CRRWC Board of Directors had regarding the submission of their application to the PUC?

6.Why did CRRWC purchase a brand new truck for \$70,000 instead of purchasing a used vehicle? This is an over expenditure based on the January-October 2022 Financials posted on the website in the November Meeting minutes showing a deficit of almost \$83K.

7. Hiring two new technicians and not looking for alternative resources to support the CRRWC during after hours or water emergencies, is an over expenditure based on the January-October 2022 Financials posted on the website in the November Meeting Minutes. See below

Treasurer's Report

Frank Day presented the Financial Report for January through October 2022.

REVENUE	
Water Sales:	\$ 823,832
Misc. Service Revenue:	\$ 8,909
Cross Connection:	\$ 4,124
Lease Revenue:	\$ 24,000
Total Revenue	\$ 860,865
Expenses Total:	\$ 520,237
Deposits to Loan/Contingency:	\$ 292,724
Net Income	\$ 47,904
Asset Investment Expenses	\$ 134,327
Net after Investment and Transfers:	\$ (86,423)
Year to Date	
Contingency Fund Balance	
Loan Payment Reserve Balance:	

8. I do not receive a monthly paper bill for my water consumption from CRRWC, yet Frank Day states he has sent out three notifications this year regarding the possible rate increase. I have only received the most recent flyer from the CRRWC. As an e-Bill customer I was not provided this information regarding the application to the PUC in email or separate document from the CRRWC.

I thank you for your time and reviewing my questions and statements. Please add my name to the email notifications list for the upcoming Public Hearings.

Thank you,



From: Sent: To: Subject:	Thursday, March 23, 2023 1:16 PM
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Dear

How can a Non-Profit business like the CRR Water Company make a net profit of over \$315,000 a year, and still claim to be non-profit. Nathan Russell, President and other board members need to step on Frank Day. I have had run-ins with Frank Day in the past and I can say, "I don't trust anything he does". Nathan Russell needs to find a new manager.



From:Monday, March 27, 2023 2:41 PMSent:Monday, March 27, 2023 2:41 PMTo:Subject:Subject:FW: Crooked River Ranch Docket UW 194Follow Up Flag:Follow upFlag Status:Flagged

Please respond.

From:
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:19 PM
То:
Subject: Crooked River Ranch Docket UW 194

Mr Scott Shearer,

There have been times I've gone to the CRRWC and it's been closed, on weekdays. If you need or want anything you have to call them. Apparently they work from home? If he wants more money why doesn't he get rid of the building, that would put extra money in his fund.

I see that he answered No when asked if he held any other job. I see he is a volunteer at the CRR fire department and also fights wild fires. Working wild fires pays.

Why, if he put in this great new AMR electronic meter system and per Frank "it is so sensitive I can tell when you're taking a shower" why didn't he know about the horrible leak in a building in the Administration area? Why did it gush for 4 days and even then he didn't know about it. Why didn't his great new system alert him?

A few years ago Frank had a few more, I believe it was 2, field techs. I believe he let them go or they left around the time Covid hit. Since he could afford those workers then he should be able to afford them now with a much smaller increase.

The majority of residents on Crooked River Ranch live on just Social Security or a small fixed income. There is NO way they can afford a 36% increase in water. So then what, he turns their water off?

This is just outrageous. Please don't allow this increase.

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: Sent: To:	Sunday, April 23, 2023 5:35 PM
Subject:	UW #194 Crooked River Water Company
Attachments:	PUC Letter RE CRRWC Rate Increase 4 21 23 v.2.2 4 23 23.pdf
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Please see attached letter regarding the Crooked River Ranch Water Company request for rates increase.

Thank you,



F	
From:	
Sent:	Tuesday, April 25, 2023 3:39 PM
То:	
Subject:	Crooked River Ranch Water Company Rate Increase Docket # UW 194
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

I have been a member of the Crooked River Ranch Water Company since 1998. I have some questions that I am hoping you can answer for me, or perhaps they will spark some curiosity by the PUC.

1. I'm concerned about the financial management/mis-management of CRRWC that has led to the request before the PUC for a 38.7% increase in residential water and 46.6% increase in commercial/industrial water.

- Operating losses in every year between 2018 and 2022, totalling more than \$720k.
- Depreciation of \$1.6M (albeit a non-cash expense) with investment in plant of \$784k (47%) between 2018 and 2021, suggesting real deterioration of the physical plant is likely
- Declining cash balances in the contingency fund of 11% in both 2022 and 2021, and a 20% decline in 2020. Year-to-date 2023, the contingency cash balance has declined \$193k (54%) from 12/31/22, and now stands at \$151k.

2. CRRWC currently doesn't have a Capital Reserve Plan, and doesn't believe one is needed to guide decisions around revenues (and rate increase needs), expenses (and hiring and equipment purchases), and contributions to/from the contingency fund and the operating fund. If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there. It appears CRRWC's lack of good planning around capital adequacy has now led to a crisis rate request. How does the PUC look at a rate request in light of CRRWC not doing adequate capital planning and general mis-management?

3. The filing argues the rate request is needed because Avion, who had provided emergency services, indicated they would no longer be able to provide those services.

- Per emails with Frank Day, the Avion contract was for \$24k
- Per the filing, the CRRWC costs to bring those services in-house include
 - Two new hires, with wage and salaries increasing \$124k
 - Employee benefits and pensions increasing \$40k (from \$5k/employee/year to \$10k/employee/year which is worth questioning itself)

- As such, these operating expenses increase \$164k
- Purchase of 3 new, model 2023, vehicles for \$240k.
- Purchasing brand new vehicles seems a further over-expenditure given the financial condition
- As such, increased operating expense and equipment purchases total \$404k
- Spending \$404k to replace a \$24k contract is, at best, imprudent. Those spending
 decisions have created this rate filing urgency. When you have a lighbulb burn out, you
 don't rewire the house, unless rewiring was the plan all along. Given these decisions,
 and the absence of a Caplital Reserve Plan, it appears CRRWC feels financial managment
 wasn't and isn't needed; just go to the PUC for a rate increase.

4. The filing shows a \$370k revenue increase request and a \$55k expense increase compared to 2022, for a net income increase from 2022 of \$315k. Is the company going to contribute that to the contingency fund? What is the target balance for reserves? What happens in the out years?

- Actually, the filing shows a <u>reduction</u> in the contribution to the contingency fund, from \$140k in 2022 to \$15k in 2023; without that adjustment, 2023 expenses would actually increase \$180k, not \$55k. This contingency fund contribution reduction simply hides, or offsets, most of the wage, salary, and benefit increases noted above.
- This rate filing presentation again points to the lack of a Capital Reserve Plan strategy for building appropriate contingency reserves and prudently managing the non-profit for the mutual benefit of the members. CRRWC needs the help of the PUC in that matter.

5. Finally, Question 18 in the PUC filing asks if there are oral or written contracts between the utility and those affiliated with the company. CRRWC states there are none. The CRRWC Bylaws at 4.8.b state the BOD may employ a General Manager under contract; Frank Day, in the filing at Question 7, indicates he is affiliated with the company as General Manager. I realize there is a protective order in place, but believe the answer may be unresponsive to the question.

Thank you for your consideration.

Exhibit Stipulating Parites/104 Shearer/8



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3

From:	
Sent:	Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:33 PM
То:	
Subject:	CRR water rate increase
Follow Up Flags	Follow up

Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:

Follow up Flagged

1: If the office is closed why do they need a receptionist? The manager and finance director/book keeper can do this job.

2: Why did they need to purchase new service trucks? Only need small trucks for most things and two or more people would go out on an emergency. Two people can ride in one truck.

3: Why do they need so many service technicians?

4: How many call outs have they had in the past year and what types were they? Broken pipes or just to read a meter?

5: They have remote read meters so there isn't a need for someone to actually go out to read meters. 6: Have they checked with local contractors to be on call for broken pipes and emergencies, this would save at least one field tech.

7: What do each of the employees actually do during the day if there isn't an emergency?

8: Why are the names and salaries redacted? They are a water company like thousands in the state, there is nothing proprietary about a water system unless they invented something? When the current group took over the water company they said they would be open to the public and not hide anything.

Thank you,

From:	
Sent:	Wednesday, April 26, 2023 5:42 PM
То:	
Subject:	CRR Water
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up

Flagged

Flag Status:

Attn. PUC Commission -

I am writing this email in opposition to the proposed increase in water rates for Crooked River Ranch Water. In 2015 our rates were increased with the explanation that the new funds were for the new tower and needed infrastructure replacement. The rate increase was high, but understandable for what the residents were receiving.

This latest newly proposed rate hike seems extreme and unnecessary.

The explanation the community has received regarding the new rates is to cover the increased costs of doing business and hiring a new staff position.

I believe this explanation is erroneous. If a new staff position is needed to satisfy the increase in utility use, then we also must equate the new connection fees and water use that are collecting funds and adding to the water budget. One should offset the other.

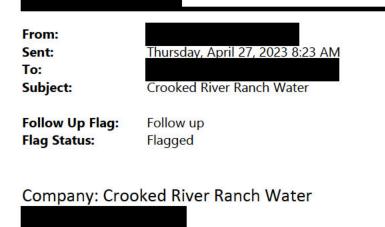
As far as the cost of doing business, we all are aware that everything has gone up, but not 30%.

The ask of a 30% rate increase is unreasonable. The City of Bend water only goes up 3%. I recommend and admonish the PUC to deny the CRR Water proposed rate increase as currently stated.

Sincerely,

CRR Homeowner

"Be the change you want to see in the world." Gandhi



Issue: Charles is calling regarding the notice about the public comment hearing for Crooked River Ranch Water company that was supposed to be held last night via zoom. He states he was not able to attend due to internal error message. I offered to take the public comment on his behalf over the phone. Charles states he feels there isn't an issue with having to raise rates, but does have an issue with raising them as much as they are. He states they are raising the rates in excess of all other companies in the area. He would also like to add that when there is a public comment meeting it would be nice to be able to attend, and not have error messages.



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From:	
Sent:	Thursday, April 27, 2023 3:45 PM
То:	
Subject:	CRR Water Utilty Increase

Follow Up Flag:Follow upFlag Status:Flagged

To whom it may concern;

I moved to CRR from Deschutes Co last July after 31 years. I needed to downsize & I wanted to decrease my tax rate & to live in a community with a little slower pace.

My HOA's are increasing, the electric surge this past winter fried my newer tv & router & now my water bills increasing - alot. For a household of one.

The 50 plus house sub - if I had known this, I might have reconsidered moving. The unpermitted, undisclosed builds I'm still repairing & replacing.

I don't have a yard I'm watering or animals, just a 25 lb dog. If an increase was needed, why not spread it out over a period vs bam. I'm just about priced out of Oregon, period.



From:	
Sent:	Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:33 PM
То:	
Subject:	CRR water rate increase (1)
	F - U

Follow Up Flag:Follow upFlag Status:Flagged

1: If the office is closed why do they need a receptionist? The manager and finance director/book keeper can do this job.

2: Why did they need to purchase new service trucks? Only need small trucks for most things and two or more people would go out on an emergency. Two people can ride in one truck.

3: Why do they need so many service technicians?

4: How many call outs have they had in the past year and what types were they? Broken pipes or just to read a meter?

5: They have remote read meters so there isn't a need for someone to actually go out to read meters.6: Have they checked with local contractors to be on call for broken pipes and emergencies, this would save at least one field tech.

7: What do each of the employees actually do during the day if there isn't an emergency?

8: Why are the names and salaries redacted? They are a water company like thousands in the state, there is nothing proprietary about a water system unless they invented something? When the current group took over the water company they said they would be open to the public and not hide anything.

<u>Thank you,</u>

From:	
Sent:	Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:40 PM
То:	
Subject:	Crooked River Ranch water company(1)

Follow Up Flag:Follow upFlag Status:Flagged

A concern regarding Frank Days justification for raising the rates at CRR.

Prior to COVID there were 3 field technicians working there full time. Two of them left for various reasons. That leaves 1 tech currently there.

Now he says he needs 2 more field technicians and more money to pay them.....why? he was paying for 2 more prior to Covid.

Why, if he needs more money is he purchasing NEW trucks?

Why does he still have the office closed? COVID is over. Now when you call the office you leave a message and then get a call back.

From:	
Sent:	Wednesday, April 26, 2023 2:26 PM
То:	
Subject:	Rate increase
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern,

I don't mind a normal rate increases, but this is out of control. This is gouging. If this goes through, I want an audit 100% audit of where every penny goes. I want to know every company that the penny goes to, and I want to know if there's any relationship between any of thesel want to know every company that the penny goes to and I want to know if there's any relationship between any of these any of these companies and anybody that works at crooked River Ranch water. Don't think I won't be investigating. There is absolutely no reason to raise 33%. That is gouging. I feel like you're lining your own damn pockets.

Normal utility increases are only done by single digit percentages not by double digits 33% digits. I want you to show me where any other utility company does this. If you didn't raise your rates that's too bad doing it at 33% is gouging and I doubt seriously you need that kind of money.

The ranch also wants to put a whole bunch of new houses in and how convenient that you wanna raise 33% just before those new houses go in that the crooked River Ranch water has already stated there's plenty of water for those houses and yet Jefferson county is in a drought. This to me shows that there is gouging, and somebody is getting extremely greedy at the water board. If this goes through, I will be partitioning to have a 100% audit done not only on where this monies going but on all past monies spent. If you're gonna take my money I need to know where it's going.

And like I've already stated, I want to know every penny that's going to each and every company and I want to know who runs those companies and if they are related or are they friends with anybody on the water board. I've always said follow the money and that's exactly what will happen.

I don't believe anybody in Crooked River Ranch is going to just lay down and let this happen without some type of oversight on where this monies going. Why didn't they raise the rates in the past and why are we being penalized now?

Sent from my iPhone

From:	
Sent:	Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:52 PM
То:	
Subject:	Rate increase at CRR
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Hi,

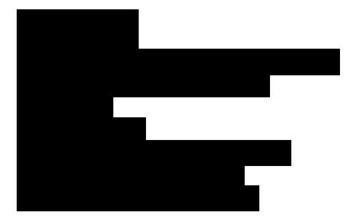
I would like to know my options for attending the meeting on the proposed rate increase submitted by CRRWC. As it stands now the proposed rate increase is very high and seems unwarranted. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From:	
Sent:	Thursday, March 9, 2023 1:17 PM
To:	
Subject:	FW: Crooked River Ranch Water Rate Increase

Not sure how he got my name and email, but this is regarding the rate increase for Crooked River Ranch.

Sincerely,



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or it appears from the context or otherwise that you have received this e-mail in error, please advise me immediately by reply e-mail, keep the contents confidential, and immediately delete the message and any attachments from your system.

From: Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 12:43 PM

To:

Subject: Crooked River Ranch Water Rate Increase

Dear

Frank Day has always been a problem for the Crooked River Ranch. First, he will not give out any financial information on the water company. We have no way to review how OUR water company is doing. Second, when he hires new employees, he has them sign a resignation letter to keep on file so that he can fire them any time he wants. Makes for a great incentive.

Last year in 2022, the CRR Water Company increase revenue over previous year by \$315,000.00 net. Obviously he knew this filing was coming and needed to burn some cash, so he bought a new 2023 dump truck and a new Ford F250 pickup. The dump truck was \$114,000 and the pick-up was \$63,000.

Who actually owns the CRR Water Company?

A projected increase of 37% in water rates is way out of line. Most of the residents of CRR are seniors and living on fixed incomes.

Also, do you know that Frank Day does not work for the water company full time. He gets paid for full time but also works in the Summer fighting fires in Oregon. The PUC needs to help find a new director for the water company.

Respectfully,



From:	
Sent:	Monday, March 13, 2023 3:16 PM
To:	
Subject:	OREGON PUC RESPONSE: Rate increase at CRR



Here is a link to Crooked River Ranch's rate request docket, UW 194: <u>https://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/DocketNoLayout.asp?DocketID=23627&Child=calendar</u>. No meetings are currently scheduled.

There are three options for participating in the rate case if you so choose.

1. Public Comment- You can file a public comment with the Commission about the rate case. This is the easiest and most basic option.

2. Interested person - You can request to become an interested person in the rate case. This option puts you on a service list, which sends you information on the case, including filings made by the parties, notices of hearings, and meetings.

3. Intervener - You can file a request to become an intervener in the rate case. This is the most demanding option. It gives you access to all the information above, as well as allows you to actively participate, attend settlement to ask questions of the parties, and provide testimony.



This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or it appears from the context or otherwise that you have received this e-mail in error, please advise me immediately by reply e-mail, keep the contents confidential, and immediately delete the message and any attachments from your system.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:52 PM

To:

Subject: Rate increase at CRR

Hi,

I would like to know my options for attending the meeting on the proposed rate increase submitted by CRRWC. As it stands now the proposed rate increase is very high and seems unwarranted.

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From:		
Sent:	Monday, March 13, 2023 6:12 PM	
To:		
Subject:	Docket UW 194: Crooked River Ranch Water Increase	

I'm writing to voice my disapproval with this increase. It amounts to **36%** - a real blow to people on fixed incomes or low-income people, who make-up a considerable amount of the population here.

We are already grappling with a recent 17% increase from Pacific Power and this increase will further hurt our ability to buy necessities or pay bills.

Please do NOT increase our water bills by 36%!

Thank you.



From:	
Sent:	Tuesday, March 14, 2023 9:57 AM
To:	
Subject:	Docket UW 194 - Crooked River Ranch

Dear Mr. Shearer,

To know the director of the Crooked River Ranch water company like we do, you will soon realize that he is pulling the wool over your eyes. First, he will not provide any financial information for what he calls "Your Water Company". Second, he has a contract with the Crooked River Ranch Home Owners Association that gives him 5/8 of the revenue from cell tower leases on our property. That amount is considerable. Third, he has all employees sign a resignation letter that he keeps on file. If word gets out about what he is doing, he fires who he thinks is responsible, on the spot. The CRR Water Company made a huge profit over the year before. Net was \$315,000 profit. That is over a third of what they normally do. To have to not pay tax on that profit, they spent most of it on 2023 Dump Truck and 2023 pick-up. Our CRR Road Department goes to auctions to buy equipment like this. Last year, the road department bought two dump trucks from Washington County that were hardly used for under \$70,000 total.

On top of all of this, Frank Day leaves in the Summer to go fight fire. He still draws a pay check from the CRR Water Company while getting paid to fight fire on top of that. We have always questioned his ethics. Now he is asking for a huge increase in rates. I say you should be looking for a new director.

Respectfully yours,



Tuesday, March 14, 2023 10:01 AM
FW: Docket UW 194 - Crooked River Ranch

Public Comments received directly by staff, for posting to Docket UW 194.

Thanks,

~Scott

From:	
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 9:57 AM	
То:	
Subject: Docket UW 194 - Crooked River Ranch	

Dear Mr. Shearer,

To know the director of the Crooked River Ranch water company like we do, you will soon realize that he is pulling the wool over your eyes. First, he will not provide any financial information for what he calls "Your Water Company". Second, he has a contract with the Crooked River Ranch Home Owners Association that gives him 5/8 of the revenue from cell tower leases on our property. That amount is considerable. Third, he has all employees sign a resignation letter that he keeps on file. If word gets out about what he is doing, he fires who he thinks is responsible, on the spot. The CRR Water Company made a huge profit over the year before. Net was \$315,000 profit. That is over a third of what they normally do. To have to not pay tax on that profit, they spent most of it on 2023 Dump Truck and 2023 pick-up. Our CRR Road Department goes to auctions to buy equipment like this. Last year, the road department bought two dump trucks from Washington County that were hardly used for under \$70,000 total.

On top of all of this, Frank Day leaves in the Summer to go fight fire. He still draws a pay check from the CRR Water Company while getting paid to fight fire on top of that. We have always questioned his ethics. Now he is asking for a huge increase in rates. I say you should be looking for a new director.

Respectfully yours,



 From:
 Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:27 PM

 Sent:
 Wednesday, March 15, 2023 3:27 PM

 To:
 Docket # 194

Hello! I understand that the Crooked River water department is going to raise our rates. They have a very confusing method of billing which I wish Someone would look into. We just moved from the town of terrebonne, and they billed us for the amount of water we used above the average.... Crooked River is billing for the size of water pipe you have, which makes no sense to us whatsoever. I feel that crooked River needs to have a standard by which to go by and not just their own whim. I hope somebody will look into this as we crooked River Ranch. Residents are pretty concerned about the drastic rate increase.

Thank you for your time,

....Sent from my iPad

Thursday, March 16, 2023 11:30 AM
Proposed Crooked River Ranch Water increase

I am reaching out in regards to the proposed water rate increase for CRR. Why the previous rate increase was not challenged is beyond me, yet now, another increase is being proposed. I have researched the water rates for Central Oregon and the Valley. Portland and outside the city of Bend are the only water districts with higher rates than Crooked River. This appears to be a price gouging on the water managers part.

It seems the PUC is doing a poor job monitoring the utility companies, with the rate increase for water and power that have taken place this year. These companies hold their constituents hostage, yes a hearse word, yet accurate. Only you, the PUC, have the power to put a stop to it. I am asking you, as a tax paying citizen, to do your job and protect us, the poor people that depend on water and power for survival.

Outraged senior citizen,

From:	
Sent:	Thursday, March 16, 2023 1:39 PM
To:	
Subject:	CCR Water increase
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up

Flag Status:

Flagged

of dollars of equipment so it would not be such a hardship on widows and other retired people who live here on the I would like to comment on the water increase here at CRR. We have not had any increase for several years and now Mr. you will consider this before you approve the increase. Thanks very much. ranch with a fixed income? Increasing our bill by \$100.00 per month is going to be very hard for some residents. Hope Day feels he can increase by a very large amount. If an increase is necessary why didn't he do it before buying thousands

×	
Virus-free. <u>www.avast.com</u>	

Friday, March 17, 2023 1:06 PM
CRR water company
Follow up
Flagged

We would like to go on the record as objecting to the amount of cost increase proposed by the Crooked River Ranch Water Company. We are on a fairly fixed retirement income and the huge increase they are proposing all at once will be a financial burden on us. Sincerely,

From:	
Sent:	Monday, March 20, 2023 9:14 PM
То:	
Subject:	Docket ID# UW 194
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up

Flagged

To the PUC,

Flag Status:

I understand rates may and must increase every where. However the proposed rate increase will cause a residential customer with 3/8 pipes approximately 480\$ more a year. That's if they only use the minimum amount of water. The commercial places here on the ranch which provide services to the population all ready struggle. They are looking at much higher rates. My fear is that this place will turn in to a ghost town as far as business services go. The resort amenities will also be hit much harder than residential. These amenities are supported in part by HOA fees which are being increased by 46\$ a year all ready. That's reasonable and needed, but if the golf course and pool get hit with thousands of dollars in increased utility costs that will eventually trickle down to residents. We aren't even positive if we are 3/8 or 1 inch. According to these documents there are 50, 1 inch lines. Is mine one of them? They are looking at much more that 480\$ minimum a year increase.

These increases are going to make it very hard to raise a vegetable garden and or keep even drought resistant plants alive. This place is all ready dusty enough. The increase will be a terrible hardship on young families and retirees on a fixed income. I hope you will decline these increases for a more reasonable percentage. PP&L just raised our rates supposedly 17%. Our electric bill has gone up over 50\$ a month and we have a wood stove. I'm not looking forward to the air conditioning bill. We do have a heat pump.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

From:	
Sent:	Thursday, March 23, 2023 1:16 PM
To:	
Subject:	Crooked River Ranch Water Company
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Dear Kevin,

How can a Non-Profit business like the CRR Water Company make a net profit of over \$315,000 a year, and still claim to be non-profit. Nathan Russell, President and other board members need to step on Frank Day. I have had run-ins with Frank Day in the past and I can say, "I don't trust anything he does". Nathan Russell needs to find a new manager.



From: Sent: To: Subject:

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 8:27 AM

Docket # UW194

I've been a resident of Crooked River Ranch for the last 13 years. I have always loved and appreciated the wonderful water we have!

I understand the need for an increase, however, the significant increase in our rates is really rather absurd. Frank Day says we haven't had an increase in our rates in 8 years. But why didn't he budget for new employees and vehicles? That seems like poor management to me.....couldn't he have raised our rates a little at a time because he planned for the future? I realize everything has gone up but this increase seems to border on greed.

I understand an increase but much less than what he is asking for. Thank you,

SHEARER Scott * PUC

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 2:28 PM

Docket UW 194: Crooked River Ranch Water Increase

I am writing in regard to the requested rate increase by CRR Water. I would like to state that I am against any increase. Rates were raised within the last 2 years. Why another one so soon.

36.5% revenue increase is excessive. The amount of increase of \$124k in salaries for 6 employees is very excessive.

I also have reason to believe that the water manager was not truthful in stating that he does not have another job. He is a volunteer firefighter in our community, but he spent considerable time last fire season fighting wildfires and getting paid by the Forest Service at the same collecting his salary with the Water company. Who is minding the store.

PP&L is only requesting 17%.

I request that the PUC turn down this revenue increase.



From:Monday, March 27, 2023 2:41 PMSent:Monday, March 27, 2023 2:41 PMTo:FW: Crooked River Ranch Docket UW 194Follow Up Flag:Follow upFlag Status:Follow up

Please respond.

From:
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:19 PM
То:
Subject: Crooked River Ranch Docket UW 194

Mr Scott Shearer,

There have been times I've gone to the CRRWC and it's been closed, on weekdays. If you need or want anything you have to call them. Apparently they work from home? If he wants more money why doesn't he get rid of the building, that would put extra money in his fund.

I see that he answered No when asked if he held any other job. I see he is a volunteer at the CRR fire department and also fights wild fires. Working wild fires pays.

Why, if he put in this great new AMR electronic meter system and per Frank "it is so sensitive I can tell when you're taking a shower" why didn't he know about the horrible leak in a building in the Administration area? Why did it gush for 4 days and even then he didn't know about it. Why didn't his great new system alert him?

A few years ago Frank had a few more, I believe it was 2, field techs. I believe he let them go or they left around the time Covid hit. Since he could afford those workers then he should be able to afford them now with a much smaller increase.

The majority of residents on Crooked River Ranch live on just Social Security or a small fixed income. There is NO way they can afford a 36% increase in water. So then what, he turns their water off?

This is just outrageous. Please don't allow this increase.

Sent from Mail for Windows

From:		
Sent:	Tuesday, May 2, 2023 4:15 PM	
To:		
Cc:		
Subject:	FW: Follow up to Docket UW194	Crooked River Ranch
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up	
Flag Status:	Completed	

Hi Deanna,

See below. If you would like to respond to him, here is what I would say.

- The list of attendees was available for all to see using the participant list option in Zoom. Staff, Judge Allwein, the Judge's assistant, and the Attorney General (staff counsel) all were viewing and monitoring the attendees.
- The comments made in the public meeting were by Julie Price who is not listed as an employee of the company. Though there is a Julie who does work for the company, she has a different last name (information listed was submitted under confidentiality requirements, and cannot be released). This was confirmed in a review of the hearing transcript. Additionally, a web search of these names shows different addresses for each person, and no link/information for a Julie Price in or near Terrebonne either.

We cannot comment on the other items, though they are a part of Staff's review.

Scott

From: Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 4:13 PM To:

Subject: RE: Follow up to Docket UW194 Crooked River Ranch

Mark,

Thank you for your comments.

I will have your comments added to the public record. You may receive a response from our Consumer Services Section.

Sincerely, Scott Shearer

Utility Analyst Rates, Finance, and Audits Division Rates and Regulation Section Oregon Public Utility Commission

From:
Sent: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 1:26 PM
To: SHEARER Scott *
Subject: Follow up to Docket UW194 Crooked River Ranch

Hi Scott,

I understand that on our last Zoom meeting, only Frank Day could see all the people on the meeting. I checked with many of the others on the meeting and none had any visual. I became suspect when Stephanie Proffitt asked if Julie Davis worked for the water company. When Julie denied it, I knew she was lying. We have a list of all the people living on the Crooked River Ranch and there is only one Julie Davis. Frank Day knew it was a lie. That is the kind of person you are dealing with.

Did I ever tell you that when I was on the HOA Board of Directors, Frank Day receives over 70% of the monthly rent from all the cell towers on the water tower? It is substantial. To spend \$400m+ to replace a \$24m service is crazy. The Water Company board of directors that control Frank Day, fear him. I want to see them on the Zoom meeting so that I can address them as well.

Respectfully,

From:	
Sent:	Friday, May 26, 2023 10:39 PM
То:	
Subject:	Comment regarding Docket No. UW 194 (CRR Request for a General Rate Revision)
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up

Completed

Flag Status:

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

I am a customer/member of the Crooked River Ranch Water Company ("the water company") and have a comment regarding Docket No. UW 194, CROOKED RIVER RANCH WATER COMPANY REQUEST FOR A GENERAL RATE REVISION.

Information regarding the proposed rate increase provided by the water company indicates a graduated base rate that increases with meter size (reproduced below).

I do not understand, nor have been able to locate any information specific to the water company, as to why the proposed base rate depends on or varies with meter size. An internet search provides limited information, with (in my opinion) only vague justifications for graduated base rates.

- From the City of Wichita Falls "The larger the meter size, the larger the base amount of the bill. That difference
 is because larger meters are more expensive and a larger meter requires the City to increase its system capacity
 larger (*sic*) to provide more water per second." (To which I would reply 'OK, the meter is more expensive but
 that is a one-time charge. And my water usage per second for my dishwasher or my kitchen faucet won't change
 from a 3/4' to 2" pipe or meter since the water flow is limited by my single-family house plumbing fixtures.")
- From Vera Water, Spokane, WA "Meter size determines the amount of water that can flow to your home or business. Larger meters can place a greater demand on the water system and are charged based on that potential." (To which I would reply similarly as above, "That potential won't be realized in my single-family residential usage.")

It seems that "industry practice" is to establish graduated base rates based on potential usage of the available flow in gallons/sec of the metered pipe vs. actual water used. I can possibly understand this rationale for large recreational, commercial or industrial customers, but it seems inappropriate for single-family residential users.

Customers should and do pay for the amount of water used. However, I do not believe that my single-family residential usage in terms of cubic feet/billing period depends on the meter/supply pipe size. The same water comes out of a small pipe and a large pipe, does it not? I know that a bigger pipe has the capability to deliver a greater volume of water in a specific time interval, but that is independent of the rate at which I actually use that water, and ultimately independent of and uncorrelated with the amount of water that I use.

In addition, the increase in base rate seems disproportionate. I calculated a base rate comparison using the proposed 5/8" x 3/4" rate as a baseline, and do not understand how a pipe diameter increase of 1.25" results in an almost 300% increase in base rate.

We were informed that this graduated base rate is required by the Public Utilities Commission. At the upcoming Settlement Conference, can you or the water company please clearly provide the justification/requirement and background for what appears to be a somewhat arbitrary base rate scale, and how the proposed base rates are determined?

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

CRRWC Customers

5/26/2023 9:52 PM

Proposed Residential/Commercial Base Rate with Usage						Base Rate Comparison			
	Number (sic) of meters in the						Pipe diameter	Delta From Base	% Incred
Meter Size	system:	Base Rate	100 CF	400 CF	700 CF	1000 CF	increase	Rate (3/4")	Base Rat
5/8" x 3/4"	93.00%	\$47.76	\$49.12	\$53.11	\$57.10	\$61.09	Baseline	\$0.00	
1"	6.00%	\$71.19	\$72.52	\$76.51	\$80.50	\$84.49	0.25	\$23.43	
1 1/2"	0.20%	\$118.65	\$118.65	\$123.97	\$127.96	\$131.95	0.75	\$70.89	
2"	0.70%	\$189.84	\$189.84	\$195.16	\$199.15	\$203.14	1.25	\$142.08	

From: Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 4:09 PM To: Subject: comments for UW 194 Attachments: CCR Water Rate.rtf Follow up

Flagged

Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:

1

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:51 PM
Crooked River Ranch proposed rate increase UW 194

Good morning,

I am writing as a customer of Crooked River Ranch Water Company. I will also disclose my spouse is an employee of CRRWC.

I was in attendance for the public comment hearing that took place on April 26th.

While nobody likes an increase in prices, I support the increase proposed. Living far out we experience outages with utilities frequently. For example, just today we lost power for several hours before it was restored by the power company. We have good quality water and the residents of this community have high expectations of quality and service.

Considering Frank Day's explanation of why the company hired two new technicians and purchased equipment due to the loss of contract with Avion, seems reasonable.

The employees are residents of the ranch with close proximity to be available during an outage/emergency, as well as providing employment to a resident (someone with a vested interest in the community).

I also want to note I appreciate Mr. Shearer's comments during the call regarding proposed water rate increases throughout the state. It was helpful to understand that the rate increase here is not outrageous. It seems unrealistic to continue the same quality of service without such an increase. Further more, with the PUC (third party) reviewing the proposed increase I trust you will do due diligence in the decision process. There are not many things in life we get to input whether we agree to a increase in price or not, it is a benefit to the members of this community to be able to do so in this matter.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

From:	
Sent:	Friday, May 19, 2023 2:30 PM
To:	
Cc:	
Subject:	Re: Question regarding UW-194

I believe this customer is an intervenor and needs to file this through the discovery/data request process. I am in the airport right now, so unable to confirm, nor contact her.

Diane, can you have someone contact her and explain the process?

Get Outlook for iOS

From:			
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 12:36	50 PM		
То:			
Cc:			

Subject: FW: Question regarding UW-194

Scott – this was a little different and wasn't sure if you needed to be aware of the request to the company sooner than later.

AHD - public comments received.

Deanna

From:

Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 11:33 AM

To:

Subject: Question regarding UW-194

Hi Frank,

I hope you are doing well! Please provide the following information as scanned PDF documents.

1. The contract created between CRRWC and Avion Water Company.

2. The notification received by CCRRWC from Avion Water Company for the termination of the contract of services.

From: Sent: To:	Tuesday, May 30, 2023 9:14 AM
Cc: Subject:	Re: UW 194
Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:	Follow up Completed

Good morning,

Please forward a copy of the email sent to me on 5/28 at 12:04pm.

I didn't receive that email, and I believe, for whatever reason, you'll find you did not send it to me. If it turns out otherwise, shame on me.

If the email contained critical information on the discovery process, despite providing it mid-day Sunday of a three-day federal holiday weekend, not including me has caused me to lose two days in the process in advance of the Settlement Conference scheduled for tomorrow. If true, I believe I am owed some consideration by the PUC for the breakdown in this process.

I look forward to receipt of your Sunday email and an explanation.

Thanks.



Subject: RE: UW 194

Good morning,

The steps needed to obtain this information through the discovery process are included in the email I sent on 5/28 at 12:04 pm.

Once that process is followed, the Company will be able to respond to requests submitted through discovery.

Exhibit Stipulating Parttes/104 Shearer/41	
Additionally, all parties, including the Company and respective counsels, must be copied on any	
communications related to the substance of the case. I have added the appropriate persons to this	
mail chain.	
Sincerely,	
Scott Shearer	
Jtility Analyst	
Rates, Safety, and Utility Performance Program	
Dregon Public Utility Commission	
rom:	
ent: Monday, May 29, 2023 6:43 PM	

Subject: UW 194

The Crooked River Ranch Water Company (CRRWC) rate filing UW 194 represents to the PUC, and to the nearly 1,700 members, the rate increase was required due to Avion Water notifying CRRWC they could no longer be available to CRRWC. As a result, CRRWC increased fixed cost expenses by \$400,000 to replace what we estimate to be no more than \$36,000 in contract services, and then filed for the rate increase. Both the PUC, and the members, would benefit from documentation showing the claim around Avion to be accurate, and in support of prudent and necessary expenditures. Both Interveners, and non-Interveners, have requested such documentation, which has been denied by CRRWC.

Specifically, Interveners and non-Interveners have requested:

- 1. The CRRWC-Avion contract
- 2. The notification from Avion they were cancelling that contract
- 3. How many times Avion had been called on-site by CRRWC in the past year
- 4. How many hours and how much in total CRRWC paid Avion in the past year

These are all simple, factual matters, which can easily be provided by CRRWC, or by the PUC if you already have such documentation. Doing so supports a transparent relationship between the PUC and the utility, a transparent relationship between the PUC and the utility's members, and perhaps most importantly, a transparent relationship between the utility and its members.

CRRWC has indicated these requests can only be resolved through the PUC. Please assist us in this matter to obtain and provide the information noted in items 1-4 above to the Interveners, for the benefit of both the PUC and the CRRWC members.

We note the urgency of this request, with a Settlement Conference scheduled for May 31. Thank you for your consideration.

Intervener in UW 194

From: Sent: To:	Tuesday, May 30, 2023 7:43 AM
Cc: Subject:	RE: UW 194
Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:	Follow up Completed

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Utility Analyst Rates, Safety, and Utility Performance Program <u>Oregon Public Utility</u> Commission

From:			
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2023 6:4	3 PM		
То:			
Cc:			
			1.0

Subject: UW 194

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Thank you for your consideration.

Intervener in UW 194

From: Sent: To:	Tuesday, May 30, 2023 9:25 AM
10.	
Cc:	
Subject:	RE: UW 194
Attachments:	UW 194 Data Requests
Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:	Follow up Completed

Good morning

It appears that our hearings division didn't update the online service list I used to send the original email. I apologize for the error. Hearings has confirmed the issue and has corrected the listing. Attached is the original email I sent out. The information to submit requests and expedited consideration is included.

Sincerely, Scott Shearer

Utility Analyst Rates, Safety, and Utility Performance Program Oregon Public Utility Commission

From:			
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 20	23 9:14 AM		
To:			
Cc:			
Subject: Re: UW 194			

2757 NB 87

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Thanks.

Jeff

From	
From:	
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 7:43 AM	
To:	
	124
Cc:	
Cubin at RE UN/ 104	
Subject: RE: UW 194	

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To:

Subject: UW 194

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Intervener in UW 194

From: Sent: To: Subject:	Sunday, April 23, 2023 5:35 PM UW #194 Crooked River Water Company
•	
Attachments:	PUC Letter RE CRRWC Rate Increase 4 21 23 v.2.2 4 23 23.pdf
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Please see attached letter regarding the Crooked River Ranch Water Company request for rates increase.



SHEARER Scott * PUC

From: Sent: To: Cc:	Monday, May 29, 2023 6:43 PM	
Subject:	UW 194	
Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:	Follow up Completed	

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Intervener in UW 194

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From: Sent: To: Subject:

Friday, May 19, 2023 11:33 AM

Question regarding UW-194

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- 1. The contract created between CRRWC and Avion Water Company.
- 2. The notification received by CCRRWC from Avion Water Company for the termination of the contract of services.

From:	
Sent:	Monday, May 22, 2023 5:56 AM
To:	
Subject:	RE: Question regarding UW-194

Kari – I see no relevance to the need for these documents. Could you please explain why these documents are relative to the rate case?



From: Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 11:33 AM To: Subject: Question regarding UW-194

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Sent:	Monday, May 22, 2023 12:56 PM
To:	
Cc:	
Subject:	Re: Question regarding UW-194

Hi Frank,

As you stated, Avion Water notified CRRWC of the termination of the contract for services; these documents should be available to all members to provide additional information on why CRRWC is asking for a rate increase due to the increase in expenditures. These documents serve as the burden of proof and are the basis for the rate increase request by CRRWC.

Thank you,

On Mon, May 22, 2023 at 5:56 AM Frank Day <<u>frank@crrwater.com</u>> wrote:

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From:		
Sent:	Monday, May 22, 2023 8:38 PM	
To:		
Cc:		
Subject:	RE: Question regarding UW-194	

Kari – I will get back to you after I have consulted with our attorney and the PUC.



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Cc:	
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From:		
Sent:	Thursday, May 25, 2023 8:13 AM	
To:	8	
Cc:		
Subject:	Re: Question regarding UW-194	

Good Morning Frank,

Just wanted to circle back with you on this. Can you please provide an update.

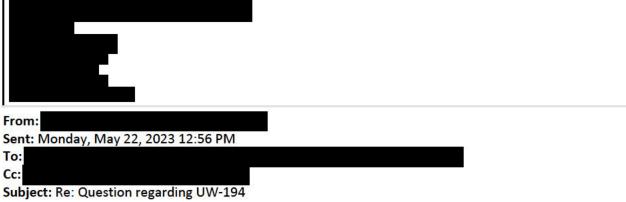
Thank you,



Sent from my iPhone

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Crooked River Ranch Water Co.



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CASE: UW 194 WITNESS: SCOTT SHEARER

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

STIPULATING PARTIES EXHIBIT 105

Rate Comparison

July 31, 2023

Service Type	Meter Size	Customer Count	Adjusted Base Rate		Adjusted Commodity Rate	Estimated Monthly usage	Monthly Units used (100 CU/FT)	Monthly Usage Charge	Adjusted Average Monthly Bill	A CONTRACTOR OF	Difference	Percentage Increase
Residential	5/8"	1,532	\$	42.16	\$1.51	1200	12.00	\$18.12	\$60.28	\$47.67	\$12.61	26%
Residential	1"	92	\$	63.24	\$1.51	1700	17.00	\$25.67	\$88.91	\$53.12	\$35.79	67%
Residential	1 1/2"	1	\$	105.40	\$1.51	1200	12.00	\$18.12	\$123.52	\$47.67	\$75.85	159%
Residential	2"	1	\$	168.63	\$1.51	5700	57.00	\$86.07	\$254.70	\$96.72	\$157.98	163%
Commercial	5/8"	30	\$	42.16	\$1.51	1000	10.00	\$15.10	\$57.26	\$45.49	\$11.77	26%
Commercial	1"	10	\$	63.24	\$1.51	2400	24.00	\$36.24	\$99.48	\$60.75	\$38.73	64%
Commercial	1 1/2"	1	\$	105.40	\$1.51	8000	80.00	\$120.80	\$226.20	\$121.79	\$104.41	86%
Commercial	2″	11	\$	168.63	\$1.51	8300	83.00	\$125.33	\$293.96	\$125.06	\$168.90	135%