

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORDER NUMBER U-36223

THE BATON ROUGE WATER WORKS COMPANY,
EX PARTE

Docket No. U-36223, In re: Application for an Increase and Adjustment in Retail Rates, Request for Interim Rates, Approval for Hurricane Ida Recovery, and Request for Establishment of an Emergency Reserve Fund.

(Decided at the January 25, 2022 Business and Executive Session.)

ORDER

Overview

On December 15, 2021, The Baton Rouge Water Works Company d/b/a Baton Rouge Water Company (“BRWC”) filed an application for an increase and adjustment in retail rates, approval for Hurricane Ida recovery, request for establishment of an Emergency Reserve Fund, and a request for interim rates. In its application, BRWC indicated that the company experienced a 23% increase in power costs during 2021, and that without the requested interim rate relief, the company’s financial metrics would continue to be adversely affected. Notice of BRWC’s request was published in the Commission’s Official Bulletin # 1261, dated December 23, 2021. No interventions were filed. BRWC also published timely notice of its request in the state journal and the official journal of each parish within the geographical area in which the rates would become applicable.

Jurisdiction and Applicable Law

The Commission exercises jurisdiction in this proceeding pursuant to Article IV, Section 21(B) of the Louisiana Constitution.

La. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 21 provides in pertinent part:

(B.) The commission shall regulate all common carriers and public utilities and have such other regulatory authority as provided by law. It shall adopt and enforce reasonable rules, regulations, and procedures necessary for the discharge of its duties, and shall have other powers and perform other duties as provided by law.

Commission Consideration

On motion of Chairman Greene, seconded by Commissioner Boissiere, with Vice Chairman Skrmetta and Commissioner Francis concurring, and Commissioner Campbell absent, the Commission voted to assert its original and primary jurisdiction and take matter up pursuant to Rule 57.

After discussion, on motion of Chairman Greene, seconded by Commissioner Francis, with Commissioner Boissiere concurring, Vice Chairman Skrmetta opposing, and Commissioner Campbell absent, the Commission voted to approve the request for interim rate relief, subject to bonding requirements.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. BRWC is allowed to charge a 3.26% interim rate increase, subject to refund and the applicable bonding requirements, until a final Order is issued in this docket regarding the Company’s request for permanent rate relief;
- 2. BRWC is required to file proof of the applicable bond requirements with the Commission;
- 3. BRWC is required to file an updated tariff indicating the interim emergency rate, and its terms, with the Utilities Division within 30 days of this order;
- 4. BRWC cannot begin charging the interim rate until (2) and (3) are complete and approved by Staff; and,
- 5. This Order is effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
February 22, 2022



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BRANDON M. FREY
SECRETARY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Greene".

DISTRICT III
CHAIRMAN CRAIG GREENE

OPPOSED

DISTRICT IV
VICE CHAIRMAN ERIC F. SKRMETTA

ABSENT

DISTRICT V
COMMISSIONER FOSTER L. CAMPBELL

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DISTRICT I
COMMISSIONER LAMBERT C. BOISSIERE, III

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DISTRICT II
COMMISSIONER MIKE FRANCIS