

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Simplified Rate Case for the Village of Belgium, as a Water Public
Utility, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

410-WQ-109

FINAL DECISION

Introduction

On July 21, 2020, the Belgium Municipal Water Utility (applicant) filed an application for a water rate increase under Wis. Stat. § 196.193, a Simplified Rate Case (SRC) process that does not require a hearing. Commission staff reviewed the information submitted by the applicant in support of its application and determined the water rate increase as requested is justified.

Findings of Fact

1. The revenue increase is calculated by multiplying the applicant's prior year revenue from sales of utility service by the 2020 rate increase factor (3.0 percent) set by the Commission on February 28, 2020 and effective March 1, 2020. ([PSC REF#: 384391.](#))
2. The revenue increase, combined with the applicant's prior year net operating income, results in an overall rate of return that does not exceed 4.9 percent, the overall rate of return for municipally owned water or combined water and sewer public utility set by the Commission on February 28, 2020 and effective March 1, 2020. ([PSC REF#: 384391.](#))
3. The effective date of the rate increase is not less than 12 months from the effective date of a previous SRC increase and is not less than 45 days from the date of this application.
4. The applicant's last rate increase authorized pursuant to a hearing under Wis. Stat. § 196.20 has been in effect for at least a calendar year (i.e., January through December).

5. The applicant has fewer than 4,000 customers, and the total of all prior rate increases granted since the last hearing under Wis. Stat. § 196.20 does not result in rates that are more than 40 percent higher than the base rates previously authorized by a hearing under Wis. Stat. § 196.20.

6. The applicant notified all its customers of the proposed rate increase.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Commission has jurisdiction under Wis. Stat. §§ 196.02, 196.193 and 196.39, and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 185.

2. The Commission has authority under Wis. Stat. § 15.02(4) to delegate to the Administrator of the Division of Water Utility Regulation and Analysis (Division Administrator) those functions vested by law as enumerated above and has delegated the authority to issue this Final Decision to the Division Administrator.

Order

1. The applicant shall increase its rates for general service and public fire protection uniformly by the 3.0 percent rate increase factor.

2. The new rates will be effective September 15, 2020 and will be on file with the Commission as Amendment 16, provided that the applicant makes a copy of the new rates available to the public before this date by placing a copy of the new rates at locations where customer payments are accepted, on the applicant's website, or in a form and place that is otherwise readily accessible to the public. If a copy of the new rates is not made available to the public by this date, the new rates shall take effect on the date they are so made available.

3. The applicant shall inform each customer of the new rates authorized by this order.

4. The applicant's current rates and rules shall be available for public inspection.

5. The applicant shall keep on permanent file all its previous rates.

6. Jurisdiction is retained.
7. This order is effective one day after the date of service.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, August 10, 2020.

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise L. Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" and last name "Schmidt" clearly distinguishable.

Denise L. Schmidt
Administrator
Division of Water Utility Regulation and Analysis

DLS:rjp:ggl DL:01758252

See attached Notice of Rights

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

**NOTICE OF RIGHTS FOR REHEARING OR JUDICIAL REVIEW, THE
TIMES ALLOWED FOR EACH, AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE
PARTY TO BE NAMED AS RESPONDENT**

The following notice is served on you as part of the Commission's written decision. This general notice is for the purpose of ensuring compliance with Wis. Stat. § 227.48(2), and does not constitute a conclusion or admission that any particular party or person is necessarily aggrieved or that any particular decision or order is final or judicially reviewable.

PETITION FOR REHEARING

If this decision is an order following a contested case proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3), a person aggrieved by the decision has a right to petition the Commission for rehearing within 20 days of the date of service of this decision, as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. The date of service is shown on the first page. If there is no date on the first page, the date of service is shown immediately above the signature line. The petition for rehearing must be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and served on the parties. An appeal of this decision may also be taken directly to circuit court through the filing of a petition for judicial review. It is not necessary to first petition for rehearing.

PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

A person aggrieved by this decision has a right to petition for judicial review as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.53. In a contested case, the petition must be filed in circuit court and served upon the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin within 30 days of the date of service of this decision if there has been no petition for rehearing. If a timely petition for rehearing has been filed, the petition for judicial review must be filed within 30 days of the date of service of the order finally disposing of the petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition of the petition for rehearing by operation of law pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.49(5), whichever is sooner. If an *untimely* petition for rehearing is filed, the 30-day period to petition for judicial review commences the date the Commission serves its original decision.¹ The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin must be named as respondent in the petition for judicial review.

If this decision is an order denying rehearing, a person aggrieved who wishes to appeal must seek judicial review rather than rehearing. A second petition for rehearing is not permitted.

Revised: March 27, 2013

¹ See *Currier v. Wisconsin Dep't of Revenue*, 2006 WI App 12, 288 Wis. 2d 693, 709 N.W.2d 520.

RATE FILESheet No. 1 of 1Schedule No. F-1Amendment No. 16**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin****Belgium Municipal Water Utility**

Public Fire Protection Service

Public fire protection service shall include the use of hydrants for fire protection service only and such quantities of water as may be demanded for the purpose of extinguishing fires within the service area. This service shall also include water used for testing equipment and training personnel. For all other purposes, the metered or other rates set forth, or as may be filed with the Public Service Commission, shall apply.

The annual charge for public fire protection service to the Village of Belgium shall be \$176,030. The utility may bill for this amount in equal quarterly installments.

Billing: Same as Schedule Mg-1.

RATE FILESheet No. 1 of 1Schedule No. Mg-1Amendment No. 16**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin****Belgium Municipal Water Utility****General Service - Metered****Quarterly Service Charges:**

5/8 - inch meter:	\$	28.64	3 - inch meter:	\$	327.82
3/4 - inch meter:	\$	28.64	4 - inch meter:	\$	448.76
1 - inch meter:	\$	57.29	6 - inch meter:	\$	722.47
1 1/4 - inch meter:	\$	85.93	8 - inch meter:	\$	1,126.68
1 1/2 - inch meter:	\$	124.13	10 - inch meter:	\$	1,661.37
2 - inch meter:	\$	178.23	12 - inch meter:	\$	2,196.06

For PSC use only: base 5/8-inch meter charge for SRC purpose – \$27.00

Plus Volume Charges:

All water used quarterly: \$4.46 per 1,000 gallons

Billing: Bills for water service are rendered quarterly and become due and payable upon issuance following the period for which service is rendered. A late payment charge of 1 percent per month will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This late payment charge will be applied to the total unpaid balance for utility service, including unpaid late payment charges. The late payment charge is applicable to all customers. The utility customer may be given a written notice that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued. Unless payment or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made within the next 10 days, service may be disconnected pursuant to Wis. Adm. Code ch. PSC 185.

Combined Metering: For residential customers with more than one meter on a single service lateral, volumetric readings from all meters shall be combined for billing. For nonresidential customers, volumetric readings may be combined for billing if the utility for its own convenience places more than one meter on a single water service lateral. Multiple meters placed for the purpose of identifying water not discharged into the sanitary sewer are not considered for utility convenience and may not be combined for billing. This requirement does not preclude the utility from combining readings when metering configurations support such an approach. Volumetric readings from individually metered separate service laterals shall not be combined for billing purposes.