



September 5, 2024

Docketing Division
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: *In the Matter of the Application of Christi Water System, Inc. for an Increase in Rates and Charges, Case No. 24-0798-WW-AIR*

Dear Docketing Division:

Enclosed please find the Staff's Review and Recommendations in regard to the application filed by Christi Water System, Inc. in Case No. 24-0798-WW-AIR.

Sincerely,

Marianne Townsend
Chief, Regulatory Utility Services
Rates and Analysis, Dept.
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Jason Well
Section Chief, Regulatory Utility Services
Rates and Analysis, Dept.
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Commissioners

Daniel R. Conway
Dennis P. Deters
Lawrence K. Friedeman
John D. Williams

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**Christi Water System, Inc.
Case No. 24-0798-WW-AIR**

On August 8, 2024, Christi Water System, Inc. (Company) filed an application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) for an increase in rates and charges. The Company filed an amended application on August 29, 2024. In order for Staff to evaluate an application for an increase in rates, applicants must provide specific standard information, as required by Ohio Admin. Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A. These Standard Filing Requirements (SFR) contain the minimum information public utilities are required to submit with their applications.

The Company provides water works services to 196 customers in the area of Noble township, Defiance County, Ohio. A water works system with fewer than 7,500 customers may choose to either make an abbreviated filing, under Chapter IV of the SFR, or apply for rate adjustments by complying with the SFR for small utilities, under Chapter III of the SFR.

The Company chose to make an abbreviated filing. Staff reviewed the amended application filed on August 29, 2024, for compliance with the SFR. The Company proposes a test period beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2023, and that the date certain be December 31, 2023. The Company's current rates include a base rate charge and purchased water rate approved in Case Nos. 20-1428-WW-AIR and 24-0232-WW-PWA, respectively. The Company proposes to increase rates and a new rate structure. A customer using 400 c.f., would see their bill increase approximately 18.5% under the proposed rates.

The procedures in an abbreviated filing assume that the applicant maintained adequate financial records pursuant to the Uniform Systems of Accounts prescribed by the Commission and requires that the applicant have on file with the Commission fully completed annual reports for the most recent calendar year and at least two prior years. Staff recognizes that the Company filed its 2021, 2022 and 2023 annual reports with the Commission, but Staff has noted discrepancies within them. During the course of this review, Staff proposes to work with the Company to address these discrepancies.

Commissioners

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Staff finds the Company's application substantively conforms to the SFR. Subject to the recommendations contained herein, Staff recommends that the Commission accept the application for filing as of August 29, 2024.

Commissioners

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Case No(s). 24-0798-WW-AIR

Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation electronically filed by Mrs. Tanika
Hawkins on behalf of PUCO Staff.