

Decision No. R03-0115-I

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

DOCKET NO. 02S-594E

---

RE: THE INVESTIGATION AND SUSPENSION OF TARIFF SHEETS FILED BY AQUILA, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS AQUILA NETWORKS-WPC, WITH ADVICE LETTER NO. 579.

---

**INTERIM ORDER OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DALE E. ISLEY  
DIRECTING FILING OF  
ELECTRONIC COPIES;  
SETTING A TECHNICAL  
CONFERENCE; SETTING  
PUBLIC HEARING; AND  
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES**

---

---

Mailed Date: January 30, 2003

**I. STATEMENT**

1. On October 15, 2002, Aquila, Inc. (Aquila), filed Advice Letter No. 579 which seeks to increase the base energy charges in its existing tariffs by an amount equal to the proposed increase in the base energy costs in its Incentive Cost Adjustment tariff and to place into effect a General Rate Schedule Adjustment of 18.27 percent. Included with Advice Letter No. 579 was accompanying direct testimony and exhibits in paper format.

2. In order to assist the Commission in its review of Advice Letter No. 579, Aquila shall file, in electronic format, its direct testimony, exhibits, and the financial model used to develop its revenue requirement determination within 14 days of this order. The electronic

copies should be in the document's underlying file format (Word or Excel,<sup>1</sup> for example). To the extent exhibits cannot be easily converted into an electronic format, a listing of such exhibits should be provided identifying those that cannot be so converted.

3. On the second page of Exhibit WSK-1, Aquila calculates an average residential customer impact of \$9.38 per month (based on a monthly usage of 577 kWh) and an average small business customer impact of \$70.16 (based on a monthly usage of 5,507 kWh). Aquila is directed to file, within 14 days of this order, in electronic format, a spreadsheet showing the derivation of a monthly bill<sup>2</sup> supporting these average monthly increases.

4. With respect to all future testimony filing deadlines, all parties shall file electronic copies of their testimony and exhibits in the document's underlying file format. To the extent a party proposes a departmental revenue requirement or updates their departmental revenue requirement, an electronic copy of the financial model(s) it used in support of the testimony shall also be filed. Likewise, any party which proposes a departmental revenue requirement shall also calculate an average residential customer impact based on a monthly usage of 577 kWh and the average small business customer impact based on a monthly usage of 5,507 kWh. These calculations shall also be filed in electronic format.

5. A technical conference will be held on March 24, 2003, regarding Aquila's and any other parties' financial model(s) used to develop a departmental revenue requirement. The technical conference will be an on-the-record proceeding designed to provide the Commission's

---

<sup>1</sup> All spreadsheets should have the various cell formula or links left intact; *i.e.*, cell contents should not be converted to values.

<sup>2</sup> The monthly bill should include such items as: Service and Facility charges, Energy charges, Incentive cost adjustment charges, and the proposed GRSA rider.

Advisors an opportunity to ask questions of the individuals sponsoring a revenue requirement model on how to correctly input other parties' adjustments into their model.

6. As indicated in Decision No. R03-0056-I, a hearing suitable for the receipt of public testimony or comments concerning Advice Letter No. 579 should be scheduled in this matter. Such a hearing will be held in Pueblo, Colorado, on March 18, 2003, at the time and place set forth below.

7. Finally, on January 22, 2003, Staff of the Commission filed a Stipulated Motion Requesting that the Public Utilities Commission Issue an Initial Decision in this Proceeding, and Request for Waiver of Response Time (Motion for Initial Decision). At its Weekly Meeting held on January 29, 2003, the Commission granted the Motion for Initial Decision, in part. It granted the request that it issue an initial decision in this matter pursuant to § 40-6-109(6), C.R.S., and adopted the procedural schedule set forth in paragraph 10, page 4 of the Motion for Initial Decision. The Commission indicated that adoption of the additional modifications to its procedural rules set forth in paragraph 14, pages 5 and 6 of the Motion for Initial Decision was a matter to be decided by the assigned administrative law judge. The Motion for Initial Decision indicates that all known parties to this proceeding have agreed to such modifications. Therefore, they will be adopted by the order that follows.

## **II. ORDER**

### **A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. Aquila, Inc., shall file, in electronic format, its direct testimony, exhibits, and the financial model used to develop its revenue requirement determination within 14 days of this Order.

2. Aquila, Inc., shall file, in electronic format, a spreadsheet which shows the derivation of a monthly bill with the proposed increase for an average residential customer (based on a monthly usage of 577 kWh) and a monthly bill with the proposed increase for an average small business customer impact (based on a monthly usage of 5,507 kWh) within 14 days of this order.

3. With respect to all future testimony filing deadlines, all parties shall file electronic copies of their testimony and exhibits in the document's underlying file format. To the extent a party proposes a departmental revenue requirement or updates their departmental revenue requirement, an electronic copy of the financial model(s) it used in support of the testimony shall also be filed.

4. Any party that proposes a departmental revenue requirement shall also calculate an average residential customer impact (based on a monthly usage of 577 kWh) and the average small business customer impact (based on a monthly usage of 5,507 kWh). These calculations shall be filed in electronic format.

5. A technical conference regarding Aquila, Inc.'s and any other parties' financial model(s) used to develop a departmental revenue requirement is scheduled in the captioned proceeding as follows:

DATE: March 24, 2003  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Commission Hearing Room  
1580 Logan Street, OL 2  
Denver, Colorado

6. A public hearing is scheduled in the captioned proceeding as follows:

DATE: March 18, 2003

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

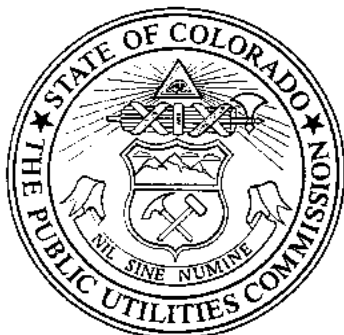
PLACE: Pueblo County Conference Room  
1001 N. Santa Fe  
Pueblo, Colorado

7. The following modifications to the Commission's procedural rules shall govern this proceeding:

- a. The response time to discovery propounded in connection with Aquila's direct testimony shall be ten calendar days.
- b. The deadline for service of discovery and audit in connection with Aquila's direct testimony shall be February 14, 2003.
- c. The response time to discovery propounded in connection with Intervenors' answer testimony shall be ten calendar days.
- d. The deadline for service of discovery and audit in connection with Intervenors' answer testimony shall be March 24, 2003.
- e. The response time to discovery propounded in connection with rebuttal or cross-answer testimony shall be seven calendar days.
- f. The deadline for service of discovery and audit in connection with rebuttal or cross-answer testimony shall be March 31, 2003.
- g. Response time to audit shall be seven calendar days.
- h. Motions and responses thereto and discovery shall be served both electronically and by U.S. Mail.
- i. Parties shall serve answer testimony and rebuttal or cross-answer testimony to those parties not residing within the Denver metropolitan area via overnight delivery.

8. This Order shall be effective immediately

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DALE E. ISLEY

Administrative Law Judge