

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE  
WYRULEC COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO RAISE  
THE ELECTRIC RATES IN THREE PHASES - PHASE 1  
FOR \$212,666; PHASE 2 FOR \$54,391; AND PHASE 3  
FOR \$117,766 - FOR A TOTAL OF \$384,823 (7.15%)  
OVER THE THREE PHASES

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) DOCKET NO. 10016-CR-99-18  
) (RECORD NO. 5303)  
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**ORDER**

**(Issued April 20, 2000)**

This matter is before the Commission upon the application of the Wyrulec Company (hereinafter Wyrulec or the Company) for authority to increase its total system rates by \$410,258 in three phases for its Wyoming and Nebraska customers, Phase 1 to include an increase of \$271,119; Phase 2 to include an increase of \$76,943 and Phase 3 to include an increase of \$62,196 and to make certain changes to its Rules and Regulations, as more fully described below.

The Commission, having reviewed the amended application, the request for interim rate relief, its files regarding Wyrulec, applicable Wyoming utility law and otherwise being fully advised in the premises FINDS and CONCLUDES:

1. Wyrulec is a public utility as defined by W.S. §§ 37-1-101, et seq., and, as such, subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of W.S. § 37-2-112.
2. On November 2, 1999, Wyrulec filed its general rate application, requesting authority to increase its retail rates to its Wyoming and Nebraska customers in the amount of \$410,258 (a 6.40% overall increase) through a three-phase plan which would provide for the recovery of the \$410,258 increase, with Phase 1 effective as soon as practicable after consideration by the Commission. The portions of the total increase and phases with respect to Wyrulec's Wyoming customers are: Phase 1 - an increase of \$212,666; Phase 2 - an additional increase of \$54,391; Phase 3 - an additional increase of \$117,766 and a total revenue change of \$384,823 or 7.15% over the July 1997 to June 1998 adjusted test year revenues. Wyrulec stated that the phase-in plan approach would allow it to move its customer rate classes toward their respective cost of service levels and reduce interclass subsidies while lessening the impact of the total increase on its customers.
3. Wyrulec also proposed to adopt an additional optional rate design for irrigation pumping and large commercial customers, which would allow those customers to avoid paying for transmission and generation demand charges if they were not operating at the time of their respective capacity peaks. In addition, Wyrulec proposed changes to its rates for Large School TOU, Missile Sites, Platte Pipeline-Yoder, Platte Pipeline-Harrisburg, Amoco Pipeline, Guernsey Stone, the Town of Torrington and Lighting. Wyrulec has also instructed its manager to attempt to negotiate new long-term contracts with large commercial special accounts prior to hearing on this general rate increase application.
4. Wyrulec also proposed to implement a budget billing plan for its residential customers.

5. Wyrulec proposed that the Phase 1 rates go into effect as soon as approved by the Commission, with the Phase 2 and Phase 3 rates proposed to go into effect after notification to the Commission by the Company.

6. On January 5, 2000, the Commission issued an Notice and Order, pursuant to open meeting action on December 22, 1999, approving the application for Phase 1 on an interim basis, subject however, to notice, protest, further investigation, change, refund, possible hearing and such further action as the Commission might deem appropriate. The Commission established a protest and intervention deadline of January 31, 2000.

7. On January 28, 2000, the Commission received a protest letter from Mr. Curt Meier, on behalf of John Meier and Son, Inc., Wycross Ranch, protesting the Company's use of nameplate horsepower to charge irrigation customers. On April 3, 2000, the Commission staff received notification from Mr. Meier that the Company had agreed to a plan to use demand meters for irrigation customers, satisfactorily addressing his concerns. No other protests, comments or requests for intervention have been received.

8. The Commission finds that the Phase 1 application, the rates proposed to be implemented in Phase 1 and the proposed revisions to the Company's rules and regulations are just and reasonable and are reflective of sound rate-making principles. Therefore, the Commission concludes that the Phase 1 application should be approved on a permanent basis.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. Pursuant to open meeting action taken on April 10, 2000, Wyrulec Company is hereby granted authority to implement its proposed Phase 1 increase and accompanying revisions to its rules and regulations, on an permanent basis, effective immediately.
2. Wyrulec Company is directed to apply in writing for Commission approval prior to implementing additional phases of the rate increase and rate design described in the application and cost of service study.
3. This Notice and Order is effective immediately.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2000.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WYOMING**

STEVE ELLENBECKER, Chairman

KRISTIN H. LEE, Commissioner

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

EDNA YOUNG, Assistant Secretary