

PUC: More time needed to review proposed fee

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Public Utilities Commission members said they still need more time to review a proposed new fee to connect customers to Guam Waterworks Authority water and wastewater systems.

Chairman Jeffrey Johnson and Vice Chairwoman Rowena Perez said that the petition by Guam Waterworks Authority would require more attention before the commission approves any order to establish

the system development charge.

The commission could not take a vote on the petition during a meeting last night due to the absence of one commissioner, and Perez said she felt uncomfortable making the decision in haste.

Meanwhile, the commission's legal counsel, Frederick Horecky, clarified some of the questions raised in previous hearings: for example, the issue of whether customers who are not connected to the sewer system would have to pay the system development charge for wastewater.

"We have now clarified ... that



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customers — as of the date of this order — who are on a septic system and subsequently connect to GWA wastewater system should not be charged a wastewater SDC," Horecky said. "They're not new customers, they're already in the system, they're receiving water," he said.

Those who are on a separate septic system and do not connect also won't be charged the SDC fees be-

cause they're not receiving the benefits of the wastewater system provided by the water agency, Horecky told commissioners.

The revised proposed order also clarifies that the vast majority of residential customers would be billed at the lowest rate on the schedule — the 3/4-inch by 5/8-inch meter rate, according to Horecky.

The exception would be in "very extraordinary circumstances" when a customer builds a very large home with a number of fixtures, he said.

"GWA wanted to leave that possibility open," Horecky said. "The

order would indicate only in exceptional circumstances where warranted by volume of usage and number of fixtures could a residential customer be charged for a 3/4-inch meter."

The new water line connection fee for residents would be \$2,126 and \$3,474 for the sewer line, the PUC members confirmed last night.

For new large hotel projects using 10-inch lines, the water connection fee would be \$244,536 and \$399,556 for the wastewater line, or \$644,092, according to Pacific Daily News files.