



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908 • (360) 753-1111 • FAX
(360) 753-1112 Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov • Website: www.pdc.wa.gov

BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Pete Rittmueller
1441 Island View
Bellingham WA 95225

In Re Compliance with RCW 42.17A

Pete Rittmueller

Respondent.

PDC Case No. 13-313

Findings of Fact,
Conclusions of Law, and
Order Imposing Fine

A brief enforcement hearing (brief adjudicative proceeding) was held August 1, 2013, in Room 206, Evergreen Plaza Building, 711 Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington to consider whether the Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to timely file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement (F-1 report) covering the 12 months preceding the date the Respondent became a candidate for election in 2013.

The hearing was held in accordance with Chapters 34.05 and 42.17A RCW and Chapter 390-37 WAC. A brief enforcement hearing notice was sent to Pete Rittmueller on July 18, 2013. Commission Chair Amit Ranade was the Presiding Officer. The Commission staff was represented by Kurt Young, Compliance Officer. The Respondent provided written materials that were presented to the Presiding Officer at the hearing.

Having considered the evidence, the Presiding Officer finds as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Respondent is a candidate for Water Commissioner for Whatcom County Water District No. 2 in 2013.
2. As a candidate, the Respondent was required to file an F-1 report within two weeks of the date the Respondent filed a declaration of candidacy, or no later than May 31, 2013.
3. The Respondent filed the missing F-1 report on July 29, 2013, prior to the date of the hearing.
4. The Respondent has no prior violations.

5. The Respondent stated he was appointed Water Commissioner for Whatcom County Water District No. 2 in January of 2013, and that when he was appointed he was not made aware of the requirement to file an F-1 report. He stated he was a first-time candidate, and that he was not aware he was required to file an F-1 report until July 18, 2013, when he opened the initial warning letter that had been mailed to him on July 3, 2013.
6. The Respondent stated that he attempted to file the F-1 report electronically the same week he opened the warning letter, but was not successful. He stated that he received the hearing notice on July 22, 2013, as he was leaving to go out of town. He said he has traveled extensively for business and family matters during 2013.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the above facts, as a matter of law, the Presiding Officer concludes as follows:

1. This matter was duly and properly convened and all jurisdictional, substantive and procedural requirements have been satisfied.
2. The Respondent violated RCW 42.17A.700 by failing to timely file the F-1 report, which was due to be filed no later than May 31, 2013.

ORDER

ON the basis of the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent is assessed a civil penalty of \$100 in accordance with the penalty schedule set forth in WAC 390-37-165, of which \$75 is suspended on the following conditions:

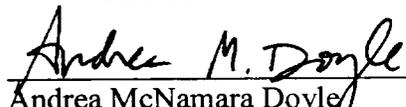
- (1) Respondent is not found to have committed any further violations of RCW 42.17A within two years of the date of this order; and
- (2) The \$25 non-suspended portion of the penalty is paid within 30 days of the date of this order.

If the Respondent fails to comply with any of these conditions, the suspended portion of the penalty will become immediately due and payable without further action by the Commission.

This is an **Initial Order** of the Public Disclosure Commission.

Entered this 15 day of August, 2013.

Public Disclosure Commission


Andrea McNamara Doyle
Executive Director

Enclosure: Information about Appeal Rights

I, Jacob Boyker, certify that I mailed a copy of this order to the Respondent(s) at his/her/its respective address, postage pre-paid, on the date stated herein.


Signed

8/15/13
Date