# GATLIN, SCHIEFELBEIN \& COWDERY, PA. <br> Attorneys at Law 

The Mahan Station
1709-D Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

January 24, 1997

## HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1850

RE: Docket No. 951056-WS
Application by PALM COAST UTILITY CORPORATION
for a rate increase in Flagler County, Florida
Dear Ms. Bayo:
Enclosed for filing on behalf of Palm Coast Utility Corporation in the above docket are an original and fifteen copies of:


Please acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by stamping the ACK enclosed extra copy of this letter and returning same to my attention. Thank you for your assistance.
ARA


Very truly yours,
Nithenthonter
B. Kenneth Gatlin

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## BKG/met

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## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for rate ) increase in Flagler County by PALM COAST UTILITY CORPORATION

Docket No. 951056-WS
Filed: January 24, 1997

## AMENDED MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION

OR, ALTERNATIVELY, MOTION TO CORRECT COMPUTATIONAL ERRORS
Palm Coast Utility Corporation (PCUC), files this its amended motion for reconsideration of Order No. PSC-96-1338-FOF-WS (the Order), or, alternatively, motion to correct computational errors, for the purpose of calling to the Commission's attention significant staff computational errors not addressed in PCUC's original Motion for Reconsideration, and states:

## RECONSIDERATION

1. This amended motion for reconsideration is filed pursuant to Rule 25-22.035(3), F.A.C., and Rule 1.190, Fla.R.Civ.P.
2. PCUC realleges each and every allegation in its motion for reconsideration, filed herein on November 22, 1996.
3. PCUC has discovered an additional set of staff computational errors which have a substantial impact on the

> ACK AFA
APP -Inancial integrity of PCUC, by understating water rate base by CAF
CMU
CTR 4. Commission staff developed certain schedules and
EAG $\quad$ appapers after the agenda conference so that the Order would LEG
LIN OPC ___examined those voluminous staff workpapers, which were made RCH I available to PCUC after the Order was issued, and discovered the
following substantial errors:
a. Schedule 1-A, Schedule of Water Rate Base (Order at p. 102) at line 3 of the far right column shows $\$(19,067,314)$ as the Non-Used \& Useful Components for the Commission Adjusted Average Test Year. (See Att. A1)
b. That figure is supported by schedules in Staff's electronic spreadsheet pcucfin.wk3. Schedule A-7 of electronic spreadsheet pcucfin.wk3 is the Non-Used and Useful Summary. It shows the non-used and useful adjustments for Water Plant and Water Accumulated Depreciation to be $\$(29,279,207)$ and $\$ 8,669,753$, respectively, and shows the total non-used and useful adjustment for water rate base to be $\$(19,067,314)$, in agreement with Schedule 1-A of the Order. (See Att. A2)
c. Supporting Schedule $A-7$ is an unnumbered schedule in electronic spreadsheet pcucfin.wk3 entitled "PLANT, ETC \& USED AND USEFUL ADJUSTMENTS" for WATER UTILITY PLANT ACCOUNTS. (See Att. A3) The source for the non-used and useful adjustments to water plant and accumulated depreciation in Schedule $A-7$ is the line labeled TOTALS-WATER in the columns labeled NON-U/U Adj. to Plant and NON-U/U Adj. to Acc. Depr. Those totals are the sums of the six rows immediately above the totals and are reproduced here:

| NON-U/U | NON-U/U |
| :--- | :--- |
| Adj. to | Adj. to |
| Plant | Acc. Depr. |


| WATER TREATMENT PLANT | $1,973,874$ | 556,664 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| TRANSMISSION \& DISTRIBUTION | $19,450,204$ | $6,788,497$ |
| GENERAI PLANT | $2,660,042$ | 118,684 |
| OTHER | $2,580,944$ | 89,797 |
| TOTALS - WATER | $\$ 29,279,207$ | $\$ 8,669,753$ |
|  | $==========$ | $=========$ |

d. The above totals by plant groupings are supposed to equal the sum of the primary account totals preceding them in Att. A3. THEY DO NOT. The totals in GENERAL PLANT actually equal the sum of the GENERAL PLANT accounts plus the OTHER accounts. That is, the amounts in the OTHER accounts are added twice, such that the total non-used adjustments are overstated by $\$ 2,580,944$ for water plant and $\$ 89,797$ for water accumulated depreciation. These errors occurred because the formulas used to determine the GENERAL PLANT totals erroneously add both GENERAL PLANT accounts and OTHER accounts, instead of just GENERAL PLANT accounts. This is not an obvious error that would be noticed in the normal course of reviewing a staff worksheet for the purpose of determining whether it reflects the Commission's vote on used and useful methodology.
e. The corrected totals for water plant and accumulated depreciation are $\$(26,698,263)$ and $\$ 8,579,956$, respectively. (See Att. A4) The corrected total non-used and useful adjustment for water rate base is $\$(16,576,167)$. See corrected Schedule A-7. (Att. A5)
5. The mathematical errors result in an understated water rate base of $\$ 2,454,294$, understated water revenue requirement of $\$ 301,373$ and understated wastewater revenue requirement of $\$ 13,861$.
(See Att. A8 \& A9) These understatements reflect not only the correction of the mathematical errors in non-used and useful adjustments to water plant and accumulated depreciation, but also the resulting fallout changes to the used water debit deferred taxes component of rate base and the cost of capital. The used water debit deferred taxes is a function of used water plant. The cost of capital, which is used to determine the return on both water and wastewater rate base, increased from $7.90 \%$ to $8.10 \%$ because the Commission found that the ITC component of capital should be specific and not be adjusted to rate base on a pro rata basis [Order at page 55]. Corrected schedules are included as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Att. A6 - } \text { corrected Schedule } 1-A, \text { Water Rate Base } \\
& \text { Att. A7 - corrected Schedule } 2 \text {, Capital Structure } \\
& \text { Att. A8 - } \text { corrected Schedule } 3-A, \text { Statement of Water } \\
& \text { Operations (including a summary of the impact } \\
& \text { of the computational errors) } \\
& \text { Att. A9- corrected Schedule 3-B, Statement of Wastewater } \\
& \text { Operations (including a summary of the impact } \\
& \text { of the computational errors) }
\end{aligned}
$$

6. Accordingly, PCUC requests that the Commission allow and grant this amended motion for reconsideration in furtherance of justice, and that the Commission's final order reflect the corrections.

## AITERNATIVE MOTION TO CORRECT COMPUTATIONAL ERRORS

7. Given the continued pendency of PCUC's original Motion for Reconsideration, there is no question that the Order remains under the control of the Commission.
8. The Commission has the inherent power to reconsider or amend "final" orders still under its control. The exercise of this power is particularly appropriate where mistake or inadvertence is shown.
9. PCUC has hereinabove clearly shown mistake or inadvertence in the above computational errors, which result in a substantial understatement of water rate base and water revenue requirement. The extent of these errors should be deemed an extraordinary circumstance warranting corrections in the rate base, cost of capital, revenue requirement and rates established by the Order.

WHEREFORE, Palm Coast Utility Corporation hereby requests the Commission to reconsider or correct its decisions on the foregoing issues, and adjust rates accordingly.

DATED this 24th day of January, 1997.
Respectfully submitted,

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by hand delivery to Ms. Bobbie Reyes, Esquire, Division of Legal Services, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, to Mr. Stephen C. Reilly, Associate Public Counsel, Office of Public Counsel, Claude Pepper Building, Room 812, 111 West Madison Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400, and to Mr. Richard Melon, Esquire, Hopping Green Sams \& Smith, 123 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32314, and by U.S. Mail to Mr. Albert J. Hadeed, County Attorney, 1200 East Moody Boulevard, \#11, Bunnell, Florida 32110-9764, and to Mr. Arthur L. Sirkin, coo County Attorney, 1200 East Moody Blvd., \#11, Gunnel, Florida 32110, on this 24 th day of January, 1997.

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B. Kenneth Gatling

| ATT. NO. | Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| A1 | Schedule A-1, Schedule of Water Rate Base from Order No. PSC-96-1338-FOF-WS at page 102. Uncorrected |
| A2 | Schedule A-7 of Staff electronic spreadsheet pcucfin.wk3, Non-Used and Useful Summary. Uncorrected |
| A3 | Unnumbered schedule of Staff electronic spreadsheet pcucfin.wk3 Plant, Etc. \& Used and Useful Adjustments for Water Utility Plant Accounts. Uncorrected |
| A4 | Unnumbered schedule of Staff electronic spreadsheet pcucfin.wk3 Plant, Etc. \& Used and Useful Adjustments for Water Utility Plant Accounts. Corrected |
| A5 | Schedule A-7 of Staff electronic spreadsheet pcucfin.wk3 Non-Used and Useful Summary. corrected |
| A6 | Schedule A-1, from Order No. PSC-96-1338-FOF-WS at page 102. Corrected |
| A 7 | Schedule No.2, Capital Structure, from order No. PSC-96-1338-FOF-WS. Corrected |
| A8 | Schedule No.3-A, Statement of Water Operations, from Order No. PSC-96-1338-FOF-WS. Corrected. Includes a summary of the impact of the computational errors. |
| A9 | Schedule No.3-B, Statement of Wastewater Operations, rom Order No. PSC-96-1338-FOF-WS. corrected. Includes a summary of the impact of the computational errors. |

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ORDER NO. PSC-96-1338-FOF-WS
DOCKET NO. 951056-WS
PAGE }10
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Attachment No. $\qquad$
Page 1 of 1;ige

| PALM COAST UTILITY CORP | Sched A-7 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NON-USED AND USEFU SUMMARY | AMOUNT PER | AMOUNT PER | ADJUST PER |
| WATER | UTILITY | STAFF | STAFF |
| PLANT | $(13,615,786)$ | $(29,279,207)$ | (15,663,421) |
| LAND | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION | 3,896,893 | 8,669,753 | 4,772,860. |
| CIAC | 1,319,118 | 1,899,848 | 580,730 |
| ACCUMULATED AMORT CIAC | (202,778) | $(357,709)$ | (154,931) |
| ADVANCES FOF CONSTRUCTION | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTHER | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL NON-USED AND USEFUL | $(8,602,553)$ | $(19,067,314)$ | $(10,464,761)$ |
| NON-USED AND USEFUL DEPR EXP | 296,334 | 664,949 | 368,615 Sch b13,p1, cols, Ilne 49 |
| NON-USED AND USEFUL AMORT EXP | 30,675 | 60.548 | 29,873 Sch b13.p1, col9,line 50 |
| NET ADJUSTMENT - WATER | (265,659) | (604,401) | $(338,742)$ |
| PROPERTY TAX EXPENSE-GROSS (Sch B-15) | 290000 | 290000 | 0 |
| Ratio of non-used plant to total (per stafi) |  | 48.16\% |  |
| Non-used property tax | 31352 | 139,672 | $(108,320)$ |
| WASTEWATER |  |  |  |
| PLANT | $(20,225,569)$ | $(31,106,873)$ | $(10,881,304)$ |
| LAND | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION | 6,759.615 | 10,250,580 | 3,490,965 |
| CLAC | 43,537,577 | 43,599,174 | 61,597 |
| ACCUMULATED AMORT CIAC | $(11,299,063)$ | $(10,895,217)$ | 403,846 |
| ADVANCES FOF CONSTRUCTION | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTHER | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL NON-USED AND USEFUL | 18,772,560 | $11,847,664$ | (6,924,896) |
| NON-USED AND USEFUL DEPR EXP | 587,624 | 932,521 | 344,897 |
| NON-USED AND USEFLL AMORT EXP | 1,060,447 | 1,094,039 | 33,592 |
| NET ADJUSTMENT-WASTEWATER | 472,823 | 161,519 | $(311,304)$ |
| PROPERTY TAX EXPENSE-GROSS (Sch B-15) | 210,000 | 210000 | 0 |
| Ratio of non-used plant to total (per staf) |  | 56.47\% |  |
| Non-used property tax | 66,329 | 118,596 | (52,267) |


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| PALM COAST UTILITY CORP | Sched A-7 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NON-USED AND USEFU SUMMARY | AMOUNT | AMOUNT | ADJUST |
|  | PER | PER | PER |
| WATER CORRECTED | UTILITY | STAFF | STAFF |
| PLANT | $(13,615,786)$ | $(26,698,263)$ | $(13,082,477)$ |
| LAND | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ACCUMLLATED DEPRECIATION | 3,896,893 | 8,579,956 | 4,683,063 |
| CIAC | 1,319,118 | 1,899,848 | 580,730 |
| ACCUMULATED AMORT CIAC | (202,778) | $(357,709)$ | $(154,931)$ |
| ADVANCES FOR CONSTRUCTION | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTHER | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL NON-USED AND USEFUL | $(8,602,553)$ | $(16,576,167)$ | (7,973,614) |
| NON-USED AND USEFUL DEPR EXP | 296,334 | 664,949 | 368,615 Sch b13.p1 , col9, line 49 |
| NON-USED AND USEFUL AMORT EXP | 30,675 | 60,548 | 29,873 Sch b13,p1, col9,line 50 |
| NET ADJUSTMENT - WATER | (265,659) | (604,401) | $(338,742)$ |
| PROPERTY TAX EXPENSE-GROSS (Sch B-15) | 290000 | 290000 | 0 |
| Ratio of non-used plant to total (per staff) |  | 43.92\% |  |
| Non-used property tax | 31352 | 127,360 | $(96,008)$ |
| WASTEWATER |  |  |  |
| PLANT | $(20,225,569)$ | $(31,106,873)$ | $(10,881,304)$ |
| LAND | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION | 6,759,615 | 10,250,580 | 3,490,965 |
| CIAC | 43,537,577 | 43,599,174 | 61.597 |
| ACCUMULATED AMORT CIAC | $(11,299,063)$ | (10,895,217) | 403,846 |
| ADVANCES FOR CONSTRUCTION | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTHER | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL NON-USED AND USEFUL | 18,772,560 | 11,847,664 | (6,924,896) |
| NON-USED AND USEFUL DEPR EXP | 587,624 | 932,521 | 344,897 |
| NON-USED AND LSEFU AMORT EXP | 1.060,447 | 1,094,039 | 33,592 |
| NET ADJUSTMENT-WASTEWATER | 472,823 | 161,519 | (311,304) |
| PROPERTY TAX EXPENSE-GROSS (Sch B-15) | 210,000 | 210000 | 0 |
| Ratio of non-used plant to tota! (per stafi) |  | 56.47\% |  |
| Non-used property tax | 66,329 | 118,596 | $(52,267)$ |

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| PALM COAST UTILITY CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF WATER RATE BASE TEST YEAR ENDED 12/31/95 |  |  | CORRECTED | SCHEDULE NO. 1-A DOCKET NO. 951056 WS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| COMPONENT |  | TEST YEAR PER UTILITY YEAR-END | UTILITY ADJUSTMENTS | ADJUSTED TEST YEAR PER UTILITY | COMMISSION ADJUSTMENTS | COMMISSION <br> AVERAGE <br> TEST YEAR |
| 1 UTUITY PLANT IN SERVICE | \$ | 63,505,519\$ | $(2,128,199) \$$ | 61,377,320\$ | $(1.089 .914) \$$ | 60,287.406 |
| 2 LAND \& LANJD RIGHTS |  | 504.632 | 0 | 504,632 | 0 | 504,632 |
| 3 NON-USED \& USEFUL COMPONENTS |  | $(8,602,553)$ | 0 | (8,602,553) | (7,973,614) | $(16,576,167)$ |
| 4 CWIP |  | 3,992,210 | (3,992,210) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION |  | $(20,996,438)$ | 1,074,065 | $(19,922,373)$ | 938.154 | $(18,984,219)$ |
| 6 CIAC |  | $(16,390,083)$ | 0 | $(16,390,083)$ | 1,027,079 | $(15,363,004)$ |
| 7 AMORTIZATION OF CAC |  | 3,241,580 | 0 | 3,241,580 | $(246,931)$ | 2,994,649 |
| 8 NET DEBT DEFERRED TAXES (USED) |  | 1,119,911 | 0 | 1,119,911 | $(519,702)$ | 600,209 |
| 9 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 ADVANCES FOR CONSTRUCTION |  | $(2,672,139)$ | 2,672,139 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 WORKNG CAPITAL ALLOWANCE |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 OTHER |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RATE BASE | \$ | 23,702,639 \$ | $(2,374,205) \$$ | 21,328,434\$ | $(7,864,928)$ \$ | 13,463,506 |



| PALM COAST OTILITY CORPORATION BTATEMEMT OF WATER OPERATXONE TEST YEAR EMDED 12/31/95 |  |  | CORRECTED |  |  | schedule no. 3-a <br> DOCKET NO. 951056-ws |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DESCRIPTION |  | ST YEAR RUTILITY 1905 | UTILTY <br> ADUUSTMENTS | ADMUSTED TEST YEAR/ UTLITY 1995 | COMMISSION ADJUSTMENTS | MMISSION DUSTED EST YEAR | REVENUE INCREASE | VENUE JIPEMENT |
| 1 OPERATING REVENUES | \$ | 5,384,699 \$ | 1586,948 \$ | 6,971,647 \$ | $(1,571,283)$ \$ | 5,400,364 \$ | $(4,956)$ \$ | 5,395,408 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES: |  |  |  |  |  |  | -0.09\% |  |
| 2 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE | \$ | 3,026,338\$ | (222,018)\$ | 2,804,320 \$ | $(44,132) \$$ | 2,760,188\$ | \$ | 2,760,188 |
| 3 DEPRECIATION |  | 1,621,374 | $(437,104)$ | 1,184,270 | $(349,719)$ | 834,551 |  | 834,551 |
| 4 AMORTIZATION |  | $(82,781)$ | $(5,469)$ | $(88,250)$ | 5,469 | $(82,781)$ |  | (82,781) |
| 5 TAXES OTHER THAN INCOME |  | 874,220 | $(180,899)$ | 693,321 | $(166,716)$ | 526,605 | (223) | 526,382 |
| 6 INCOME TAXES |  | $(289,553)$ | 781,183 | 491,630 | $(223,216)$ | 268,414 | (1,781) | 266,633 |
| 7 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | \$ | 5,149,598 \$ | $(64,307) \$$ | 5,085,291 \$ | (778,313) $\$$ | 4,306,978 \$ | (2,004)\$ | 4,304,974 |
| 8 OPERATING INCOME | \$ | 235,101\$ | 1,651,255 \$ | 1,886,356 \$ | (792,970)\$ | 1,093,386 \$ | (2,952)\$ | 1,090,435 |
| 9 RATE BASE | \$ | 23,702,639 | \$ | 21,328,434 | \$ | 13,463,506 | \$ | 13,463,506 |
| RATE OF RETLAN |  | 0.99\% |  | 8.84\% |  | 8.12\% |  | 8.10\% |

SUMMARY OF IMPACT OF ERRORS

|  | Rev. Req. |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | Rate Base |  |
| As corrected | $5,395,408$ |  |
| Per Order | $5,094,035$ | $13,463,506$ |
| Understatement | 301,373 |  |


| PALM COABT UTILITY CORPORATIOR STATEMEAT OF WASTEGATER OPERATIONS TEET YEAR ENDED $12 / 31 / 95$ |  | CORRECTED |  | chedule no. 3-b <br> DOCKET KO. 951056 WS |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DESCRIPTION |  | ST YEAR QUTILITY 1995 | utility AD.USTMENTS | JUSTED ST YEAR/ LTY 1995 | COMMISSION ADJUSTMENTS | MMISSION JUSTED ST YEAR | REVENUE INCREASE | VENUE IREMENT |
| 1 OPERATING REVENUES | \$ | 3,150,538 \$ | 1,756,312 \$ | 4,906,850 \$ | $(1,619,645)$ \$ | 3,287,205 \$ | $(168,082)$ \$ | 3,119,123 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES |  |  |  |  |  |  | -5.11\% |  |
| 2 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE | \$ | 2,049,154 \$ | $(80,503) \$$ | 1,968,651 \$ | (54,030)\$ | 1914,621 \$ | \$ | 1,914,621 |
| 3 DEPRECIATION |  | 35,244 | 728,836 | 764,080 | $(337,397)$ | 426,683 |  | 426,683 |
| 4 AMORTIZATION |  | $(57,525)$ | $(1,309)$ | $(58,834)$ | 1,309 | $(57,525)$ |  | $(57,525)$ |
| 5 TAXES OTHER THAN INCOME |  | 258,285 | 187,325 | 445,610 | $(125,151)$ | 320,459 | (7,564) | 312,895 |
| 6 INCOME TAXES |  | 131,947 | 237,542 | 369,489 | $(206,437)$ | 163,052 | $(60,403)$ | 102,649 |
| 7 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | \$ | 2,417,105 \$ | 1,071,891 \$ | 3,488,996 \$ | (721,706)\$ | 2,767,290 \$ | $(67,967) \$$ | 2,699,323 |
| 8 OPERATING INCOME | \$ | 733,433 \$ | 684,421 \$ | 1,417,854 \$ | (897,939)\$ | 519,915 \$ | $(100,115) \$$ | 419,800 |
| 9 RATE BASE | \$ | 14,057,238 | \$ | 16,031,208 | \$ | 5,183,232 | \$ | 5,183,232 |
| RATE OF RETURN |  | 522\% |  | 8.84\% |  | 10.03\% |  | 8.10\% |

SUMMARY OF IMPACT OF ERRORS

|  | Rev. Req. | Rate Base |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| As corrected | $3,119,123$ |  | $5,183,232$ |
| Per Order | $3,105,262$ |  | $5,183,232$ |
| Understatement | 13,861 |  | 0 |

