



Public Service Commission

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: March 19, 1999
TO: Division of Records and Reporting (Moses)
FROM: Division of Legal Services (Ferguson) *[Signature]*
RE: Docket No. 981825-SU - Application by Tradewinds Utilities, Inc., for approval of a new class of service for wastewater-only flat rates in Marion County

The Commission's mailroom forwarded a protest in the above-referenced docket dated March 12, 1999. The Division of Water and Wastewater received it on March 15, 1999. The protest period ended on March 16, 1999, therefore please reflect in the Case Management System that a protest was received and that this matter needs to be set for hearing. Further please file the attached letter in the docket file and list Mr. Charles Ruse, Jr., as a party of record. Thank you.

cc: Division of Water & Wastewater (Butts, Dewberry, Rendell, Willis)

Blanca / Sandy - please call me if you have any questions. Thanks, Zita

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 FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

C.F.

CHARLES RUSE, JR.

500 N.E. 8TH AVENUE
OCALA, FLORIDA 34470

TELEPHONE (352) 351-1516
FAX (352) 867-5111

March 12, 1999

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

VIA FAX 800/511-0809

RECEIVED

MAR 15 1999

Florida Public Service Commission
Division of Water and Wastewater

Gentlemen:

I received the March 1, 1999 letter from Tradewinds Utilities, a copy being attached, indicating that you approved waste water flat rates on a temporary basis. Your approval indicates quadruplexes had an approved rate of \$261.55. **THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS.** Please consider this letter a protest of the tariff order or, if you are unable to consider this a protest, please forward the appropriate documents.

I apologize the shortness in responding but, Tradewinds notice to us is dated March 1st, but not mailed until Thursday, March 11th.

I am not aware of what criteria you utilize to approve the requested rates by Tradewinds. I have reviewed my residential bills for the last six (6) months and they average \$30.00 per month for waste water. This is for a 3 bedroom, 3 bath, residence serviced by the City of Ocala, not generally known for its economical utility rates. Virtually all of the quadruplexes in question are either 2 bedroom, 1 bath, or 2 bedroom, 2 bath unit and even without interpolation of my utility bill (3/3 to 2/2) if I have 4 residences, my sewer bill would only be \$120.00, less than 1/2 of what you have approved for Tradewinds.

Folks, I don't know what's going on in the minds of whoever approved these rates, but I can assure you that if I have to pay \$261.00 for waste water, and a similar amount for fresh water, I will no longer operate a quadruplex. This is about 40% of my gross income.

I don't know what this letter/protest is going to result in but, these rates seem totally excessive.

I noted from previous correspondence that the same utility was granted tariffs that required the utilization of a 2 inch water meter with the attendant a minimum monthly rate. This too, is totally excessive. Our water well presently operates on either 3/4 inch pipe or 1 inch pipe, that being totally satisfactory for the last 15 years. For the life of me, I can't understand why it is now necessary for us to have a 2 inch meter and a 2 inch pipe which would terminate into the existing 1 inch piping. Obviously, this is some ploy by the utility company to maximize its income.

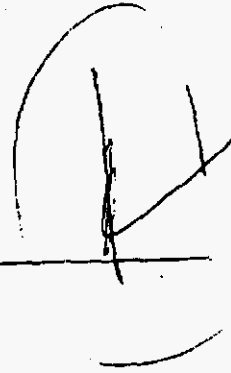
March 12, 1999
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I would appreciate your advise as to how we can appropriately protest/bring to the attention of the commission, what we perceive to be the high-handed and excessive requirements for the meter size.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES RUSE, JR.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CR', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the top and a vertical stroke through the middle.

CR:ac