

## VOTE SHEET

OCTOBER 1, 2002

RE: Docket No. 011451-WS - Investigation of water and wastewater rates for possible overearnings by Plantation Bay Utility Co. in Volusia County.

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission approve a year-end rate base for this utility for the test year rate base ended December 31, 2000 and December 31, 2001?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The Commission should approve the use of a year-end rate base, for this utility, for the test year ended December 31, 2000, for the purpose of calculating rate base. However, an average test year rate base should be used for the test year ended December 31, 2001.

# APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: Full Commission

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURESMAJORITY

*Hubert Bradley*  
*Mark H. ...*  
*James ...*  
*Michael A. ...*

DISSENTING

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REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE

10583 OCT-18

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

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(Continued from previous page)

ISSUE 2: What portions of Plantation Bay are used and useful?

RECOMMENDATION: The water treatment plant is 62% used and useful, the wastewater treatment plant is 29.4% used and useful, and the water distribution system and wastewater collection systems are 100% used and useful.

**APPROVED**

ISSUE 3: Did Plantation Bay earn above the range of its authorized return for the test year ended December 31, 2000?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. Plantation Bay's revenues exceeded the range of its recommended rate of return of 11.12%, by \$36,531 for water and by \$14,911 for wastewater for the test year ended December 31, 2000.

**APPROVED**

ISSUE 4: Did Plantation Bay earn above the range of its authorized rate of return for the average test year ended December 31, 2001?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. Plantation Bay's water earnings for the average test year ended December 31, 2001, exceeded its authorized rate of return of 11.09%, by \$16,139 (or 6.67%). However, its wastewater earnings fell below the range of the range of its authorized rate of return by \$8,693.

**APPROVED**

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(Continued from previous page)

ISSUE 5: Did Plantation Bay earn above the range of its authorized return for the interim collection test period?

RECOMMENDATION: No. Plantation Bay earnings for the interim test period were below its authorized rate of return for both water and wastewater.

**APPROVED**

ISSUE 6: Should the utility be ordered to refund its price index and pass-through rate adjustments that were implemented January 1, 2000?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. The utility should be required to make refunds in the amount of ~~\$32,618~~ for water and ~~\$9,018~~ for wastewater for the test years ended December 31, 2000 and December 31, 2001. These refunds should be made with interest as required by Rule 25-30.360(4), Florida Administrative Code, within 90 days of the effective date of the Consummating Order. The utility should be required to submit the proper refund reports pursuant to Rule 25-30.360(7), Florida Administrative Code. The refund should be made to customers of record as of the date of the Consummating Order pursuant to Rule 25-30.360(3), Florida Administrative Code.

**MODIFIED**

*Approved with corrections made by staff at the conference.*

ISSUE 7: Should Plantation Bay be ordered to refund revenues collected during the interim collection period and should water and wastewater rates be reduced?

RECOMMENDATION: No. The utility earned below the range of its authorized return on equity during the interim collection period. Therefore, the utility should not be required to refund water or wastewater revenues collected under interim rates, and rates should not be reduced. The utility's security bond should also be released.

**APPROVED**

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(Continued from previous page)

ISSUE 8: Should the utility's service availability policy be changed to disallow the acceptance of contributed property and to discontinue service availability charges?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. Plantation Bay's service availability policy should be changed to disallow the acceptance of contributed property as well as to discontinue its service availability charges. However, the meter installation charges as reflected in the utility's water tariff should be continued. If approved, the utility should be required to file revised tariff sheets, which are consistent with the Commission's vote, within thirty days of the issuance date of the Consummating Order. Staff should be given administrative authority to approve the revised tariff sheets upon staff's verification that the tariffs are consistent with the Commission's decision. If the revised tariff sheets are filed and approved, the discontinued service availability charges should become effective for connections made on or after the stamped approval date of the revised tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(2), Florida Administrative Code.

**MODIFIED**

*Approved with the modification  
that the company will continue  
collecting SAC.*

ISSUE 9: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: No. If no timely protest is received upon expiration of the protest period, the PAA order will become final upon the issuance of the consummating order. However, the docket should remain open for staff to verify that the utility has completed the required refunds and the utility has filed revised tariff sheets and staff has administratively approved them. Once these actions are complete, the docket may be closed administratively.

**APPROVED**