

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In re: Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, and Washington Counties by Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. | DOCKET NO. 080121-WS  
FILED: October 27, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the Direct Testimony of Michael Hambor on behalf of the Florida Public Service Commission, has been furnished by U.S. Mail, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008, to the following.

*Hand Delivery*

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

DOCKET NO. 080121-WS – Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia and Washington Counties by Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc.

WITNESS: Direct Testimony of Michael Hambor, Palm Beach County Health Department  
Appearing on Behalf of the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission.

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1 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL HAMBOR

2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. Michael Hambor, Engineer Supervisor III, Supervisor of Operations Section including  
4 the Drinking Water Program, Palm Beach County Health Department (PBCHD),  
5 Division of Environmental Health & Engineering, 901 Evernia Street, West Palm  
6 Beach, Florida 33401 (mailing address is P.O. Box 29, West Palm Beach, FL 33402).

7 Q. Please provide a brief description of your educational background and experience.

8 A. I have a B. S. in Chemical Engineering and 30 years of experience in public and  
9 private sectors dealing with water and wastewater systems, including 6.5 years with  
10 the PBCHD. I am currently an Engineer Supervisor in the drinking water program. I  
11 am responsible for the regulation of Community, Non-Transient Non-Community,  
12 Transient Non-Community, and Limited Use drinking water systems in Palm Beach  
13 County Florida, including inspections, enforcement, education, and data verification. I  
14 am also responsible for a Well Surveillance Program.

15 Q. Are you familiar with the Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. (Aqua) Lake Osborne water  
16 system in Palm Beach County?

17 A. Yes. The Lake Osborne water system is a consecutive community receiving drinking  
18 water from the City of Lake Worth; it does not provide any treatment of the water.

19 Q. Does Aqua have any current construction permits from the PBCHD?

20 A. None at this time. In 2007, the utility up-graded a portion of the distribution system  
21 piping to improve fire flow and pressure to several hydrants.

22 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the distribution system satisfactory?

23 A. The distribution system is relatively old and consists of a mixture of pipe types.  
24 Currently, when a precautionary boil water notice is needed, the entire system is  
25 impacted because the isolation valves used to sectionalize the system are in need of

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- 1 repair/replacement. As the piping system ages, there is a greater potential for boil  
2 water events due to system failure and the isolation valves will need to be operational.  
3 In 2007, Aqua completed work replacing some sections of piping which needed to be  
4 increased in diameter to assist with water flow and pressure at several fire hydrants.  
5 The local fire agency had issued a Water Alert for the community in May 2007 and  
6 this was lifted in August 2008 after the work on the distribution lines was completed.  
7 In general, the utility is doing a reasonably good job of maintaining the system;  
8 however, as with most water systems, the distribution piping and the isolation valves  
9 may require replacement in time.
- 10 Q. Has Aqua been the subject of any PBCHD enforcement action within the past three  
11 years?
- 12 A. A Warning Letter was issued for late receipt of the Monthly Operating Report and the  
13 bacteriological samples for May 2008. The late results were due to a change in  
14 personnel and the closing of the local office. New Warning letters will be issued  
15 shortly for the lack of a Cross Connection Control Plan and for repair of the isolation  
16 valves.
- 17 Q. Do you have anything further to add?
- 18 A. In early 2008, Aqua elected to close the local office (Boynton Beach) and handle all  
19 administrative matters out of their Sarasota office. The lack of local presence may  
20 present problems in the future, but so far has only been an issue when the reports were  
21 not filed on time for May 2008. Several years ago the notification of the residents for  
22 boil water notices was a problem. This was resolved by working with the local office.  
23 We have only had two boil water notices since October 2005.
- 24 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 25 A. Yes.