

STATE OF FLORIDA

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DIVISION OF ECONOMICS  
JAMES W. DEAN  
DIRECTOR  
(850) 413-6410

Public Service Commission

June 5, 2015

RECEIVED PSC  
15 JUN -5 PM 3:58  
COMMISSION  
CLERK

Mr. and Mrs. Bartfield  
2939 Oak Beach Blvd.  
Sebring, FL 33875

**Re: Docket No. 140158-WS Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Highlands County by HC Waterworks, Inc.**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bartfield:

Thank you for your letter in which you expressed your concerns regarding the proposed rate increase filed by HC Waterworks, Inc. (HC or Utility) and the quality of the water. To ensure that the Commission staff and the Commissioners have knowledge of your concerns, your letter has been placed on the correspondence side of the docket file for all to review.

We understand your concerns regarding HC's proposed rate increase. With respect to the development of rates, the Commission is required to set rates that are just, reasonable, compensatory, and not unfairly discriminatory as dictated by Chapter 367, Florida Statutes. During a rate case, the Commission's accountants, engineers, and economists examine the Utility's financial and engineering information to make a recommendation to the Commissioners.

In regards to the water quality, the Utility's water has a high sulfur content, which is found in the raw ground water. Sulfur is considered a secondary contaminant, which is generally what customers notice like color or smell. DEP does not typically undertake enforcement actions for secondary contaminants, unless another type of contaminant exceeds the maximum contaminant level. The most recent tests show that the water meets DEP standards and is safe to drink. Based on staff's review, the utility has been diligent in its efforts to reduce the unpleasant odor and taste of the water given the naturally-occurring high sulfur content and the seasonal customer base.

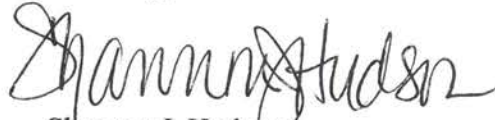
Mr. and Mrs. Bartfield

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June 5, 2015

Staff filed its recommendation on June 4, 2015, in Docket No. 140158-WS and is available on the Commission's website at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com). The Commissioners are scheduled to vote on staff's recommendation on June 18, 2015. Hopefully, this letter addresses your concerns. If you have any additional questions, or require assistance, please feel free to contact Sonica Bruce at (850) 413-6994 or by email at [sbruce@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:sbruce@psc.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon J. Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Shannon J. Hudson  
Economic Supervisor  
Division of Economics

cc: Office of Commission Clerk (Docket No. 140158-WS)

Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Highlands County by  
**HC Waterworks, Inc.**

DOCKET NO. 140158-WS

RECEIVED PSC  
15 MAY 14 AM 9:18  
COMMISSION  
CLERK

Name Jeffrey + Joelle Bartfield  
Address 2939 Oak Beach Blvd.  
Sebring, FL 33875

Please submit your comments about this docket to the Florida Public Service Commission by completing this comment form and return it by mail, or send a fax to 1-800-511-0809.

Correspondence will be placed in the file of this docket.

CONSUMER COMMENTS

As per letter mailed 6/2014 titled "Important Information About Your Drinking Water" "Lake Josephine Water Treatment System Has levels of Halocacetic Acids which violates standard" the letter then states "Health Effect" "Some people who drink water containing Halocacetic Acids in excess of their Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer."  
Why should they get an increase with these standards of water quality when I have to go out and buy potable water to consume?

Fold and tape - see back for address

Any e-mail or other correspondence sent to a Florida Public Service Commissioner, or any other public official and/or employee of the PSC, in the transaction of public business is considered a public record and is subject to Florida's Public Records Law. This means that Florida law generally requires the PSC to provide a copy of any such e-mail or correspondence, upon request, for inspection and copying to any Florida citizen or to any member of the media.



J. Bartfield  
2939 Oak Beach Blvd.  
Sebring, Florida 33875



Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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