

STATE OF FLORIDA

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

# Public Service Commission

June 5, 2015

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

Michael S. Johnson  
4904 Grand Concourse  
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. Johnson:

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.

Michael S. Johnson

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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 cursive script that reads "Shannon J. Hudson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

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

15 MAY 15 AM 9:03

RECEIVED PSC

COMMISSION  
CLERK

Name MICHAEL S. JOHNSON  
Address 4904 GRAND CONCOURSE  
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.

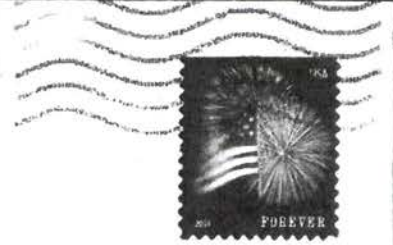
CONSUMER COMMENTS
My wife & I would NOT <del>BE</del> MIND A SMALL INCREASE, But the Quality Needs TO BE Better. We have LIVED IN this house A long time years & years AND HAVE HAD TO Replace All faucets in whole house, AND NOT THE CHEAP ONES, They get SO Corroded with calcium, Just replaced Kitchen for the third time. All that was coming out was little a trickle.
Also the INSIDE of my washer & Dishwasher are still STAINED. EVEN AFTER USING Iron Out.

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.*

Michael Scott Johnson  
4904 Grand Concourse  
Sebring FL 33875

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

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