

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 160005-WS

ANNUAL REESTABLISHMENT OF
PRICE INCREASE OR DECREASE
INDEX OF MAJOR CATEGORIES OF
OPERATING COSTS INCURRED BY
WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES
PURSUANT TO SECTION
367.081(4) (A), F.S.

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PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 5

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN JULIE I. BROWN
COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER RONALD A. BRISÉ
COMMISSIONER JIMMY PATRONIS

DATE: Tuesday, December 6, 2016

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR
Official FPSC Reporter
(850) 413-6734

P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Item 5, which is the annual
3 reestablishment of the price index or decrease.

4 **MR. BAEZ:** Madam Chairman, a moment.

5 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Oh, thank you, Mr. Baez, for
6 interrupting me. I think you're going to --

7 **MR. BAEZ:** Yeah. Before we go too much
8 further, we said hello to a new analyst, and I just
9 wanted to let you all, and you may know this and I don't
10 know how many of the other Commissioners may know it,
11 but I wanted to let everybody know that we are saying
12 goodbye to one of our senior analysts today, Pete
13 Lester, who we all recognized just a little while ago
14 for 35 years of service. This is his last agenda.

15 And most of you may not know, but he's like
16 our Swiss Army knife here over the years. He has --
17 he's worked in the electric industry, the natural gas
18 industry, and he's even provided expert testimony over
19 the years, and as of late has been our expert on fuel
20 cost recovery, as you well know.

21 So we just -- I just wanted to recognize that
22 and thank him for all his years of service. He has
23 always been special to us. He has toiled behind the
24 scenes mostly, popping his head up every now and again,
25 as you know, and we just wanted to thank him and

1 embarrass him a little out here. So thanks from all of
2 us.

3 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Baez.

4 Is Mr. Lester here in the room right now? He
5 escaped as soon as the service awards --

6 **MR. BAEZ:** Did he get away?

7 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** He escaped.

8 **MR. BAEZ:** Oh, it's just like him. That's
9 Pete.

10 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Please be sure to -- be sure
11 to give him a hug today. Thank you.

12 Ms. Norris.

13 **MS. NORRIS:** It's my privilege to introduce
14 another new analyst from the Division of Accounting and
15 Finance. He's also making his debut speaking appearance
16 at agenda. Mr. Swards will be introducing Item 5.

17 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Hi. Welcome. You weren't in
18 my briefing.

19 **MR. SEWARDS:** I was not, no.

20 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Where are you from?

21 **MR. SEWARDS:** Columbus, Ohio, originally.

22 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Okay.

23 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Good luck.

24 **MS. NORRIS:** I almost put that in my
25 introduction, but --

1 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** What school did you go to?

2 **MR. SEWARDS:** I went to -- I've lived in
3 Florida since I was 15 or so, so I -- down in the
4 Sarasota area.

5 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Okay. Sounds good. Please
6 proceed.

7 **MR. SEWARDS:** All right. Thank you.

8 Good morning, Commissioners. Justin Sowards,
9 Commission staff.

10 Item 5 addresses the annual reestablishment of
11 the price index for major categories of operating costs
12 incurred by water and wastewater utilities. Staff is
13 recommending that the 2017 price index be set at
14 1.51 percent. Water and wastewater utilities should be
15 notified of the new index requirement by mail, and the
16 information should be available on the Commission
17 website. No customers have contacted the Commission
18 regarding this matter. Staff is prepared to answer any
19 questions.

20 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Thank you.

21 Commissioners, any questions?

22 I have a comment. On page 24 of the
23 recommendation, it's a letter that will be sent out to
24 the utility owners by Mr. Maurey, the director. And I
25 just wanted -- there are a couple of nuances that I just

1 wanted to make sure were included in that letter,
2 including the fact that the intent of the statute -- of
3 the rule in the statute is to keep with current costs
4 and obviate the need for a rate case, as is represented
5 on the first page of the staff recommendation. If we
6 can include language like that, if Commissioners don't
7 have a problem with that, I think it's consistent with
8 the rule and the statute. I'd like that.

9 **MR. SEWARDS:** Yes, that can certainly be added
10 to the letter.

11 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Thank you. Commissioners,
12 can I get a motion on the staff recommendation?

13 **COMMISSIONER PATRONIS:** So move.

14 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** Is there a second?

15 **COMMISSIONER BRISÉ:** Second.

16 **CHAIRMAN BROWN:** All those in favor, say aye.

17 (Vote taken.)

18 The motion passes. Thank you.

19 **MR. SEWARDS:** Thank you.

20 (Agenda item concluded.)
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1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
 :
2 COUNTY OF LEON) CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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4 I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission
5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing
6 proceeding was heard at the time and place herein
7 stated.

8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
14 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,
15 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
17 financially interested in the action.

18 DATED THIS 9th day of December, 2016.

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