

Collin Roehner

From: Office of Commissioner Brown
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160101-WS - Application for Increase in Water and Wastewater Rates by Utilities Inc. of Florida - FW: Utilities Inc. Summertree Water Syatem
Attachments: UIF Response to Pasco County Letter 170426.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160101-WS. Thank you.

From: John Hoy [mailto:JPHoy@uiwater.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 5:25 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Brown; 'Mary.Yeargan@dep.state.fl.us'
Cc: Mike Moore; Mike Wells; Ron Oakley; Kathryn Starkey; Jack Mariano; Michele Baker; Jeffrey Steinsnyder; 'Mike Fasano'; 'Ann Marie Ryan'; 'SIMPSON.WILTON@flsenate.gov'; 'Rogers.rachel@flsenate.gov'; 'richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'jared.ochs@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'sayler.erik@leg.state.fl.us'; Braulio Baez; Mark Futrell; 'Brian Armstrong'; Michael J. Carballa; Robert G. Marin; richardneilson@gmail.com; georgegmetz44@gmail.com; choehn33@gmail.com; krjrep@gmail.com; pach6547@yahoo.com; tkd712@yahoo.com; Flip Mellinger
Subject: RE: Utilities Inc. Summertree Water Syatem

Please see UIF's response to Flip Mellinger's April 21 letter.

John Hoy
President
Utilities, Inc. of Florida
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From: Flip Mellinger [mailto:flipmellinger@pascocountyfl.net]
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 3:32 PM
To: 'Commissioner.Brown@psc.state.fl.us' <Commissioner.Brown@psc.state.fl.us>; 'Mary.Yeargan@dep.state.fl.us' <Mary.Yeargan@dep.state.fl.us>
Cc: Mike Moore <mikemoore@pascocountyfl.net>; Mike Wells <mwells@pascocountyfl.net>; Ron Oakley <roakley@pascocountyfl.net>; Kathryn Starkey <kstarkey@pascocountyfl.net>; Jack Mariano <jmariano@pascocountyfl.net>; Michele Baker <mbaker@pascocountyfl.net>; Jeffrey Steinsnyder <jsteinsnyder@pascocountyfl.net>; 'Mike Fasano' <MFasano@pascotaxes.com>; 'Ann Marie Ryan' <amr328@hotmail.com>; 'SIMPSON.WILTON@flsenate.gov' <SIMPSON.WILTON@flsenate.gov>; 'Rogers.rachel@flsenate.gov' <Rogers.rachel@flsenate.gov>; 'richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov' <richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov>; 'jared.ochs@myfloridahouse.gov' <jared.ochs@myfloridahouse.gov>; 'sayler.erik@leg.state.fl.us' <sayler.erik@leg.state.fl.us>; 'Braulio.Baez@psc.state.fl.us' <Braulio.Baez@psc.state.fl.us>; 'Mark Futrell' <MFutrell@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; 'Brian Armstrong' <brian@brianarmstronglaw.com>; Michael J. Carballa <mcarballa@pascocountyfl.net>; Robert G. Marin <rmarin@pascocountyfl.net>; Patrick Flynn <PCFlynn@uiwater.com>;

John Hoy <JPHoy@uiwater.com>

Subject: Utilities Inc. Summertree Water Syatem

Please see the attached letter requesting support for action.

Flip Mellinger

Assistant County Administrator, Utility Services
Pasco County Utilities Administration Bldg
19420 Central Blvd
Land O' Lakes, FL 34637

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"Bringing Opportunities Home"

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April 26, 2017

Julie I. Brown, Chairman, **via email**
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Mary Yeargan, Director, **via email**
Southwest District,
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
13051 N. Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, Fl. 33637

Dear Chairman Brown and Director Yeargan,

I am writing you to correct the misleading and inaccurate accusations contained in Pasco County Utilities Assistant Manager Flip Mellinger's letter of April 21, 2017. Mr. Mellinger's letter is likely to cause baseless worry in our collective community. As you know, Utilities, Inc. of Florida (UIF) takes all health and safety matters very seriously. I am confident that your respective agencies will attest to our sound record of meeting and exceeding health and environmental standards.

Specifically, Mr. Mellinger erroneously concludes:

- That marginal results on chlorine residuals result in delivery of unsafe water. While we consistently strive to meet chlorine residual standards as a leading indicator, testing results indicate that ***at no time has UIF failed to meet required standards regarding bacteria levels in drinking water.***
- That, because he did not personally witness it, there was no preparation when interconnecting to Pasco County's system. To the contrary, UIF completed a seven-week chlorine burn prior to interconnecting with Pasco County.
- That somehow UIF "rushed" to eliminate our Summertree water facilities to our customers' detriment. As Mr. Mellinger should know, given his position, our now closed Summertree facilities are not, and never were, relevant to any potentially required treatment of incoming water from Pasco County. In fact, in an email sent to UIF on January 31, Mr. Mellinger expressed his concern that our wells "had not been disconnected as required per our agreement". This is contrary to Mr. Mellinger's claim in his letter.

While UIF believes Pasco County could easily resolve Summertree water quality issues (or stop obstructing our effort to find solutions), we have taken and continue to take a number of steps on our own:

- UIF performed a thorough chlorine burn before connecting the Summertree community to the Pasco County water on December 21 followed by a uni-directional flush of the entire distribution system on that day.
- We continue to measure chlorine levels at the master meter three times each day as well as at six or more locations within the distribution system. We continue to flush appropriately to ensure that bacteria levels do not exceed safe limits.
- We have engaged our contractor to design and install disinfection equipment in the Summertree subdivision so that UIF will not be completely reliant on Pasco County's often marginal disinfection process in the future.
- We have engaged a contractor to complete a fresh chlorine burn consistent with the recommendations of U.S. Water Services Corporation (USWSC) and in light of the quality of the water delivered by Pasco County. It is unfortunate that Pasco County, the Summertree Water Alliance, and the various homeowner associations within the community refuse to release USWSC to work with us as USWSC appeared ready to assist us in implementing the recommendations they cite in their letter. We have coordinated with DEP on all of our activities and will continue to do so going forward.

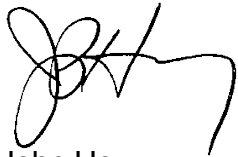
We believe there are a number of obvious steps that Pasco County could consider that would improve the quality of service to the Summertree residents (as well as its own customers):

- Consistent with USWSC's letter of April 21, 2017, Pasco County can remove and replace its meter assembly and backflow prevention device so as to reduce the pressure loss across their equipment.
- Notably, it can cease obstructing the very solutions it purports to advocate. In particular, Pasco County and Summertree Water Alliance could allow USWSC to work with UIF.
- Pasco County could elevate the chlorine residual above the absolute minimum requirement on a continuous basis. We believe this would greatly assist in meeting chlorine residuals in the Summertree system. As recent as last Saturday, Pasco County was not even meeting the minimum requirements at the entry to the Summertree system.

There are legitimate concerns about the amount of flushing required in the system. We share those concerns. We remain prepared to take whatever steps are necessary on our part to arrive at a permanent solution. The dedicated employees at UIF work hard every

day to ensure that safe drinking water is its highest priority. Any suggestion that we would shirk this responsibility is inappropriate, irresponsible, and inaccurate and therefore against the public interest. We look forward to working cooperatively to resolve all issues involving flushing and Pasco County water quality in a manner that will benefit all parties involved.

Sincerely,



John Hoy
President, Utilities, Inc. of Florida

Copy to via email:

Senator Wilton Simpson
Representative Richard Corcoran
Pasco County Commissioners
 Mike Moore, Chairman
 Mike Wells, Vice Chairman
 Ron Oakley
 Kathryn Starkey
 Jack Mariano
Michele Baker, Pasco County Administrator
Flip Mellinger, Assistant Pasco County Administrator, Utilities Division
Jeffrey Steinsnyder, Pasco County Attorney
Mike Fasano, Pasco County Tax Collector
Ann Marie Ryan, Summertree Water Task Force
Richard Neilson, Arborwood at Summertree HOA
George Metz, Summertree Villas HOA
Chuck Hoehn, The Greens at Summertree HOA
Ken Jennings, Cross Creek at Summertree HOA
Maria Cristiano, Pointe West Condo Association
Terry Copenhafer, Fairways at Summertree HOA & Pointe West Recreational Facility
Eric Sayler, Office of Public Counsel
Braulio Baez, PSC Executive Director
Mark Futrell, PSC Deputy Executive Director, Technical
Brian Armstrong, Law Office of Brian Armstrong, PLLC
Michael Carballa, Pasco County Utilities Engineering Director
Rob Marin, Pasco County Operations and Maintenance Director
Patrick Flynn, Utilities Inc. of Florida