

Antonia Hover

From: Angie Calhoun
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 8:13 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Cc: Diane Hood
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 20180049
Attachments: FPL subcontractor cited for water main break in Fort Lauderdale.pdf; Broward Water Crisis_ Short-term fix restores water to much of Fort Lauderdale _ WPEC.pdf; Who's to blame for the Fort Lauderdale water main break_ - South Florida Sun-Sentinel.pdf

Customer correspondence for docket 20180049.

Angela Calhoun
Regulatory Program Administrator
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 8:06 AM
To: Angie Calhoun
Subject: To CLK Docket 20180049

From: Beatrice Balboa [<mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:11 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Fwd: ongoing infrastructural issues throughout Broward County

I was reading the latest news media regarding the alleged rampant underqualified contractors and subcontractors working for and with FPL (attached documentation). Please continue to keep an extremely close eye regarding FPL machinations with these issues as FPL ratepayers should NOT be "footing the bill" on FPL and/or NextEra out-of-state investment strategies, solar power "monopolization", "tax accounting sleight of hands" and "pollution" activities. FPL should be devoting all their energies in meeting and/or exceeding the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®) standards (which sets the ground rules and guidelines for practical safeguarding of utility workers and the public during the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply, communication lines and associated equipment) for storm hardening of the State of Florida electrical infrastructure. FPL should NOT be devoting all their energies requesting and lobbying for more storm hardening fees and rate increases as well as "accounting shenanigans" that should have already been completed after both Hurricane Andrew (1992) and Hurricane Irma (2017).

I look forward to your offices taking the necessary actions to address hardworking taxpayers citizens' concerns from the City of Pompano Beach, Broward County, State of Florida.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Balboa

1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Unit. 1008
Pompano Beach, Fl 33062-6631

FORT LAUDERDALE [[HTTPS://WWW.LOCAL10.COM/FORT-LAUDERDALE](https://www.local10.com/fort-lauderdale)]

FPL subcontractor cited for water main break in Fort Lauderdale

Florida Communication Concepts was working under another person's license

By Jeff Weinsier [<https://www.local10.com/author/jeffweinsier>] - Investigative Reporter

Posted: 4:35 PM, July 18, 2019

Updated: 5:18 PM, July 18, 2019

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis said a Florida Power & Light subcontractor repairing electrical lines near Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport damaged a 42-inch water main Wednesday, which led to customers in Fort Lauderdale and neighboring municipalities being without water service Thursday.

Local 10 News has since learned that the subcontractor responsible for hitting the pipe with an underground drill is Florida Communication Concepts, which is based in Wellington.

MORE WATER MAIN BREAK HEADLINES

Water service restored to much of Fort Lauderdale following water main break [</news/local/fort-l...>]

Water main break in Fort Lauderdale brings big headache for residents,... [</news/local/fort-lauder...>]

The company's president, Timothy Hicks, told Local 10's Jeff Weinsier on the phone that he had no comment on the incident before hanging up.

Records show the company only became incorporated in the state of Florida in March.

The company doesn't have its own contractor's license but works under another person's license. It's called a qualifier, and it is legal in Florida.

Weinsier called the qualifier, Al Valdes, who was in Cape Coral.

Valdes said the incident occurred on private property, no permit was required and the line was not marked. However, Trantalis said the incident occurred on the property of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

"We are aware of the situation in Fort Lauderdale where a third-party contractor struck a water main near the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport while working on a Florida Power & Light Company construction project," FPL said in a statement. "We are investigating the incident and working with the city to respond."

As part of the project, Florida Communication Concepts apparently did have a survey of what was underground.

The company has no complaints against it with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Trantalis said the subcontractor has been cited for Wednesday's incident.

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GENERAL ALERT: For further information ... [News Links](#)

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Broward Water Crisis: Short-term fix restores water to much of Fort Lauderdale

by Gary Detman, Sabrina Lolo

Thursday, July 18th 2019

A



FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (CBS12) — A short-term fix has restored water to much of the City of Fort Lauderdale following a city-wide outage Thursday, officials said.

Mobile users [click here](#) to watch.

The city had the water shut off Wednesday morning around 7 a.m. due to emergency repairs to a major water main.

A state of emergency was declared after the city shut off water service to more than 220,000 customers.

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Public works director says shut downs are typical in a large water system if there's a break

Madeline Montgomery

o: water back by tonight. But boil

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last 48 hours. Worst case: water out through the morning if major construction is needed. 24-36 hours.



1 12:34 PM - Jul 18, 2019

[See Madeline Montgomery's other Tweets](#)

However, city commissioner Ben Sorensen warned those who have had their water restored to continue boiling water before consuming and the city is still working on a long-term solution.

"We continue to work on a long-term resolution," Sorenson said. "It is very possible we will again lose water service as we make continued long-term repairs."

Sorensen said Florida Communication Concepts, a private contractor repairing electric lines for FPL, cut a 6-inch hole in a 42-inch concrete water line going to a water treatment facility near the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport on Wednesday. The city had to shut off the water supply from the well fields in order to make repairs to the line.

The contractor has been cited and issued a notice to appear in an enforcement action
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Ron DeSantis

@GovRonDeSantis

bottles of water are on the way t
& @FTLCityNews. Thank you @

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providing an FHP escort. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and offer resources until water is fully restored.



387 4:37 PM - Jul 18, 2019

[130 people are talking about this](#)

"Crews responded immediately to assess the situation and worked through the night attempting to shut down the valves that control the water flow in order to activate a bypass line," Sorensen said. "While the work was taking place, the damaged pipe collapsed, necessitating that the water flow from the wells be shut off. We are working on three solutions simultaneously."

Crews are still working on shutting down large valves (each of which takes about 700 turns to shut off) to try to activate the bypass line and get the flow of water going back into the Fiveash plant, according to Sorensen. The subcontractor wasn't working for the city and the work wasn't related to any city or airport project.

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Sorensen also said a replacement pipe was found in Miami-Dade County and crews traveled to Kendall to pick up the pipe and materials, and are back on-site working to replace the pipe. A

te that will attempt to put a line activated.

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Mayor Dean Trantalis said crews are working as fast as they can to fully restore service, which could happen as early as Thursday night or Friday morning.

But others in the Public Works Department said the water woes could continue into late Friday afternoon or evening.



Madeline Montgomery

@MadelineTV

Out by the waterline break that caused water to be shut off for Fort Lauderdale and surrounding cities. A woman who works nearby says she saw water flowing in this area and smelled sewage yesterday @CBS12



6 9:07 AM - Jul 18, 2019 · Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE)

[See Madeline Montgomery's other Tweets](#)

The city said many people and businesses, and neighboring cities that receive water from Fort Lauderdale should be prepared to be without water for at least 24 hours, maybe longer. Those cities include Port Everglades, Oakland Park, Davie, Lauderdale By-the-Sea, Sea Ranch Lakes,

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"Please only use water that is absolutely necessary. Please turn off all the water for landscaping. We are working to avoid any disruption in your water service, however, please



5 1:53 PM - Jul 18, 2019

[See Al Pefley's other Tweets](#)

There are three bottled water locations set up in the city:

- Beach Community Center, 3351 NE 33rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale
- Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale
- Riverland Park, 555 SW 11th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale
- Several Broward County parks. [Click here](#) for more information.

The city said it will do whatever it can to make sure nursing homes and critical care facilities remain operational.

People with questions can call the City of Fort Lauderdale 24-Hour Neighbor Service Center at **954-828-8000**. Updates will be **posted online** as well.

Sen. Rick Scott is offering assistance to help get the problem fixed and have access to water supplies.

Search Site



[@SenRickScott](#)

Just spoke to [@browardsheriff](#) and Mayor [@deantrantalis](#) regarding the water issue in the Fort Lauderdale area.

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fixed and make sure residents have access to their necessary water supplies.

71 3:58 PM - Jul 18, 2019

[30 people are talking about this](#)

CLOSURES

As a result of the water crisis, several events and venues have been closed, canceled, or put on hold. They include:

- Broward Center
- Broward County Courthouse
- LA Fitness and Whole Foods on Federal Highway near Oakland Park Boulevard
- Galleria Mall
- Broward County Convention Center, host to the **USA Volleyball** High Performance Championships
- Main Library
- African American Research Library and Cultural Center
- Riverside Hotel in Las Olas

NOTICE FROM CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

On Wednesday, July 17, a contractor doing construction work near Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport damaged a 42-inch water main that supplies raw water from the City's wellfields into the Fiveash water treatment plant.

In order to repair the line, the water supply from the wellfields has been shut off. This means that no water is currently feeding the Fiveash water plant.

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Residents and businesses in Fort Lauderdale and neighboring cities that receive their water from Fort Lauderdale should be prepared to be without water service beginning as early as 7 a.m. Thursday morning and lasting at least 24 hours.

g, residents and businesses are only use water when absolutely

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provided as more information becomes available.

For more information please call the City of Fort Lauderdale 24-Hour Neighbor Service Center at 954-828-8000.

[State of Emergency](#) by [Gary Detman](#) on Scribd

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, critical damage to the City's 42-inch water main which supplies water from the City's wellfields into the Fiveash water treatment plant poses a threat to the health and safety of residents of and visitors to the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale has activated its Emergency Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-274, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, empowers the Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City Commission is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission is not currently in session; and

WHEREAS, upon proclamation of a local emergency the Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale is empowered to:

1. Make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by such emergency; provided, however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed at the earliest practicable time by the City Commission;
2. Obtain vital supplies, equipment, and such other properties found lacking and needed for the protection of life and property and bind the city for the fair value thereof and if required immediately commandeer the same for

1 of 2

[Broward Water Crisis: Map](#) by [Gary Detman](#) on Scribd

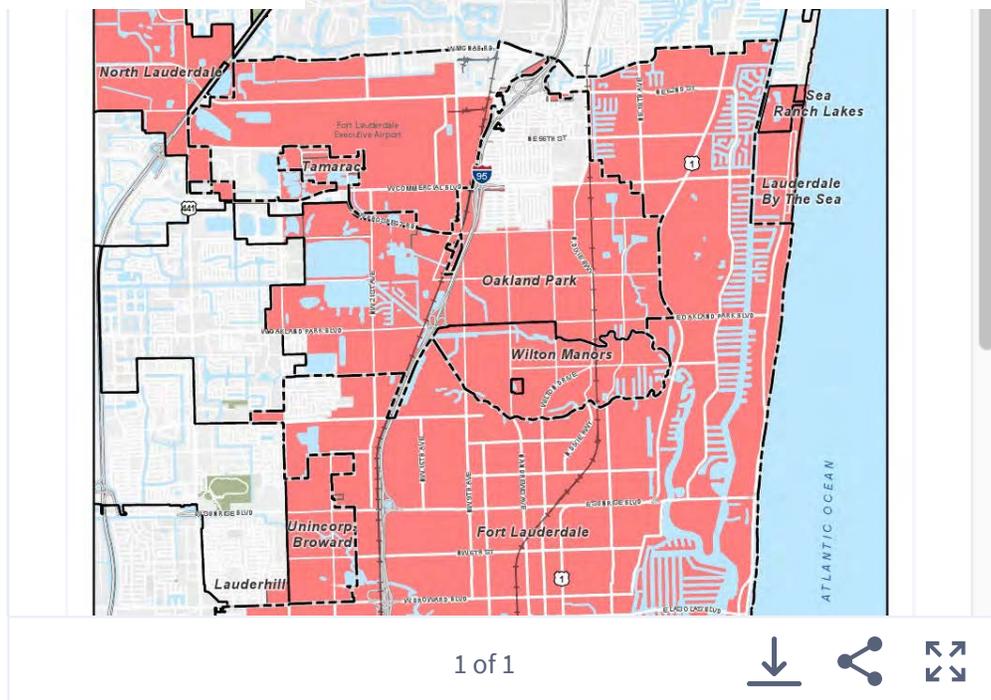
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**AREAS IMPACTED BY WATER MAIN BREAK
FORT LAUDERDALE UTILITIES**

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STATEMENT FROM MAYOR TRANTALIS

Yesterday, a contractor broke a 42-inch city pipe that supplies water to our water treatment plant. As a result, we have lost water supply to the city and the other cities that receive water from us.

City crews are working as fast as possible to restore service. If everything goes well, we could have water available by this evening. In the meantime, we have launched emergency procedures and have set up locations to offer bottled water to any residents in need.

What happened is that Florida Communication Concepts, a subcontractor repairing electric lines for FPL struck and damaged the main in the vicinity of 2525 NW 55 Court on the grounds of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. They have been cited and have been issued a notice to appear in an enforcement action.

Search Site

The water main supplies raw water from the city's wellsites, which are located west of the airport, to the Fiveash water treatment plant.

Contractor was not doing work
it.

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Crews responded immediately to assess the situation and worked through the night attempting to shut down the valves that control the water flow in order to activate a bypass line.

While the work was taking place, the damaged pipe collapsed necessitating that the water flow from the wells be shut off.

We are working on three solutions simultaneously:

First, crews continue to work on shutting down large valves (each of which takes approximately 700 turns to shut off) in an attempt to activate the bypass line and get the flow of water going back into the Fiveash plant.

Second, a replacement pipe was located in Miami-Dade County. Crews traveled to Kendall to pick up the pipe and materials and are back on site working to replace the pipe.

Third, we have a third crew flying in from out of state that will attempt to put a line stop on the damaged line that will also allow a bypass to be activated.

As of 11:30 am, the Fiveash water treatment plant has stopped providing service. In addition to Fort Lauderdale, the following cities and areas are expected to be impacted:

- -Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
- -Oakland Park
- -Port Everglades Authority
- -Village of Sea Ranch Lakes
- -Wilton Manors
- -Sections of Davie and Tamarac

The number of impacted customers total more than 220,000.

Search Site

We have issued a boil water notice in accordance with state and federal regulatory requirements. It is imperative that folks in the affected areas boil their water prior to

ter should be used for drinking
:ion until further notice.

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If you still have water service, we urge everyone to limit use. Please turn off all irrigation systems and only use water when absolutely necessary.

I have signed a proclamation declaring a local state of emergency to expedite obtaining any necessary supplies, equipment or materials to address this as quickly and efficiently as possible.

We have opened three locations for bottled water distribution:

Beach Community Center

3351 NE 33rd Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

Mills Pond Park

2201 NW 9th Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Riverland Park

950 SW 27th Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

We have conducted a rapid assessment of critical facilities such as nursing homes and hospitals. They are reporting no issues at this time, but we are on standby to take action as necessary.

Search Site

Fire rescue has mutual aid in place for fire suppression.

tanker truck which will be located at Station 13 on Sunrise Boulevard on Fort Lauderdale Beach and Broward County has supplied a tanker that will be located at Station 46 at Mills Pond Park.

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Station 13 on Sunrise Boulevard on Fort Lauderdale Beach and Broward County has supplied a tanker that will be located at Station 46 at Mills Pond Park.

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has brought in extra personnel to handle calls and ensure the safety and protection of our community during this uncertain time.

I would like to thank Gov. DeSantis, Emergency Director Jared Moskowitz and lawmakers, including Rep. LaMarca, for their offers of state assistance. The state has sent bottled water for us to distribute. Broward Mayor Mark Bogen and the county staff are also assisting.

Please continue to call our 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000 with any concerns.

We will provide updates as available.

Sincerely,

Dean J. Trantalis

Mayor

MORE TO EXPLORE

Bhad Bhabie AKA "Cash me outside" girl hospitalized in Fort Lauderdale, per report

VIDEO: Trooper hit by car in Broward County

Man bitten by venomous snake in Pembroke Pines

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PATCH TO BROKEN PIPE IS HOLDING; MORE REPAIRS OVERNIGHT

Patch on broken Fort Lauderdale water main gets hopes flowing



Map: Which areas are affected by the Fort Lauderdale water outage?



Tips to get through Fort Lauderdale's water crisis



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FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS BROWARD COUNTY NEWS LOCAL NEWS

Who's to blame for the Fort Lauderdale water main break?



By **RON HURTIBISE**
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL | JUL 18, 2019



Florida Communication Concepts Inc. was repairing electric lines for Florida Power & Light in the 2500 block of Northwest 55th Court when the water main was struck and damaged, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis said in a statement. (Carline Jean / South Florida Sun Sentinel)

Answers dribbled in slowly as to who's at fault for the water main break that left more than 220,000 people high and dry all day Thursday.

Fort Lauderdale officials blamed the breach on Florida Communication Concepts Inc., a subcontractor working for Florida Power & Light. The subcontractor was drilling underground to repair electrical lines when it bore a six-inch hole into a 42-inch water main, officials said.

inRead invented by Teads



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The company has only existed since March, according to the state Division of Corporations' online database.

Reached at a phone number listed to Florida Communication Concepts' president, Timothy N. Hicks, a man who answered the phone affirmed his name was Tim, but hung up after a reporter identified himself.

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When Hicks' number was called a second time, the voicemail box was full.

[RELATED: Fort Lauderdale water main break leaves tens of thousands on edge »](#)

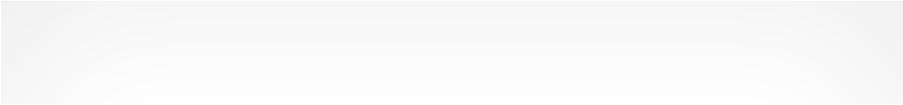
Asked for details about the break, Florida Power & Light, the company that hired the subcontractor, issued a statement saying only that it was “aware of” and “investigating” the incident and working with the city to respond.

The statement by FPL spokesman Bill Orlove directed all other inquiries to the city.

FPL has a franchise agreement with the city which does not require them to get a permit each and every time they dig, Deputy City Manager Rob Hernandez said.

“This was clearly haphazard,” Mayor Dean Trantalis said. “Human error clearly is the cause for this.”

Once repairs are secure, the city will focus on investigating how this break occurred, said Trantalis. He also said the city would not hold back in seeking compensation.



Two construction projects are underway at the city-owned airport property: a \$25 million aircraft hangar replacement and expansion project on property leased by Sheltair FXE Northside, and a soccer stadium and training facilities at the former site of Lockhart and Fort Lauderdale stadiums.

City officials said early Thursday that the breach wasn't connected to the stadium project. Late Thursday afternoon, city spokesman Chaz Adams said he confirmed that FPL was not working on the hangar expansion.

The subcontractor, Florida Communication Concepts, was created on March 21, 2019, and operates out of a residential address, 13453 Doubletree Trail in Wellington, state records show.

The record lists Hicks as the company's president and Christine K. Hicks as its vice president.

Circuit Court records indicate that Timothy Hicks was already having a challenging year before the water main incident.

[RELATED: Some Fort Lauderdale restaurants forced to close, others order port-a-potties »](#)

On June 16, Hicks filed a lawsuit against a former employer, Dustin Ertle, also of Wellington, and two companies Ertle controls, Florida Communication Contractors LLC, and D.B.E. Management.

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Hicks' suit accuses Ertle of failing to pay Hicks as promised after the two agreed to work together in 2017.

LATEST FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS

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Patch on broken Fort Lauderdale water main gets hopes flowing

Some hotels evacuate and businesses close as water slows to a trickle in Fort Lauderdale

Ertle had pursued Hicks since 2012 because he knew of Hicks' skills in the communications construction business, developed while Hicks worked for the national firm Cypress Communications from November 1998 to October 2017, the suit states.

Hicks' skills include drilling and boring, fiber splicing, trenching for conduit, pulling fiber, and aerial infrastructure, the suit states.

Hicks' suit states he left Cypress Communications to enter into a partnership with Ertle and ultimately worked with him between April 2017 and spring 2019, when the two severed ties over Hicks' claims that Ertle was cheating him.

Staff writers Brittany Wallman and Tonya Alanez contributed to this report.

Ron Hurtibise

South Florida Sun Sentinel



Ron Hurtibise is a business reporter for the South Florida Sun Sentinel. A Florida resident since 1977, he covers property and health insurance, tourism, the automotive industry, and consumer topics. He is a Florida State University graduate and a former investigative reporter at the Daytona Beach News-Journal. You can call him at 954-356-4071.

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Boil-water order lifted after water main break in Fort Lauderdale