

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Charlotte, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Seminole Counties, by Utilities, Inc. of Florida.

DOCKET NO. 20200139-WS

DATED: January 5, 2021

COMMISSION STAFF’S PREHEARING STATEMENT

Pursuant to Order No. PSC-2020-0327-PCO-WS, filed September 28, 2020, the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission files its Prehearing Statement.

1. All Known Witnesses

Witness	Subject Matter	Issue #
Direct		
Debra Dobiac	Staff audit reports	18, 24, 35
Rhonda L. Hicks	Summary of customer complaints	1

2. All Known Exhibits

Witness	Proffered By	Exhibit No.	Description	Issue #
Direct				
Debra Dobiac	Commission Staff	DMD-1	Auditor's Report - Rate Case	18, 24, 35
Rhonda L. Hicks	Commission Staff	RLH-1	List of Customer Complaints	1
Rhonda L. Hicks	Commission Staff	RLH-2	Complaints by Close Out Code	1

3. Staff’s Statement of Basic Position

Staff’s positions are preliminary and based on materials filed by the parties and on discovery. The preliminary positions are offered to assist the parties in preparing for the hearing. Staff’s final positions will be based upon all the evidence in the record and may differ from the preliminary positions stated herein.

4. Staff's Position on the Issues

ISSUE 1: Is the overall quality of service provided by the Utility satisfactory, and, if not, what systems have quality of service issues and what action should be taken by the Commission?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 2: Should any adjustments be made to test year plant-in service balances?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 3: Should any adjustments be made to the Utility's pro forma plant additions?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 4: What are the appropriate plant retirements to be made in this docket?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 5: Do any water systems have excessive unaccounted for water and, if so, what adjustments are necessary, if any?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 6: Do any wastewater systems have excessive infiltration and/or inflow and, if so, what adjustments are necessary, if any?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 7: What are the appropriate used and useful percentages for the water treatment and related facilities of each water system?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 8: What are the appropriate used and useful percentages for the water storage and related facilities of each water system?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 9: What are the appropriate used and useful percentages for the wastewater treatment and related facilities of each wastewater system?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 10: What are the appropriate used and useful percentages for the water distribution and related facilities of each water system?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 11: What are the appropriate used and useful percentages for the collection lines and related facilities of each wastewater system?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 12: Should any adjustments be made to test year accumulated depreciation?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 13: Should any adjustments be made to test year CIAC balances?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 14: Should any adjustments be made to test year accumulated amortization of CIAC?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 15: Should any adjustments be made to test year accumulated amortization of CIAC?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 16: What is the appropriate working capital allowance?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 17: What is the appropriate rate base for the December 31, 2019 test year?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 18: What is the appropriate amount of accumulated deferred taxes to include in the capital structure?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 19: What is the appropriate amount of customer deposits to include in the capital structure?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 20: What is the appropriate cost rate for short-term debt for the test year?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 21: What is the appropriate cost rate for long-term debt for the test year?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 22: What is the appropriate return on equity (ROE) for the test year?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 23: What is the appropriate weighted average cost of capital including the proper components, amounts and cost rates associated with the capital structure?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 24: What are the appropriate test year revenues?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 25: What is the appropriate amount of rate case expense?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 26: Should any adjustment be made to the Utility's proposed pro forma expense?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 27: Should any further adjustments be made to the Utility's test year O&M expenses?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 28: Should any adjustments be made to operating expense amortizations?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 29: Should any adjustments be made to test year taxes other than income?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 30: Should any adjustments be made to test year depreciation expense?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 31: Should any adjustments be made to test year amortization of CIAC expense?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 32: What is the appropriate amount of test year income taxes?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 33: What is the appropriate revenue requirement for the December 31, 2019 test year?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 34: What are the appropriate rate structures and rates for the water systems?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 35: What are the appropriate private fire protection charges?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 36: What are the appropriate rate structures and rates for the wastewater systems?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 37: What are the appropriate reuse rates?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 38: What are the appropriate customer deposits?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 39: What are the appropriate guaranteed revenue charges?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 40: Should a new Allowance for Funds Used During Construction (AFUDC) rate be established? If yes, what is the appropriate AFUDC rate and when will it become effective?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 41: Should the Utility's request for a Sewer and Water Improvement Mechanism (SWIM) be approved? If yes, what is the amount of the first year revenue requirement?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 42: In determining whether any portion of the interim increase granted should be refunded, how should the refund be calculated, and what is the amount of the refund, if any?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 43: What is the appropriate amount by which rates should be reduced after the established effective date to reflect the removal of the amortized rate case expense?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 44: Should the Utility be required to notify, within 90 days of an effective order finalizing this docket, that it has adjusted its books for all the applicable National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) associated with the Commission approved adjustments?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

ISSUE 45: Should this docket be closed?

POSITION: Staff has no position at this time.

5. Stipulated Issues

There are no stipulated issues at this time.

6. Pending Motions

Commission staff has no pending motions.

7. Pending Confidentiality Claims or Requests

Commission staff has no pending confidentiality claims or requests.

8. Objections to Witness Qualifications as an Expert

Commission staff has no objections to witness qualifications as an expert.

9. Compliance with Order No. PSC-2020-0327-PCO-WS

Staff has complied with all requirements of the Order Establishing Procedure entered in this docket.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of January, 2021.

/s/ Walt Trierweiler

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DATED: January 5, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that STAFF'S PREHEARING STATEMENT has been filed with the Office of Commission Clerk and that a true copy has been furnished to the following by electronic mail this 5th day of January, 2021:

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