



Florida Public Service Commission

# SPECIAL REPORT

JULY 2007

Application for a Staff-Assisted Rate Case in Okeechobee County by  
**The Vantage Development Corporation**

DOCKET NO. 070074-SU

*On March 23, 2007, The Vantage Development Corporation (Vantage or utility) filed an application for a staff-assisted rate case with the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission). Vantage, a wastewater utility, provides service to approximately 338 wastewater customers in Okeechobee County. The Commission staff has audited the utility's records for compliance with applicable rules and orders. A Commission staff engineer has also conducted a field investigation of Vantage's plant and service area.*

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### **1 Is there an opportunity for public input on this rate case?**

Yes. As part of the process of evaluating Vantage's rate request, the Commission staff conducts a customer meeting to allow customers the opportunity to express their concerns about the utility and the rate setting process. Customer comments, written and oral, are taken into consideration to assist the Commissioners in reaching their decision. Utility customers are invited to give their feedback at the meeting in this case.

### **CUSTOMER MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 25, 2007**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Vantage Development Corporation  
Club House  
4071 Southeast 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Okeechobee, Florida

### **2 Why is Vantage requesting a rate increase?**

Vantage states that it is requesting a rate increase in order to earn a fair rate of return on its investment and to cover the increasing expense of operations.

### **3 At present, how much is the average monthly bill for residential customers?**

The utility has flat rates and the average monthly wastewater bill for residential customers is \$28.00.

### **4 Using staff's preliminary proposed rates, how much would the average monthly bill be for residential customers?**

Staff is proposing a continuation of flat rates for this utility. The average monthly wastewater bill using staff's proposed rates would be \$51.04 for residential customers, which represents an 82.30% increase.

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## **5 What if I can't make the customer meeting or prefer not to speak? Are there other ways to comment on the matter?**

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to the PSC staff regarding this matter may do so orally at the meeting, or in writing. Correspondence will be placed in the file of this docket. Written comments should be mailed to:

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

The PSC will also accept faxes and e-mails. Please be sure to include the docket number, 070074-SU.

*Fax number: 1-800-511-0809  
Internet e-mail address:  
contact@psc.state.fl.us*

Customer comments will become part of the official record for this case and are taken into consideration to assist the Commissioners in reaching their decision. Utility customers are invited to give their feedback at the customer meeting in this case. In accordance with Florida Statutes, the PSC will consider the utility's quality of service and other matters.

If you have questions, you may call the Florida Public Service Commission's Division of Regulatory Compliance and Consumer Assistance at 1-800-342-3552.

## **6 How can I check to see if a meeting has been cancelled?**

If a named storm or other disaster requires cancellation of the meeting, Commission staff will attempt to give timely direct notice to the parties. Notice of cancellation of the meeting will also be provided on the PSC's Web site ([www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com)) under the Hot Topics link found on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Office of the General Counsel at 850-413-6199.

## **7 Who can answer technical or legal questions?**

For technical questions, contact:

Troy Rendell (850) 413-6934  
Shannon Hudson (850) 413-7021

For legal questions, contact:

Ralph Jaeger (850) 413-6234

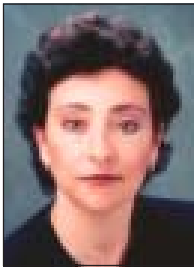
## **8 Where on the Internet can I obtain more detailed information?**

Detailed docket information is available on the PSC Web site at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com). Click on Dockets and Filings/Dockets and then type in the docket number, 070074-SU.

## **9 When will the PSC make a decision?**

The Commission staff is currently scheduled to file a recommendation with the Commission on August 29, 2007. The Commissioners are expected to vote on this matter at the September 11, 2007, Agenda Conference.

## P S C   C O M M I S S I O N E R S



COMMISSIONER  
Nancy Argenziano



COMMISSIONER  
Matthew M. Carter II



CHAIRMAN  
Lisa Polak Edgar



COMMISSIONER  
Katrina J. McMurrin



COMMISSIONER  
Nathan A. Skop

**Lisa Polak Edgar** was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Jeb Bush for a four-year term beginning January 2005; she assumed the chairmanship at the PSC in January 2006. Chairman Edgard is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Board of Directors, telecommunications committee and was appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to the Universal Service Joint Board for a three-year term beginning November 2005. Prior to her appointment, Chairman Edgard served as Deputy Secretary for Planning and Management for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from August 1999 through January 2005. Her responsibilities at DEP included oversight of the agency's \$2.1 billion budget, fiscal and strategic planning, accountability measures, information technology, administrative services, and coordination between the state and federal government on environmental issues, including oil and gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. Prior to serving at DEP, Chairman Edgard was chief analyst on Environmental Policy for the Office of Policy and Budget, Executive Office of the Governor. Chairman Edgard was appointed by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior to represent the State of Florida on the Minerals Management Service Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee from 1993-2004. She served on the Subcommittees on Environmental Studies in OCS Areas under Moratoria and OCS Hard Minerals. During her career in public service, Chairman Edgard has also served as senior cabinet aide in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as staff counsel and legislative analyst for the Florida Senate Committees on Reapportionment and Regulated Industries, completed the Harvard Kennedy School of Government program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government, and co-taught a special topics graduate course on the Everglades at Florida A&M University. She is a member of Leadership Florida, Class XXIV. Chairman Edgard graduated cum laude from Florida State University in 1985 with a Bachelor's degree in political science and minor in English. She studied in London during her undergraduate education and in Yugoslavia during law school. She received a juris doctorate from the Florida State University College of Law in 1988 and is a member of the Florida Bar.

**Commissioner Matthew Mark Carter II** was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Jeb Bush for a four-year term beginning January 2006. Currently, he serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on Water, the Committee on International Relations, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Critical Infrastructure. Commissioner Carter is the son of the late Rev. Matthew and Pearl Carter. He was born in Douglas, Georgia and educated in the public schools there. He graduated from Atkinson County High School (in Pearson). After graduation from high school, he volunteered for the United States Army. In the Army, he served in the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. and the First Armored Division in Germany. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Commissioner Carter attended Tallahassee Community College where he graduated with honors. He then attended Florida State University and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Mass Communications and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and later the Florida National Guard. After a tour of duty with the 124th Infantry in the Panama Canal Zone, Commissioner Carter returned to Tallahassee where he set up a public relations firm concentrating on political campaigns for over ten years. Afterward, he entered into the financial investment industry and worked as a financial consultant for Waddell & Reed, Florida Professional Services Group, and Merrill Lynch. Commissioner Carter left Merrill Lynch to complete law school at the Florida State University College of Law. After graduation, he became a member of the Florida Bar and a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As an attorney, he specialized in business law. He also served as a communications consultant and senior manager for private industry and governmental agencies. Commissioner Carter obtained a Master's degree in Theological Science from Smith Chapel Bible College and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the St. Thomas Christian College. Commissioner Carter is currently pastor of the Beulah Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Gretna, Florida, where he also serves as President of the Congress of Christian Education (Union Baptist Association) and Vice Moderator for the Gadsden County Baptist Association. He has also written the book *The 90% Rule – How to Get Out of Debt and Prosper and Why It's Important*. Commissioner Carter is married to the former Rita Taylor (of Enigma, Georgia) and they have two beautiful children.

**Katrina J. McMurrin** was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Jeb Bush for a four-year term beginning January 2006. Commissioner McMurrin serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Consumer Affairs, the Committee on Electricity, the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues – Waste Disposal, the Subcommittee on Education and Research, and the Task Force on Net Neutrality, as well as the Executive Committee of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition. Participation in these committees affords Commissioner McMurrin the opportunity to engage in national policy issues that impact each of the industries regulated by the Commission, the state economy, and millions of Florida consumers. In the eleven years prior to appointment, Commissioner McMurrin developed extensive experience in regulatory policy issues involving energy, water, and telecommunications. From 2001 to 2005, Commissioner McMurrin served consecutive terms as Chief Advisor to Commissioners Palecki and Davidson, advising them on all Commission proceedings and policy matters. Prior to becoming a Chief Advisor, Commissioner McMurrin managed the State Liaison Section of the Commission's Division of Policy Analysis & Intergovernmental Liaison. Here, she consulted with state and local government agencies on issues such as "black water," reuse, universal service, and electric reliability. Before leading the State Liaison Section, Commissioner McMurrin served as the Commission's primary liaison on all nuclear energy matters for over three years. Additionally, she was instrumental in drafting the Commission's positions on electric industry restructuring. In recognition of her work on federal energy policy, Commissioner McMurrin was a recipient of the PSC Extraordinary Accomplishment Award in 1999 and the PSC Outstanding Achievement Award in 1997. A Northwest Florida native, Commissioner McMurrin received a Bachelor's degree in finance from Florida State University in 1994 and an MBA from FSU in 1998.

**Nancy Argenziano** was recently appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Charlie Crist.

**Nathan A. Skop** was recently appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Charlie Crist.

## MONTHLY WASTEWATER RATES

	Utility's Existing Rates	Staff Recommended Rates
<b>RESIDENTIAL SERVICE</b>		
Flat Rate	\$ 28.00	\$ 51.04
<b>GENERAL SERVICE</b>		
Flat Rate		
Bath House	\$ 0.00	\$ 51.04
Recreation Hall	\$ 0.00	\$ 51.04
RV/Mobile Home Park	\$ 0.00	\$ 408.36
Public Laundry Facility	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,327.17
Typical Residential 5/8" x 3/4" Meter Bill Comparison		
3,000 Gallons	\$ 28.00	\$ 51.04
5,000 Gallons	\$ 28.00	\$ 51.04
10,000 Gallons	\$ 28.00	\$ 51.04



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

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