

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Item 6

VOTE SHEET

April 5, 2022

FILED 4/5/2022
DOCUMENT NO. 02264-2022
FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

Docket No. 20210182-WU – Application for limited alternative rate increase in Highlands County by Country Walk Utilities, Inc.

Issue 1: Should the Commission approve Country Walk Utilities, Inc.’s application for a LARI?

Recommendation: Yes. Staff recommends a revenue increase of \$4,340 or 7.62 percent. Pursuant to Rule 25-30.457(7), F.A.C., the Utility is required to hold any revenue increase granted subject to refund. To ensure overearnings will not occur due to the implementation of the rate increase, staff will conduct an earnings review of the 12-month period following the implementation of the revenue increase. If overearnings occur, such overearnings, up to the amount held subject to refund, with interest, must be disposed of to the benefit of the customers. If staff determines that the Utility did not exceed the range of its last authorized return on equity, the revenue increase will no longer be held subject to refund.

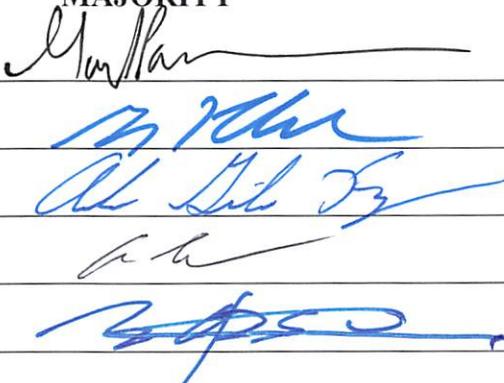
APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING



REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

Docket No. 20210182-WU – Application for limited alternative rate increase in Highlands County by Country Walk Utilities, Inc.

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Issue 2: What are the appropriate monthly service rates for Country Walk?

Recommendation: The existing service rates for Country Walk should be increased by 7.62 percent in accordance with Rule 25-30.457, F.A.C. The appropriate service rates are shown on Schedule No. 1 of staff's memorandum dated March 24, 2022. The Utility should file tariff sheets and a proposed customer notice to reflect the Commission-approved rates. The approved rates should be effective for service rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the rates should not be implemented until staff has approved the proposed customer notice. The Utility should provide proof of the date notice was given no less than 10 days after the date of the notice.

APPROVED

Issue 3: What is the appropriate amount by which rates should be reduced four years after the published effective date to reflect the removal of the amortized rate case expense as required by Section 367.081(8), F.S.?

Recommendation: The rates should be reduced to remove rate case expenses grossed-up for RAFs and amortized over a four-year period. The decrease in rates should become effective immediately following the expiration of the rate case expense recovery period, pursuant to Section 367.081(8), F.S. Country Walk should be required to file revised tariffs and proposed customer notices setting forth the lower rates and the reason for the reductions no later than one month prior to the actual date of the required rate reductions. If the Utility files this reduction in conjunction with price index or pass-through rate adjustments, separate data should be filed for the price index and/or pass-through increase or decrease and the reductions in the rates due to the amortized rate case expenses.

APPROVED

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Issue 4: Should the recommended rates be approved for Country Walk on a temporary basis, subject to refund, in the event of a protest filed by a party other than the Utility?

Recommendation: Yes. Pursuant to Rule 25-30.457(9), F.A.C., in the event of a protest of the Proposed Agency Action (PAA) Order by a substantially affected person other than Country Walk, the Utility should be authorized to implement the rates established in the LARI PAA Order on a temporary basis subject to refund upon filing a staff-assisted rate case (SARC) application within 21 days from the date the protest is filed. The Utility should file revised tariff sheets and a proposed customer notice to reflect the Commission-approved rates. The rates should be effective for service rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheet, pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the temporary rates should not be implemented until staff has approved the proposed notice, and the notice has been received by the customers. If the recommended rates are approved on a temporary basis, the incremental increase collected by the Utility will be subject to the refund provisions outlined in Rule 25-30.360, F.A.C. Pursuant to Rule 25- 30.457(9), F.A.C., if Country Walk fails to file a SARC application within 21 days in the event there is a protest, the application for a LARI will be deemed withdrawn.

APPROVED

Issue 5: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: No. In the event of a protest, Country Walk may implement the rates established in the PAA Order on a temporary basis, subject to refund with interest, upon the Utility's filing of a SARC application within 21 days of the date the protest is filed. If Country Walk fails to file a SARC within 21 days, the Utility's petition for a LARI will be deemed withdrawn pursuant to Rule 25-30.457(9), F.A.C. If no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the PAA Order, a Consummating Order should be issued. The docket should remain open for staff's verification that the revised tariff sheets which reflect the Commission-approved rates, and the customer notice, have been filed by Country Walk and approved by staff, and so that staff may conduct an earnings review of the Utility pursuant to Rule 25-30.457(8), F.A.C. Upon staff's approval of the tariff and completion of the earnings review process as set forth in Rule 25-30.457(8)(a), F.A.C., this docket should be closed administratively.

APPROVED