

Commissioners:
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DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
NOREEN S. DAVIS
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

February 13, 1998

Mr. Charles de Menzes
BFF Corporation
1732 NE 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34470

RE: Docket No. 971182-SU - Application for staff-assisted rate case in Marion County by BFF Corp.

Dear Mr. Menzes:

This will confirm that Commission Staff will hold a customer meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 1998. The location of the meeting will be the Marion County Commission Auditorium, 601 S.E. 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida. We ask that, if at all possible, you or another knowledgeable representative of the utility attend the meeting in order to answer customer questions.

The original customer meeting notice is enclosed. Please note that the date has been left blank so that you can fill in the date that the notice is sent to the customers. The customers must have at least fourteen days' notice of the meeting, calculated from the day that they receive the notice. Please furnish me with a copy of the notice, as reproduced at the time it is distributed to your customers, together with a cover letter indicating the exact date(s) on which the notice was mailed or otherwise delivered to the customers.

Two copies of the accounting report dated February 13, 1998, will be sent under separate cover letter. Please ensure that a copy of the complete Application for Staff Assistance and the reports are available for review by all interested persons at the utility's office, 1732 N.E. 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida, during its regular hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

- ACK _____
- AFA _____
- APP _____
- GAF _____
- CMU _____
- CTR _____
- EAG _____
- LEG _____
- LIN _____
- OPC _____
- RCH _____
- SEC 1
- WAS _____
- OTH _____

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

02-226 FEB 13 98


FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

*Capital
Carol*

Mr. Charles de Menzes
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Hans Ostinot
Staff Attorney

HO/dr

Enclosure

cc: Office of Public Counsel
Division of Consumer Affairs (DeMello, Rasberry)
Division of Records and Reporting
Division of Water and Wastewater (Dewberry, Edwards, Galloway, Munroe, Rendell, Willis)
Hearing Reporter (Joy Kelly)

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETINGS

TO THE CUSTOMERS OF

BFF CORPORATION

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

RE: DOCKET NO. 971182-SU

TITLE

DATED: _____

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission will conduct a customer meeting to discuss the application of BFF Corporation for a staff-assisted rate case in Marion County. The meeting will be held at the following time and place:

6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 1998
Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 South East 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida

All persons who wish to comment are urged to be present at the beginning of the meeting, since the meeting may be adjourned early if no customers are present. The meeting will begin as scheduled and will continue until all the customers have been heard.

In addition to the customer meeting to be held on March 12, 1998, the Public Service Commission Staff will be available on the morning of March 13, 1998, to meet with individual customers who desire a more in-depth discussion of the issues. The Public Service Commission Staff has reserved Conference Room No. 105 at the Marion County Commission from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the 13th of March to meet with individual customers who wish to be present. Appointments may be made prior to March 12, 1998, either by contacting Ms. Paulette Dewberry or Ms. Cecilia Galloway of the Public Service Commission Staff at (850) 413-6962 or (850) 413-6972 respectively, or by signing up for individual customer meetings during the March 12, 1998 customer meeting.

All persons who wish to participate in individual meetings are urged to make an appointment, since the individual meetings may be canceled if no appointments are made.

Finally, the Public Service Commission Staff is also attempting to meet with representatives of customer groups and homeowners associations on the afternoon of March 12, 1998. If you are a representative of a customer group or homeowners association and you have not been contacted by the Public Service Commission Staff, please contact Mr. Troy Rendell of the Public Service Commission Staff at (850) 413-6934 prior to March 12, 1998.

Any person requiring some accommodation at the customer meeting(s) because of a physical impairment should call the Division of Records and Reporting at (850) 413-6770 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting(s). Any person who is hearing or speech impaired should contact the Florida Public Service Commission by using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meetings are to give customers and other interested persons an opportunity to offer comments to the Public Service Commission Staff regarding the quality of service the utility provides and to ask questions and comment on Staff's preliminary rates included in this notice as well as other issues. Staff members will answer questions to the extent possible. A representative from the utility has also been invited to respond to questions.

At the beginning of the meeting, procedures will be established for the order of comments. The Public Service Commission Staff will have sign-up sheets, and customers will be called in the order that they sign-up to speak. Public Service Commission Staff will be available to coordinate customers' comments and to assist members of the public.

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to Staff may do so at the meetings, orally or in writing. Written comments may also be sent to the Commission at the address given at the end of this notice. Your letter will be placed in the

correspondence file of this docket. You may also call the Public Service Commission's toll-free facsimile line at 1-800-511-0809.

BACKGROUND

BFF Corporation is a Class C wastewater utility located in Marion County. It provides service to approximately 92 customers. The test period for setting rates is the historical twelve month period ending October 31, 1997. The utility's adjusted revenues for the test period are \$42,807 and its adjusted operating expenses are \$40,389, resulting in an adjusted net operating income of \$2,418 for the test period.

CURRENT AND PRELIMINARY RATES AND CHARGES

Staff has compiled the following rates and charges for the purpose of discussion at the customer meeting. These rates are preliminary and subject to change based on information gathered at the customer meeting, further Staff review, and the final decision by the Commissioners. The utility's current and Staff's preliminary rates and charges are as follows:

MONTHLY RATES

	<u>Current Rates</u>	<u>Staff's Preliminary Rates</u>
Base Facility Charge All Meter Sizes	\$20.44	\$26.53
Gallage Charge Per 1,000 gallons (10,000 gallon cap)	\$ 3.78	\$ 5.94

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE CHARGES

Currently, the utility's tariff has a provision for miscellaneous service charges. Therefore, Staff is recommending no change at this time.

SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGES

Currently, the utility's tariff has a provision for service availability charges. Therefore, Staff is recommending no change at this time.

STAFF REPORTS AND UTILITY APPLICATION

The results of Staff's preliminary investigation are contained in an accounting report dated February 13, 1998. Copies of the report may be examined by interested members of the public from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. at the following location:

BFF Corporation
1732 NE 25th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34470
(352) 622-4949

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

PROCEDURES AFTER CUSTOMER MEETINGS

After the meetings, Public Service Commission Staff will prepare a recommendation which is scheduled to be submitted to the Public Service Commission on April 9, 1998. The Public Service Commission will then vote on Staff's recommendation at its April 21, 1998 agenda conference. The Commission will thereafter issue a proposed agency action order containing rates which may be different from those contained in Staff's final recommendation. Substantially affected persons have 21 days to protest the Commission's proposed agency action order. Five to ten customers or persons who attend the meeting and who wish to receive a copy of the recommendation and the order may so indicate at the meeting. Those individuals are expected to distribute the information in the recommendation and the order to other customers and interested persons. Anyone who is unable to attend and who wishes to obtain a copy of the recommendation or the order may do so by writing to the Commission at the address at the end of this notice.

HOW TO CONTACT THE COMMISSION

Written comments regarding the utility and the proposed rates, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for this case, may be directed to this address:

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Director, Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

All correspondence should refer to "Docket No. 971182-SU, Application of BFF Corporation for a staff-assisted rate case in Marion County."

If you wish to contact the Commission regarding complaints about service, you may call the Commission's Division of Consumer Affairs at the following toll-free number: 1-800-342-3552.

This notice was prepared by Commission Staff for distribution by the utility to its customers.