

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: DOCKET NO. 20250137-WS

Application by Sunshine Water Services  
Company for a Limited Proceeding to  
Reflect the Mid-County Wastewater Treatment  
Facility in Base Rates.

---

PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING:

CHAIRMAN GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH  
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK  
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA  
COMMISSIONER ANA ORTEGA  
COMMISSIONER BOBBY ~~PANE~~

*Payne 3/23/26*

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

TIME: Commenced: 6:00 p.m.  
Concluded: 6:15 p.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center  
Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for  
the State of Florida at Large  
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 VIRGINIA PONDER, ESQUIRE, Ausley McMullen Law  
3 Firm, 123 S. Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301;  
4 appearing on behalf of Sunshine Water Services Company  
5 (SWSC).

6 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL; PATRICIA  
7 CHRISTENSEN and OCTAVIO PONCE, ESQUIRE, OFFICE OF PUBLIC  
8 COUNSEL, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 West Madison  
9 Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400, appearing  
10 on behalf of the Citizens of the State of Florida.

11 SAAD FAROOQI and ZACHARY BLOOM, ESQUIRES, FPSC  
12 General Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,  
13 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the  
14 Florida Public Service Commission.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

I N D E X

WITNESS :	PAGE
MARVIN STOCKERT PUBLIC COMMENT	9

EXHIBITS

NUMBER :	MARKED
----------	--------

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. Good evening. I  
3 apologize for the two-minute delay.

4 Welcome, and thank you all for attending this  
5 customer service hearing. This is a part of our  
6 review of Sunshine Water Services Company's request  
7 for a limited rate adjustment. Today's service  
8 hearing is an important part of the process, and is  
9 dedicated to hearing from you, the customers.

10 My name is Gabriella Passidomo Smith, and it  
11 is my honor to serve as Chair of the Public Service  
12 Commission. With me today are my fellow  
13 Commissioners, Commissioners Clark, La Rosa, Payne  
14 and Ortega.

15 Staff, will you please reads the notice?

16 MR. FAROOQI: Thank you, Chairman.

17 By notice issued on February 20th, 2026, this  
18 time and place has been set for a customer service  
19 hearing in Docket No. 20250137-SU. The purpose of  
20 the service hearing is set forth more fully in the  
21 notice.

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

23 At this time, we will take appearances from  
24 counsel, starting with Sunshine.

25 MS. PONDER: Good evening, Commissioners.

1 Virginia Ponder with the Ausley McMullen Law Firm,  
2 appearing on behalf of Sunshine Water Services  
3 Company. And with me this evening is Sean Twomey,  
4 the President of Sunshine Water. We appreciate the  
5 opportunity to be here at the customer hearing.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. CHRISTENSEN: Good evening, Commissioners,  
8 Chairwoman. Patty Christensen with the Office of  
9 Public Counsel. I would also like to put in an  
10 appearance for Octavio Ponce and the -- Walt  
11 Trierweiler, the Public Counsel.

12 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

13 Staff.

14 MR. FAROOQI: And on behalf of staff, we have  
15 Saad Farooqi and Zachary Bloom.

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All right. Thank you,  
17 counsel.

18 Again, thank you all for participating today  
19 and sharing your experience with the quality of  
20 service provided by Sunshine and providing any  
21 comments you may have regarding the utility's rate  
22 request.

23 While we recognize this proceeding is limited  
24 to cost recovery for the upgrade of the Mid-County  
25 Wastewater Treatment Facility in Pinellas County,

1 any recovery ultimately granted by the Commission  
2 impacts all of Sunshine's customers, therefore,  
3 it's important to us that all Sunshine customers be  
4 afforded an opportunity to participate.

5 In addition to sharing your comments here, you  
6 can also provide written comments or additional  
7 materials by paper mail or by email. The rate case  
8 overview includes instructions on how to provide  
9 written comments to the Commission, and rest  
10 assured that your written comments will be made  
11 available to us to review.

12 If you have specific service or billing  
13 issues, representatives from Sunshine are here in  
14 the room to assist you, and they -- we can, Mr.  
15 Twomey, in a minute, will give a number that you  
16 can call to speak with a specific customer service  
17 representative.

18 Before we hear from the customers, I will  
19 allow brief opening statements from the parties,  
20 starting with Mr. Twomey, with Sunshine.

21 MR. TWOMEY: Good evening, Chair,  
22 Commissioners. Thank you very much for the  
23 opportunity to participate in this customer hearing  
24 today.

25 Sunshine Water Services' application for a

1 limited proceeding seeks recovery are of the  
2 Mid-County Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility  
3 project. This project improves the ability of  
4 Sunshine to provide safe, reliable and  
5 environmentally sound wastewater treatment services  
6 to our customers now and into the future.

7 The company's customer service team is  
8 available to help customers with any questions, and  
9 may be reached at (866)842-8432. Additionally, we  
10 have a designated representative also available  
11 during this hearing for questions. The  
12 representative may be reached at (321)972-0369.  
13 And, of course, I will be happy to take any  
14 questions the Commission may have of myself  
15 tonight.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

18 Ms. Christensen.

19 MS. CHRISTENSEN: Good evening. Patty  
20 Christensen with the Office of Public Counsel.

21 We represent the ratepayers, and in this case,  
22 the customers of Sunshine utility. We thank all of  
23 the customers of Sunshine utility who have signed  
24 up to participate tonight, and we ask that you  
25 share your issues, concerns or any thoughts you

1 have regarding Sunshine utility with the  
2 Commissioners today.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

5 All right. We are going to move on to the  
6 customer testimony portion. Your comments will  
7 become a part of the official record and,  
8 therefore, subject to cross-examination. That just  
9 means that one of the parties or one of the  
10 Commissioners might ask you some follow-up  
11 questions. It's just to get some clarification on  
12 your testimony, so nothing to fear there.

13 It seems like the customers we do have signed  
14 up have already accepted the oath, so I don't need  
15 to administer that.

16 So, Ms. Christensen is going to be helping  
17 today. She's going to call the names of the  
18 speakers who have signed up and in order of how  
19 they signed up. So I am just going to go ahead and  
20 turn it over to you. Yeah, it's yours.

21 MS. CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Commissioner.

22 The first speaker we have signed up is Lena  
23 DelGenio, and then the following person is Marvin  
24 Stockert, and those are the two that we have today.

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Ms. DelGenio? I don't know

1           how to pronounce that. It sounds Italian.

2           Ms. DelGenio, D-E-L-G-E-N-I-O.

3           Mr. Stockert, are you on the line?

4           MR. STOCKERT: I am.

5           CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, good. Sir, you are  
6           recognized whenever you are ready.

7                           PUBLIC COMMENT

8           MR. STOCKERT: Hi, I am sorry, I haven't heard  
9           the numbers of what is the potential increase in  
10          rates or fees. Has that been announced? Is that  
11          still being determined?

12          CHAIRMAN SMITH: Sir, this -- we have not had  
13          a -- we have not had the technical hearing yet  
14          on -- this is still being determined. This is just  
15          an opportunity to get your feedback on the quality  
16          of service provided by Sunshine. But the petition  
17          and the rate case overview and all that information  
18          can be found in the docket both on our website. It  
19          was also provided by the company to you in the mail  
20          form. Do you need --

21          MR. STOCKERT: Thank you.

22          CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay.

23          MR. STOCKERT: As far as the service, I don't  
24          have any problem with the Sunshine service. They  
25          have been responsive to when we went to the

1 recycled water for the yard, they were they  
2 responsive, but I do have a major concern with the  
3 amount of increase on the wastewater. We are  
4 presently paying two-and-a-half to three times the  
5 amount than we are for water. I just find that  
6 wholly unacceptable that we would have that kind of  
7 cost.

8 The water is reasonably priced, but then all  
9 of a sudden we have wastewater that's bringing up  
10 the water bill up to \$80 to \$100 in our Lake County  
11 here. So I -- I find that as the major issue with  
12 this rate increase.

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you very much, sir.

14 Is there anybody else who would like -- who is  
15 on the line who would like to provide testimony  
16 tonight? Nobody else on the line? Okay.

17 All right. Well, thank you, Mr. Stockert. We  
18 appreciate hearing from you at least. And we do  
19 have another service hearing for this case tomorrow  
20 morning at 10:00 a.m. While on-line sign-ups do  
21 sound to be closed, please feel free to call our  
22 customer service line. That number is  
23 (850)413-7080, and you can sign up. That's --  
24 again, that's for tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. if  
25 you would like to provide testimony in this docket.

1                   Before -- is there any comments,  
2                   Commissioners, parties? No.

3                   Okay. Seeing none, then we will adjourn for  
4                   the evening. Thank you.

5                   (Proceedings concluded.)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

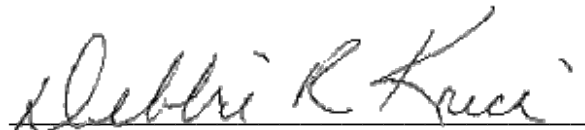
STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby  
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the  
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I  
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the  
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;  
and that this transcript constitutes a true  
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,  
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor  
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
financially interested in the action.

DATED this 23rd day of March, 2026.



DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH575054  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028