



# SPECIAL REPORT

JULY 2006 NO. 7

## Application for a Staff-Assisted Rate Case in Marion County by **County-Wide Utility Company, Inc.**

DOCKET NO. 050862-WS

On January 6, 2006, County-Wide Utility Company, Inc. (County-Wide or utility) filed an application for a staff-assisted rate case with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). County-Wide is a water utility operating in Marion County and providing service to approximately 482 customers.

The utility requested interim rates in its application. County-Wide's interim rate request was based on the utility being allowed to immediately earn a return on its investment in the interconnection with the City of Ocala (the City). County-Wide's request for interim rates was denied in accordance with Florida Statutes.

However, due to the increase in costs incurred because of this interconnection with the City, the Commission approved a 127.60% emergency rate increase for the utility. The approved emergency rates allow the utility to recover the costs of the interconnection, interest on the debt financing, increased tangible and intangible taxes and purchased water from the City. These emergency rates are grossed up for the regulatory assessment fees. The emergency rates are being held subject to refund. If the final revenue requirement is less than the approved emergency revenue requirement, the difference may be refunded with interest.

The current rate case is being processed under the PSC's "Proposed Agency Action" (PAA) procedure. Under the PAA process, the case will not be set for a formal hearing unless a timely protest to the Commission's proposed agency action is filed.

As part of the process of evaluating County-Wide's request, the PSC staff conducts a customer meeting to allow customers the opportunity to provide input into the rate setting process. Customer comments are an integral part of the process and will assist the Commissioners in reaching their decision.

The utility's records have been audited by PSC staff for compliance with the applicable rules and orders. In addition, a PSC staff engineer has conducted a field

investigation of the utility's plant and service area. In accordance with Florida Statutes, the PSC will consider the utility's quality of service and other matters in this case.

According to PSC staff's preliminary analysis, the average monthly residential consumption is 5,467 gallons. Prior to the emergency rate increase, the average monthly bill was \$16.48 for residential customers. The average bill with emergency rates is \$37.49. The average monthly bill using staff's preliminary proposed rates would be \$31.74 (base facility charge plus gallonage charge). Information obtained at the customer meeting will be incorporated into staff's recommendation to the Commission.

The PSC staff is scheduled to file a recommendation with the Commission on August 17, 2006. The Commissioners are expected to vote on this matter at the August 29, 2006, Agenda Conference.

### **Customer Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 19, 2006**

6:00 p.m.

Marion County Commission Auditorium  
McPherson Complex  
601 Southeast 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ocala, Florida

### **For more information:**

#### **For technical questions:**

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

#### **For legal questions:**

Rosanne Gervasi (850) 413-6224

#### **For general questions:**

Bev DeMello (850) 413-6107

## P S C   C O M M I S S I O N E R S



COMMISSIONER  
Matthew M. Carter II



COMMISSIONER  
J. Terry Deason



CHAIRMAN  
Lisa Polak Edgar



COMMISSIONER  
Isilio Arriaga



COMMISSIONER  
Katrina J. Tew

**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 Edgar is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners 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 Edgar 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 Edgar was chief analyst on Environmental Policy for the Office of Policy and Budget, Executive Office of the Governor. Chairman Edgar 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 Edgar 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 Edgar 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.

**J. Terry Deason** was first appointed to the Commission by the Florida Public Service Commission Nominating Council in January 1991 for a term ending in January 1995. He was subsequently reappointed by the late Governor Lawton Chiles for a term ending in January 1999. Commissioner Deason was then reappointed by Governor Jeb Bush to a term ending in January 2003, and to his current term which ends in January 2007. Commissioner Deason has served as Chairman of the Commission on two occasions, from January 1993 to January 1995, and from July 2000 to January 2001. Commissioner Deason is an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). He currently serves on NARUC's Board of Directors, Committee on Electricity, the Federal/State Joint Conference on Accounting, and the Federal/State Joint Board on Economic Dispatch for the Southern Region. Commissioner Deason also serves on the executive committee for the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chief Regulatory Analyst in the Office of Public Counsel. In that capacity, he was responsible for the coordination of accounting and financial analysis used by the Public Counsel in cases before the Public Service Commission, presented testimony as an expert witness, and consulted with the Public Counsel on technical issues and ratemaking policies concerning regulated utilities in the State of Florida. From 1981 to 1987, Commissioner Deason served as Executive Assistant to PSC Commissioner Gerald L. Gunter, during which time he reviewed and analyzed staff recommendations and advised the Commissioner on those recommendations and other pertinent policy determinations. From 1977 to 1981, he served as a Legislative Analyst with the Office of Public Counsel. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and in 1975 received his bachelor of science degree in accounting, summa cum laude, from Florida State University. He also received his master of accounting degree from FSU in 1989.

**Isilio Arriaga** was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Jeb Bush on October 6, 2005, to complete a term ending January 2007. Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Arriaga was an independent management consultant for Ferrell Schultz Consulting, Inc. in Miami, Florida. Previously, he served as President and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, where he continues as a Volunteer Trustee, and was active on the Board of Directors of the Venezuelan-American Chamber and the Council of Bi-National Chambers. Before his tenure with the Chamber, he was President and CEO of Hispanic Unity of Florida, a growing social services agency assisting over 30,000 clients in South Florida and whose mission is improving the quality of life and fostering leadership in the community. Arriaga served as a Congressman in the Republic of Venezuela from 1988 until 1993, where he co-sponsored the first Privatization Law in the nation and helped enact the Low Income Housing Appropriations legislation. During that time, he was a founding member of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland and was appointed to the committee created upon recommendation by the IMF for the purpose of reforming the financial system of Venezuela. His career in Venezuela began in the oil fields as a Junior Engineer for Shell Oil Co. He went on to create the Planning Office and Long Term Industrial Loans Department for Banco Union, where he served as General Manager for Investments. Following his public service and while residing in Texas, he formed an international consulting firm and worked with U.S. entities, promoting new business development as a strong advocate for U.S. enterprises in Latin America. He served as a consultant in Miami responsible for the reengineering process of a corporation which pioneered digital functions for ATM networks. Arriaga, 57, received a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering from New York University and holds a Bachelor's degree from Pratt Institute (NY). He has published numerous articles and essays on economics and was a syndicated columnist in Venezuela. He currently serves on the NARUC's Committee on International Relations and the Department of Energy/National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Utilities Market Access Partnership (UMAP) Board of Directors.

**Commissioner Matthew Mark Carter II** 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. Florida Governor Jeb Bush appointed Matthew M. Carter II to the Florida Public Service Commission for a term of four years beginning January 2006. 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 daughters: Pearl and Markesha.

**Commissioner Katrina J. Tew** was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission by Governor Jeb Bush for a four-year term beginning January 2006. Ms. Tew has extensive experience in regulatory policy issues involving energy, water, and telecommunications. From 2001 to 2005, Ms. Tew served consecutive terms as Chief Advisor to two different Florida Public Service Commissioners: Charles M. Davidson and Michael A. Palecki. In this role, she advised commissioners on all proceedings and policy matters before the Commission. Prior to becoming a Chief Advisor, Ms. Tew 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 of common interest, such as "black water," reuse, universal service, and electric reliability. Before leading the State Liaison Section, Ms. Tew served as the Commission's primary liaison on all nuclear energy matters for over three years. Additionally, Ms. Tew was instrumental in drafting the Commission's positions on electric industry restructuring. In recognition of her work on federal energy policy, Ms. Tew was a recipient of the PSC Extraordinary Accomplishment Award in 1999 and the PSC Outstanding Achievement Award in 1997. Since 2001, Ms. Tew has also been involved in policy formulation related to a multitude of communications matters. This has afforded her the opportunity to develop a fluency in issues of advanced communications, especially those surrounding broadband, wireless, VoIP, and broadband over power lines. A Northwest Florida native, Ms. Tew received a Bachelor's degree in finance from Florida State University. She received a Master of Business Administration degree from FSU in 1998.

## Consumer Statements at PSC Meetings

The Commission is interested in what consumers have to say about the application for a staff-assisted rate case in Marion County by County-Wide Utility Company, Inc. The main purpose of the meeting is to receive comments from the public.

Anyone may make a statement, and speaking is an effective way to let the Commission know how you feel about the case under review. At the beginning of the meeting, procedures will be set up to establish an order for comments. PSC staff will have sign-up sheets that will be used to call consumers to speak. PSC staff will also be available to coordinate consumer comments and assist members of the public.

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to the PSC staff regarding this matter may do so at the meeting, orally or in writing. Written comments also may be mailed to: Florida Public Service Commission, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, or faxed to 1-800-511-0809. Correspondence will be placed in the file of this docket (Docket No. 050862-WS). For your convenience, a comment form is attached to this Special Report.

Any person who wishes to obtain a copy of the recommendation or the order may do so by writing to: Florida Public Service Commission, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, or by going on-line at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com).

## Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

The Public Service Commission provides a staff of information specialists who are available to answer questions from Florida consumers.

To reach a consumer representative, please call the Public Service Commission during business hours at **1-800-342-3552**, or send a fax to 1-800-511-0809. See the PSC's Internet home page at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com).

## MONTHLY WATER RATES

### RESIDENTIAL & GENERAL SERVICE

Base Facility Charge (BFC) by Meter Size	Utility's Rates Prior To Filing	Commission Approved Emergency Rates	Staff's Preliminary Recommended Rates
5/8" x 3/4" *	\$ 13.23	\$ 30.11	\$ 12.88
3/4"			\$ 19.32
1" **	\$ 33.05	\$ 75.22	\$ 32.20
1 1/2" ***	\$ 66.10	\$ 150.44	\$ 64.40
2"			\$ 103.04
3"			\$ 206.08
4"			\$ 322.00
6"			\$ 644.00

### RESIDENTIAL SERVICE GALLONAGE CHARGE

\* BFC includes 3.75 kgals for existing and emerg. rates

3.75kgals - 22.5 kgals	\$ 1.89	\$ 4.30
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22.5 kgals +	\$ 1.02	\$ 2.32
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\*\* BFC includes 9.4 kgals for existing and emerg. rates

9.4 kgals - 46.8 kgals	\$ 1.89	\$ 4.30
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46.8 kgals +	\$ 1.02	\$ 2.32
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\*\*\* BFC includes 18.8 kgals for existing and emerg. rates

18.8 kgals - 93.6 kgals	\$ 1.89	\$ 4.30
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93.6 kgals +	\$ 1.02	\$ 2.32
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0-10,000 Gallons	\$ 3.45
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10,001 - 20,000 Gallons	\$ 4.31
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20,000+	\$ 5.18
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### GENERAL SERVICE GALLONAGE CHARGE

Per 1,000 Gallons	\$ 3.64
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#### Typical Residential 5/8" x 3/4" Meter Bill Comparison

3,000 Gallons	\$ 13.23	\$ 30.11	\$ 23.23
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5,000 Gallons	\$ 15.59	\$ 35.49	\$ 30.13
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10,000 Gallons	\$ 25.04	\$ 56.99	\$ 47.38
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Florida Public Service Commission  
Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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