

ORIGINAL  
FILE COPY

M E M O R A N D U M

September 2, 1997

TO: DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING  
FROM: DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (JAEGER)  
RE: DOCKET NO. 960545-WS - Investigation of utility rates of Aloha Utilities, Inc. in Pasco County

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Please file the attached letters dated August 20th and August 28th, in the above referenced docket.

RRJ/dp

Attachment

cc: Division of Water and Wastewater (Chase, McRoy, Starling, VonFossen, Moniz)  
Harold McLean, OPC  
Marty Deterding, Esquire  
James Goldberg

- ACK \_\_\_\_\_
- AFA \_\_\_\_\_
- APP \_\_\_\_\_
- CAF \_\_\_\_\_
- CMU \_\_\_\_\_
- CTR \_\_\_\_\_
- EAG \_\_\_\_\_
- LEG \_\_\_\_\_
- LIN \_\_\_\_\_
- OPC \_\_\_\_\_
- RC \_\_\_\_\_
- SEC 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- WAS \_\_\_\_\_
- OTH \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
08872 SEP-35  
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING



## Florida House of Representatives

### Mike Fasano

Representative, 45th District  
Majority Whip

Reply to:

- 8217 Massachusetts Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34653-3111  
(813) 848-5885
- 323 The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300  
(904) 488-8528

August 20, 1997

Doug Bramlett, Utilities Director  
Pasco County Government Center  
7530 Little Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

Dear Mr. Bramlett: *Doug,*

During a recent conference call between myself, the Public Service Commission, the Office of Public Counsel and Aloha Utilities, Steve Watford of Aloha Utilities reiterated his frequent claim that the black water problems experienced by many of his customers in the Seven Springs Service Delivery Area are caused by the copper piping in the homes. What Mr. Watford could not explain is why the problem does not occur in all of his customers' homes with copper piping, only those in the Chelsea Place, Wyndtree and surrounding communities. Also what Mr. Watford or anybody else has been able to explain is why this problem does not occur in every house in Pasco County that has copper piping.

To the best of my knowledge my office has not received any complaints about black water from any customer who is hooked up to Pasco County Utilities. I would appreciate any information you may have regarding whether this problem occurs in areas serviced by Pasco County.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. As always, if there is ever anything I can do for you please do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Fasano".

Mike Fasano  
State Representative, District 45

MF/gg

cc: Ralph Jaeger, Public Service Commission

### Committees

Vice Chair, Community Colleges  
& Career Prep  
Finance & Taxation  
Governmental Operations  
Regulated Services

*[Faint stamp and handwritten notes]*  
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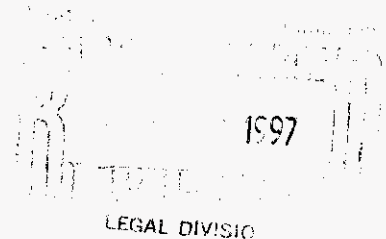
# PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

DADE CITY (352) 521-4274  
LAND O' LAKES (813) 996-7341  
NEW PORT RICHEY (813) 847-8145  
Fax (813) 847-8064

UTILITIES SERVICES BRANCH  
PUB. WKS./UTILITIES BLDG., S-205  
7530 LITTLE ROAD  
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654

August 28, 1997

The Honorable Mike Fasano  
Representative, District 45  
Florida House of Representatives  
8217 Massachusetts Avenue  
New Port Richey, Florida 34653-3111



Dear Representative Fasano:

In reply to your correspondence of August 20, 1997, we offer the following answers to your questions regarding copper piping and "black water" conditions in drinking water occurring in Aloha Utilities drinking water.

The most likely cause of "black water" conditions being experienced by customers of Aloha Utilities is the high concentration of naturally occurring hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) in the source water. The presence of the H<sub>2</sub>S combined with the addition of the chemical orthopolyphosphate to control lead and copper levels in compliance with State and Federal regulations may be promoting conditions favorable for the development of "black water".

The orthopolyphosphate is added to promote coating of copper piping and reduce the presence of lead and copper levels in the domestic drinking water.

Unfortunately, the source water contains hydrogen sulfide in sufficient quantities that the addition of chlorine disinfection produces elemental sulphur which, combined with the presence of the orthopolyphosphate and the addition of heat in water heaters causes chemical reduction and results in the development of "black water" (copper sulfate) conditions. Based on the information available at this time, this is the most logical explanation for the "black water" conditions.

Representative Mike Fasano


8/28/97

Page 2 of 2

The difference between Pasco County Utilities and Aloha Utilities' water is that our source waters have lower natural occurring levels of H<sub>2</sub>S and our alternative methods of treatment. For the West Pasco system we employ "air-stripping" to reduce already low H<sub>2</sub>S levels. In addition, our lead and copper control employs sodium hydroxide versus orthopolyphosphate. As a result, we have not experienced "black water" problems.

I hope this information and discussion is sufficient to meet your immediate requirements. I would be happy to discuss this or other matters at your convenience. Feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Douglas S. Bramlett,  
Asst. County Administrator  
(Utilities Services)

DSB/RJT/fd

cc: Ralph Jaeger, Fla. Public Service Commission, Tallahassee, FL ✓  
Pasco County Board of County Commissioners  
John J. Gallagher, County Administrator



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LEGAL DIVISION

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Representative Mike Fasano

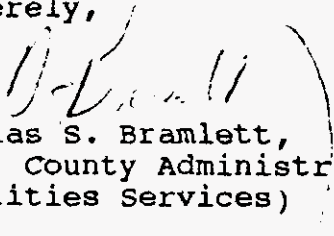
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cc: Ralph Jaeger, Fla. Public Service Commission, Tallahassee, FL  
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Pasco County Government Center  
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New Port Richey, FL 34654

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Mike Fasano  
State Representative, District 45

MF/gg

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