Commissioners: JULIA L. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN SUSAN F. CLARK J. TERRY DEASON

JOE GARCIA
DIANE K. KIESLING



DIVISION OF WATER & WASTEWATER CHARLES H. HILL DIRECTOR (904) 413-6900

## Public Service Commission

September 11, 1997

Mr. Andrew R. Reilly Skyview Utilities Receivership P.O. Box 2039 Haines City, Florida 33845

Re: Docket No. 970459-WS - Application for Grandfather Certificate to Operate a Water and

Wastewater Utility in Polk County by Skyview Utilities Receivership

Dear Mr. Reilly:

Recently, when reviewing the utility's proposed tariff, I observed that the schedules that address service availability charges (Sheet No. 17.0 for water and Sheet No. 16.0 for wastewater) refer to summary statements that indicate that DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) directives prohibit new connections while the utility's effluent disposal and treatment problems continue. Staff believes that Skyview's tariffs should disclose that connection charges were authorized by Polk County. In a grandfather proceeding, those rates are usually retained under Public Service Commission regulation. Then, if and when the moratorium on connections is lifted, the utility's tariff will specify the authorized but previously unavailable connection fees. Therefore, please resubmit Original Sheet Nos. 17.0 for water and 16.0 for wastewater with appropriate details showing Polk County's approved charges. A table showing the approved charges by meter size is attached for your inspection and correction. Additional detail is needed to show the City of Lakeland's water connection charges at 5/4/96.

Lakeland's water connection charges at 5/4/96.

AFA

Second, on Tariff Sheet No. 16.0 for the water division, the utility lists the miscellaneous service charges that Polk County granted. However, the \$15 fee for returned checks is not something this Commission grants since another statute defines the magnitude of that penalty. Then, if larger return check fees are later allowed under that statute, the utility may impose those charges without this Commission's blessing. Therefore, please resubmit Original Sheet No. 16.0 following elimination of the return check charge.

Next, this Commission has recently received several inquiries from Skyview's customers about the \$5.00 fee imposed for late payment of a bill. Some believe the fee may be imposed too soon after delivery. Please be advised that in accordance with Rule 25-30.335, Florida Administrative Code, the utility may not consider the customer delinquent in paying his or her bill

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until the twenty-first day after the utility has mailed or presented the bill for payment. If Skyview

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has mistakenly imposed late payment fees during the allotted payment period, those overcharges must be corrected and proper credits allowed. At least two customers have expressed this concern about early billing of late payment fees: Mrs. Lorene Walker (1218 Waters Edge Drive) and Mrs. Shelia Joseph (1232 Waterview Blvd.). If, upon inspection, your review shows that late payment fees were incorrectly assessed, please apply appropriate credits as needed.

One additional measure, our files indicate that Skyview Utilities has not yet filed its 1996 annual report with this Commission. Pursuant to Rule 25-30.110(3), Florida Administrative Code, "(t)he obligation to file an annual report for any year shall apply to any utility which is subject to this Commission's jurisdiction as of December 31 of that year, whether or not the utility has actually applied for or has been issued a certificate." Therefore, you will need to submit a 1996 annual report sometime soon. An annual report form is attached. The order that approves the grandfather certificate will establish the due date.

If possible, please submit the corrected tariff schedules for service availability and miscellaneous charges by September 26, 1997. An original version and five copies of the corrected information should be filed with the Commission's Division of Records and Reporting. Please call me at (904) 413-6924 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Norvell D. Walker Accounting Analyst

Attachments

cc:

Division of Records and Reporting (w/o attachments)
Division of Legal Services (Reyes) (w/o attachments)
Division of Water and Wastewater (Messer) (w/o attachments)
Representative Paula Dockery (w/o attachments)