

# BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In Re: Initiation of proceedings against Aloha Utilities, Inc. for failure to provide	)	COMMISSION CLERK
sufficient water service consistent with the reasonable and proper operation of the utility system in the public interest, in violation of Section 367.111(2), Florida Statutes	)	o.050018-WU March 17, 2005

#### **Petition to Intervene**

John H. Gaul, pursuant to Rules 25-22.039 and 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code, hereby files a Petition to Intervene in this docket and in support thereof state:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner is:

John H. Gaul 7633 Albacore Drive New Port Richey, FL 34655 727-375-2248

CMP	2.	Petitioner John H. Gaul is a residential custome
COM		Utilities Inc. taking service from Aloha Utilities in paragraph 1.
GTR		
ECR		Drinkable water is an essential to the sustenand of water in the domestic plumbing supplied by
GCL		becomes unsatisfactory intermittently. All effor
OPC		quality by direct contact with the utility have b
MMS		Actions taken by the Public Service Commissi
RCA		significantly affect the quality of life of the peti
SCR	3.	Statement of Affected Interests Actions take
SEC /		whether deletion is approved or not will have
OTH Line		the quality and cost of the potable water that the

er of Aloha s at the address listed

ce of life. The quality y the aforesaid utility rts to improve water een ineffective. on in this docket will tioner.

n by the Commission a major impact on he petitioner will receive in the future.



4. The purpose of the proceeding is to evaluate whether Aloha has failed to provide sufficient water service consistent with the reasonable and proper operation of the utility. The Utility has maintained that it has always provided water that meets all State and Federal Standards. The Public Service Commission has repeatedly found service to be unsatisfactory. This has resulted so far in an impasse and domestic water quality has continued to be poor intermittently.

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- 5. <u>Disputed issues of Material Facts</u> Petitioner anticipates that there will be many disputed issues of material facts. Such disputed issues of material fact will conclude, but are not be limited, to the following:
  - A. Did the Utility exercise due diligence to establish that the processing method it used was appropriate to produce drinkable water taking into consideration the characteristics of its source water?
  - B. Did the Utility having had reason to know that the method was inadequate continue with the same method willfully?
  - C. Did the utility ensure that its facilities were adequate to effectively implement the processing method it was employing?
  - D. Did the Utility maintain its facilities in proper functioning order?
  - E. Did the Utility exercise adequate process control by updating its monitoring devices?
  - F. Did the Utility fail to provide adequate information to its customers and regulatory agencies to make <u>informed</u> decisions about the need to upgrade facilities?
  - G. Did the Utility appropriately cooperate with the Citizens' Advisory Committee mandated by the PSC to provide expedient and compatible solutions to water quality issues?
  - H. Did the Utility attempt to collect increased water rates from its customers to offset financial losses it has suffered through its failure to collect appropriate charges for water connections?

I. Did the Utility willfully underreport the incidence of water quality problems such that intervention by regulatory agencies was delayed?

## 6. Disputed legal issues

- A. Does a monopoly water utility have to provide quality of product and cost that are comparable to neighboring utilities and meet a "community standard" on the principle that "regulation must be a close substitute for competition"?
- B. Does the PSC have the jurisdiction to order deletion of territory as a logical solution to the inability, unwillingness or refusal of the Utility to provide service which is less safe, less efficient or less sufficient than is consistent with the approved engineering design of the system and the reasonable and proper operation of the utility in the public interest?
- 7. <u>Statement of Ultimate Facts</u> Alleged Ultimate facts include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - A. The poor water quality that the petitioner experiences intermittently is due to poor quality control of the utility's processing methods
  - B. Aloha must demonstrate that there are no antecedent factors in the delivered water that is responsible for deterioration of quality during normal usage as long as materials of standard quality were used in the construction of domestic plumbing.
  - C. Aloha failed to notify all builders in its service area of the incompatibility between its processed water and certain plumbing materials as soon as the Utility became aware of such incompatibility.
  - D. Aloha failed to undertake all reasonable and prudent measures to make appropriate changes in the water chemistry of delivered water, which could have improved water quality.

Service Commission grants my Petition to Intervene and accord me full party status in this docket.

March 17, 2005

John H. Gaul 7633 Albacore Drive New Port Richey, Fl. 34655

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Issued: March 17, 2005

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT a true and correct copy of this petition for intervener status in this proceeding has been furnished by US mail this 17th day of March, 2005 to:

Attorney Rosanne Gervasi Division of Legal Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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