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STATE OF FLORIDA



DIVISION OF ENGINEERING  
TOM BALLINGER  
DIRECTOR  
(850) 413-6910

# Public Service Commission

October 26, 2023

Mr. Troy Rendell  
Royal Waterworks, Inc.  
4939 Cross Bayou Blvd.  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
[trendell@uswatercorp.net](mailto:trendell@uswatercorp.net)

VIA EMAIL

**Re: Docket No. 20230081-WS - Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Broward County by Royal Waterworks, Inc.**

Dear Mr. Rendell:

This letter is to confirm that Commission staff will hold a **virtual** customer meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. We ask that a knowledgeable representative of the utility attend the meeting by phone, if possible, in order to make a brief statement regarding the rate increase request. Attached is the customer meeting agenda and a draft copy of the initial customer notice.

As required by Rule 25-22.0407(8)(b), Florida Administrative Code, the utility must provide, in writing, a customer meeting notice to all customers within its service area no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the date of a customer meeting. Please find enclosed a draft Notice of Customer Meeting. The date has been left blank so the utility can fill in the date that the notice is sent to customers. Please furnish me with a copy of the notice that is distributed to customers, along with a cover letter indicating the exact date in which the notice was mailed or otherwise delivered to customers.

Should you have any questions about the matters contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (850) 413-6518 or email at [pbuys@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:pbuys@psc.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Penelope Buys".

Penelope D. Buys  
Engineering Specialist

PB:pz

cc: Office of Commission Clerk (Docket No. 20230081-WS)

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CUSTOMER MEETING

ROYAL WATERWORKS, INC.

DOCKET NO. 20230081-WS

December 11, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Utility Introduction
3. Office of Public Counsel Introduction
4. Staff Presentation
5. Customer Comments (Please note: the order in which customers speak at the customer meeting is based upon the order in which they sign up.)
6. Next Steps
7. Adjourn

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETING

TO THE CUSTOMERS OF ROYAL WATERWORKS, INC.

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 20230081-WS

APPLICATION FOR INCREASE IN WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES IN

BROWARD COUNTY BY ROYAL WATERWORKS, INC.

Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE is hereby given that the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a customer meeting to discuss Royal Waterworks, Inc.'s (Royal or Utility) application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Broward County. The meeting will be held virtually on the following date and time:

**Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate at this meeting should contact the Office of Commission Clerk no later than five days prior to the meeting at 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 or (850) 413-6770 (Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8770 Voice or 1-800-955-8771 TDD).

**PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE**

The purpose of this meeting is to give customers and other interested persons an opportunity to offer comments to Commission staff regarding the quality of service the Utility provides and on the preliminary rates included in this notice. Customers and other interested persons may be asked follow-up questions. These comments will be taken into consideration by the Commission in its decision regarding the proposed rate increase.

This customer meeting will be conducted virtually. The Commission shall act as the host of the customer meeting and will use a combination of technologies to ensure full participation. The Commission will employ GoToMeeting as an audio and video platform for the meeting, and will provide for simultaneous, audio-only participation by telephone. Persons wishing to provide comments will present their comments over the telephone.

Persons wishing to comment at the customer meeting must register by contacting the Commission via email at [speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us) or calling (850) 413-7080. You will need to provide your name, address, and the name of the utility (Royal Waterworks, Inc.). Please register as soon as possible, preferably two business days prior to the meeting. After registering to comment, either by email or phone, you will be provided further instructions on how to participate, including the call-in number. Please note: the order in which customers speak at the customer meeting is based upon the order in which they sign up. To watch the meeting live, visit [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com) and look for the “Watch Live Broadcast” icon on the left side of the webpage. If you do not have access to the internet, you may call (850) 413-7999 to listen to the meeting.

All customers who register to present comments at the meeting are urged to call-in promptly at the scheduled meeting time, since the meeting may be adjourned early if no customers are present. One or more of the Commissioners may attend and participate in this meeting. The meeting will begin as scheduled and will continue until all the customers have been heard.

If a named storm or other disaster requires cancellation of the meeting, Commission staff will attempt to give timely direct notice to the parties. Notice of the cancellation of the meeting will also be provided on the Commission’s website under the Hot Topics link found on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Commission’s Office of the General Counsel at (850) 413-6199.

### **BACKGROUND**

Royal is a Class B water and wastewater utility providing service to approximately 457 residential and 64 general service water customers in Broward County. Royal is located in the South Florida Water Management District. Initial rates were established in 1983 in Docket No. 19820237-WS<sup>1</sup> when the Utility was owned by University Utility Corporation. The Utility has and subsequently undergone two transfers and is currently owned by Royal.<sup>2</sup>

On August 14, 2023, Royal filed an application for increased interim and final water and wastewater rates. However, on August 22, 2023, the Utility withdrew its request for interim rates due to calculation errors. Pursuant to Section 367.083, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the official filing date of the rate case has been determined to be September 20, 2023. The 12-month period ending May 31, 2023, was selected as the test year for the instant case.

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<sup>1</sup> Order No. 12170, issued June 24, 1983, in Docket No. 19820237-WS, *In re: Application of University Utility Corporation for an increase in its rates to its customers in Broward County, Florida*.

<sup>2</sup> Order No. 19867, issued August 22, 1988, in Docket No. 19880557-WS, *In re: Application of Royal Utility Company for transfer of Certifications Nos. 259-W and 199-S from University Utility Corporation*; and Order No. PSC-2020-0458-PAA-WS, issued November 23, 2020, in Docket No. 20190170-WS, *In re: Application for transfer of facilities and Certificate Nos. 259-W and 199-S in Broward County from Royal Utility Company to Royal Waterworks, Inc.*

All of the information on file at the Commission is open to the public and is available for review at the Commission offices in Tallahassee. A copy of the petition and Minimum Filing Requirements (MFRs) can be accessed on the Commission’s website: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/>

Further, a copy of this rate case synopsis can also be accessed on the Commission’s website.

**MONTHLY WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE**

A schedule of the Utility’s present and proposed final rates for water and wastewater are as follows:

**MONTHLY WATER RATES**

<u>Class/Meter Size</u>	<u>Prior to Filing</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
<b>Residential</b>		
5/8" X 3/4"	\$ 13.29	\$ 25.31
3/4"	\$ -	\$ 37.97
1" Charged at 5/8"	\$ 13.29	\$ 25.31
1"	\$ 90.54	
1-1/2"	\$ 180.95	\$ 126.55
2"	\$ 290.04	\$ 202.48
3"	\$ 579.10	\$ 404.96
4"	\$ -	\$ 632.75
6"	\$ -	\$ 1,265.50
8"	\$ -	\$ 2,024.80
10"	\$ -	\$ 2,910.65
<b>Gallage Charge, per 1,000 gallons</b>		
All gallons	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.54
<b>General Service</b>		
5/8" X 3/4"	\$ 13.29	\$ 25.31
3/4"	\$ -	\$ 37.97
1"	\$ 90.54	\$ 63.28
1-1/2"	\$ 180.95	\$ 126.55
2"	\$ 290.04	\$ 202.48
3"	\$ 579.10	\$ 404.96
4"	\$ -	\$ 632.75
6"	\$ -	\$ 1,265.50
8"	\$ -	\$ 2,024.80
10"	\$ -	\$ 2,910.65
Gallage Charge	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.54
<b>Irrigation</b>		

5/8" X 3/4"	\$ 13.29	\$ 25.31
3/4"	\$ -	\$ 37.96
1" Charged at 5/8"	\$ 13.29	\$ 25.31
1"	\$ 90.54	
1-1/2"	\$ 180.95	\$ 126.55
2"	\$ 290.04	\$ 202.48
3"	\$ 579.10	\$ 404.96
4"	\$ -	\$ 632.75
Gallage Charge, per 1,000 gallons		
All gallons	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.54
Private Fire Protection		
2"	\$ -	\$ 16.87
3"	\$ -	\$ 33.75
4"	\$ 27.69	\$ 52.73
6"	\$ 55.37	\$ 105.46
8"	\$ -	\$ 168.73
10"	\$ -	\$ 242.55

### MONTHLY WASTEWATER RATES

<u>Class/Meter Size</u>	<u>Prior to Filing</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>
Residential		
All Meter Sizes	\$ 13.45	\$ 53.31
Gallage Cap (gallons)	10,000	10,000
Gallage Charge per 1,000 gallons	\$ 5.21	\$ 2.32
General Service		
5/8" X 3/4"	\$ 13.45	\$ 53.31
3/4"	\$ -	\$ 79.96
1"	\$ 95.69	\$ 133.26
1-1/2"	\$ 191.56	\$ 266.53
2"	\$ 306.19	\$ 426.44
3"	\$ 612.48	\$ 852.88
4"	\$ -	\$ 1,332.63
6"	\$ -	\$ 2,665.26
8"	\$ -	\$ 4,264.42
10"	\$ -	\$ 6,130.10
Gallage Charge	\$ 5.22	\$ 2.78

## **HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE COMMISSION**

If you would like to share your comments with the Commission you may:

- Speak at the customer meeting on December 11, 2023, by registering with the Commission via email at [speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us) or calling (850) 413-7080 as indicated above.
- Email your comments to the Commission at [clerk@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:clerk@psc.state.fl.us)
- Fill out and return, by US Mail or fax, the “Comment Card” attached to this Notice.
- Submit written comments to the Commission Clerk at the address below.

Office of the Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

All correspondence should refer to:

“Docket No. 20230081-WS, Royal Waterworks, Inc.”

- Address the Commissioners during the Commission’s Conference, currently scheduled for February 6, 2024. You may address the Commissioners during the Commission Conference even if you also provide written comments through any of the other methods. If you would like to provide comments at the Commission Conference, please contact Shaw Stiller at (850) 413-6187 or [sstiller@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:sstiller@psc.state.fl.us).

**Please note that written comments are given the same consideration as if they were provided during the Commission’s Conference.**

## **PROCEDURES AFTER THE CUSTOMER MEETING**

Commission staff will prepare a recommendation which is tentatively scheduled to be submitted to the Commission on January 25, 2024. The Commission will then vote on staff’s recommendation at its February 6, 2024, Commission Conference. As noted above, customers may address the Commission directly at this Conference. Customers may also watch the Commission Conference live from the PSC website at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com). Look for the “Watch Live Broadcast” icon on the left side of the webpage.

The Commission will thereafter issue a proposed agency action (PAA) order containing rates which may be different from those contained in staff’s final recommendation. Substantially affected persons have 21 days from the date that the PAA order is issued to protest the Commission’s PAA order. Customers are able to obtain a copy of staff’s recommendation and all documents filed in this docket under the Clerk’s Office tab at the Commission’s website (<http://www.floridapsc.com/>).

### **CONTACTING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL (OPC)**

At any time during this process, you may contact the Office of Public Counsel (OPC). The OPC was established by the Florida Legislature to represent you and the other utility customers before the Commission. The OPC is independent from the Commission and can be reached at 1-800-342-0222 or [www.floridaopc.gov](http://www.floridaopc.gov).

### **HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Contact information for staff is provided below. You may also find additional information in the Rate Case Overview, which can be viewed at <http://www.floridapsc.com/Publications/RateCaseOverviews>.

For technical questions contact: Penelope D. Buys at (850) 413-6518 or  
[pbuys@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:pbuys@psc.state.fl.us)

For legal questions contact: Shaw Stiller at (850) 413-6187 or  
[sstiller@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:sstiller@psc.state.fl.us)

If you wish to contact the Commission regarding complaints about service, you may call the Commission's Division of Consumer Assistance and Outreach at the following toll-free number 1-800-342-3552.



