

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for a limited)	DOCKET NO. 900498-WS
proceeding rate increase to recognize)	ORDER NO. 23106
the increase in regulatory assessment)	ISSUED: 6-22-90
fees by Century Utilities, Inc. in)	
Palm Beach County.)	
)	

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

- MICHAEL McK. WILSON, Chairman
- THOMAS M. BEARD
- BETTY EASLEY
- GERALD L. GUNTER

PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION

ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR LIMITED
PROCEEDING RATE INCREASE

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for formal proceedings pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

Century Utilities, Inc. (Century or utility) is a Class A utility that operates a water and wastewater system serving approximately 7,877 customers in Palm Beach County. During 1989, the utility's operating revenue was \$667,575 for the water system and \$1,135,285 for the wastewater system. Net operating revenue was \$85,584 for the water system and \$282,142 for the wastewater system.

On May 17, 1990, the utility filed a petition for a limited proceeding rate increase. The petition requested authority to increase service rates to compensate for the increased regulatory assessment fee that becomes effective on July 1, 1990. The utility filed an executed stipulation agreeing to the review and refund procedures of Section 367.081(4)(d), Florida Statutes. Pursuant to this statute, if within fifteen months after the filing of an annual report, we find that the utility exceeded the range of its last authorized

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rate of return on equity, we may order the utility to refund, with interest, the difference to the ratepayers and adjust rates accordingly. We accept the stipulation as providing adequate protection to Century's customers since the utility agrees to refund, with interest, any overearnings resulting from the implementation of increased rates.

Century has also filed a 1990 price index application. This application is pending in WS File Number WS-90-0153. The utility agreed to an extension of the normal sixty day notice provision for the index application in order that the increased rates resulting from the index and those requested here can go into effect at the same time.

Pursuant to Section 367.113, Florida Statutes, the regulatory assessment fee will be increased from 2.5 percent to 4.5 percent of a utility's gross revenues generated after July 1, 1990. Section 367.0822, Florida Statutes, gives us authority to consider any matter in a limited proceeding, including an adjustment of rates. Century's request for an increase in rates is based upon its need to generate sufficient revenue to pay the increased regulatory assessment fee.

The utility filed a schedule showing the calculation of the revenue adjustment needed to compensate for the increase in regulatory assessment fees. A 2.09 percent increase in rates was proposed as required to generate the necessary revenue. The initial revised tariff sheets filed with the petition contained a calculation error. Therefore, Century submitted revised tariff sheets which, as amended, show the current and proposed rates for residential and general service customers. We find that the 2.09 percent increase in rates is justified because Century needs the additional revenue to pay the increased regulatory assessment fee on the gross revenues it receives after July 1, 1990. Schedule No. 1 attached to this Order contains the rates approved in this proceeding. These rates do not include the increase that results from the application of the 1990 price index.

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the petition of Century Utilities, Inc. for a limited proceeding to increase rates to compensate for increased regulatory assessment fees is hereby granted. The rates approved are those shown in Schedule No. 1 to this Order, which by reference are incorporated herein. It is further

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ORDERED that, Century's executed stipulation that it be subject to the review and refund provisions of Section 367.081(4)(d) is hereby approved. It is further

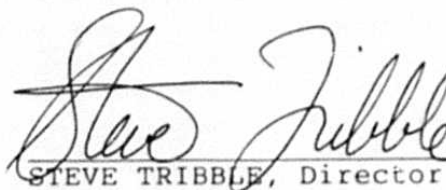
ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final, unless an appropriate petition in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting at his office at 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the date set forth in the Notice of Further Proceedings below. It is further

ORDERED that the revised tariff sheets filed by Century reflect the approved rates and are hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that the rates and tariff sheets approved herein shall become effective when this Order becomes final and effective. It is further

ORDERED that, in the event no protest is timely filed, this docket shall be closed.

By Order of the Florida Public Service Commission
this 22nd day of JUNE, 1990.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature and will not become effective or final, except as provided by Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.029(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a) and (f), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting at his office at 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on July 16, 1990.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become effective on the day subsequent to the above date as provided by Rule 25-22.029(6), Florida Administrative Code, and as reflected in a subsequent order.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this order becomes final and effective on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or sewer utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

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SCHEDULE NO. 1
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Water Rates

Residential, General Service, and
Multiple Dwelling Service

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Approved Rates</u>
5/8" x 3/4"	\$ 4.25
1"	10.64
2"	34.04
3"	68.07
4"	106.37
6"	212.75
Gallage Charge: Per 1,000 gallons	\$ 1.06

Private Fire Protection Service

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Approved Rates</u>
4"	\$ 35.76
6"	71.49
8"	114.41
10"	163.97
12"	307.45

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SCHEDULE NO. 1
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Wastewater Rates
Residential Service

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Approved Rates</u>
All Sizes	\$ 8.38
Gallonage Charge: Per 1,000 gallons	\$ 1.50

General Service and Multiple Dwelling Service

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Approved Rates</u>
5/8" x 3/4"	\$ 8.38
1"	20.96
2"	67.03
3"	134.07
4"	209.50
6"	418.99
Gallonage Charge: Per 1,000 gallons	\$ 1.50