

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Initiation of show) DOCKET NO. 920780-SU
cause proceedings against S & L) ORDER NO. PSC-92-1045-FOF-SU
UTILITIES, INC. in Marion) ISSUED: 09/23/92
County for failure to remit)
penalty fee for filing)
delinquent 1989 annual report)
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD, Chairman
SUSAN F. CLARK
J. TERRY DEASON
BETTY EASLEY
LUIS J. LAUREDO

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

BY THE COMMISSION:

S & L Utilities (S & L or utility) is a Class C utility, serving 76 wastewater customers in Marion County. Based on information in the 1991 annual report, the utility reported wastewater system operating revenues of \$35,962 and operating expenses of \$30,392, resulting in a net operating income of \$5,570.

S & L filed a delinquent 1989 annual report, in violation of Rule 25-30.110, Florida Administrative Code. Rule 25-30.110, Florida Administrative Code, requires utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction as of December 31st each year to file an annual report on or before March 31st of the following year. Requests for extension must be in writing and must be filed before March 31st. One extension of 30 days is automatically granted. Longer extensions may be granted upon showing of good cause. Incomplete or incorrect reports are considered delinquent, with a 30-day grace period in which to supply the missing information.

Pursuant to Rule 25-30.110(6)(a), Florida Administrative Code, any utility that fails to file a timely, complete annual report is subject to penalties, absent demonstration of good cause for noncompliance. The penalty set out in Rule 25-30.110(7), Florida Administrative Code, for Class C utilities is \$3 per day. The penalty calculation is based on the number of days elapsed since March 31st, or the approved extension date, and the actual date of filing. The date of filing is included in computing the number of days elapsed. This Commission may impose lesser or greater

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
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PSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

penalties, pursuant to Rule 25-30.110(6)(c), Florida Administrative Code.

S & L, a Class C utility, filed a delinquent 1989 annual report. The report was due March 31, 1990, but it was not received until June 14, 1990. On September 23, 1991, we informed Mr. Charles Fletcher, Jr., representative of the utility, by letter, that payment of \$225, for 75 days delinquent at \$3 per day, was due on or before October 24, 1991, and warned that failure to remit such payment could result in additional assessments being levied. S & L has failed to make said payment to date.

In consideration of the foregoing, it appears that S & L has failed to comply with the 1989 annual report requirements, and is in violation of Rule 25-30.110, Florida Administrative Code. Therefore, we hereby order S & L to show cause, in writing, within twenty days, why it should not be fined \$225 for its failure to comply with the 1989 annual report requirements.

If the utility fails to respond to the show cause within twenty days of the issuance of this Order, the penalty of \$225 shall be imposed without further action by this Commission. The failure of the utility to file a timely response to the show cause order shall constitute both an admission of the facts alleged and a waiver any right to a hearing.

If S & L fails to respond to reasonable collection efforts by this Commission, we deem the fine to be uncollectible and hereby authorize referral of this matter to the Comptroller's office for further collection efforts based on this Commission's finding that, under the aforesaid circumstances, further collection efforts by this Commission would not be cost effective. Reasonable collection efforts shall consist of two certified letters requesting payment.

If, however, the utility responds to the show cause by remitting the \$225 penalty, no further action is required, and this docket shall be closed administratively.

Based on the foregoing, it is, therefore,

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that S & L Utilities, in Marion County, shall show cause, in writing, within twenty days, why it should not be fined \$225 for failure to file

ORDER NO. PSC-92-1045-FOF-SU
DOCKET NO. 920780-SU
PAGE 3

its 1989 annual report, as required by Rule 25-30.110, Florida Administrative Code. It is further

ORDERED that S & L Utilities' written response must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on October 13, 1992. It is further

ORDERED that S & L Utilities' response must contain specific allegations of fact and law. It is further

ORDERED that S & L Utilities' opportunity to file a written response shall constitute its opportunity to be heard prior to final determination of noncompliance and assessment of penalty by this Commission, as required under Rule 25-30.110(6)(c), Florida Administrative Code. It is further

ORDERED that a failure to file a timely response to this show cause order shall constitute an admission of the facts alleged in the body of this Order and a waiver of any right to a hearing. It is further

ORDERED that if S & L Utilities files a written response that raises material questions of fact and requests a hearing pursuant to Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, further proceedings may be scheduled before a final determination on these matters is made. It is further

ORDERED that if S & L Utilities fails to file a timely response to this show cause order, the fine of \$225 shall be imposed, pursuant to Rule 25-30.110, Florida Administrative Code. It is further

ORDERED that if reasonable collection efforts are unsuccessful, the collection of the fine shall be forwarded to the Comptroller's office and this docket shall be closed. It is further

ORDERED that if S & L Utilities responds to the show cause by remitting the penalty, this docket shall be closed administratively.

ORDER NO. PSC-92-1045-FOF-SU
DOCKET NO. 920780-SU
PAGE 4

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 23rd
day of September, 1992.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)

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