

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application to amend water tariff to include irrigation connection (tap-in) charge by Utilities, Inc. of Pennbrooke in Lake County. | DOCKET NO. 050541-WU  
ORDER NO. PSC-05-1032-TRF-WU  
ISSUED: October 21, 2005

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

BRAULIO L. BAEZ, Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
RUDOLPH "RUDY" BRADLEY  
LISA POLAK EDGAR

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF AMENDMENTS

BY THE COMMISSION:

Utilities Inc. of Pennbrooke (Pennbrooke or the utility) is a Class B water and wastewater utility providing service to approximately 1,295 water customers and 1,253 wastewater customers in Lake County. On August 9, 2005, the utility filed an application to amend its water tariff to include an irrigation connection (tap-in) charge. We approve Pennbrooke's application, as explained below. We have jurisdiction pursuant to Section 367.091, Florida Statutes.

Pennbrooke has received a number of requests for direct connections to its water main supply lines for irrigation use. Pennbrooke states that connection to the water main supply line located in the street outside customers' homes provides the water pressure necessary for efficient and effective irrigation. Pennbrooke's current water tariff, however, does not contain a provision for irrigation connection charges. The language in the tariff does not adequately identify the fee to be collected for the installation of water service lines. Also, Pennbrooke's service availability tariff only refers to the water facilities installed and contributed by the developer during the development of each phase of the community that would be sufficient to provide water service to each developed lot. The standard design of the water facilities in Pennbrooke does not include the provision for the separate metering of residential irrigation.

The only tarified charge that presently can be applied for an irrigation connection is the standard meter installation fee of \$75.00. The utility believes this charge is inadequate to properly recover its costs, as the charge only covers the actual meter installation. The installation of separate irrigation service will require several hours of labor charges for the utility to install the service lines and other miscellaneous parts. Also, the cost to connect to the water main supply line depends on the customer's location in relation to the line. The utility indicated that connections for customers located on the opposite side of the street from the water line are considerably more expensive to install due to the difference in time, labor and materials required to connect. For those customers, it is necessary to run a line under the street to connect. Pennbrooke further stated that the estimated charges for connections located on the same side of

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the street as the existing main water supply line is estimated to be slightly less than \$600, whereas the estimated connection charges for connections located on the opposite side of the street is approximately \$1,000. Since the costs for these connections are only estimates, the utility has asked that the tariff be modified to allow recovery of actual costs for each connection.

We find that Pennbrooke's request to modify its tariff is reasonable and we approve it. Pennbrooke shall file a proposed customer notice consistent with this decision. The tariff revision shall be effective for connections made on or after the stamped approval date of the tariff pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(2), Florida Administrative Code, after our staff has verified that the customer notice is adequate and has been provided to customers. Pennbrooke shall provide proof that customers have received notice within 10 days after the date of the notice.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the Application to amend water tariff to include irrigation connection (tap-in) charge by Utilities, Inc. of Pennbrooke in Lake County is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the utility shall file a proposed customer notice consistent with this decision. The tariff revision shall be effective for connections made on or after the stamped approval date of the tariff after our staff has verified that the customer notice is adequate and has been provided to customers. Pennbrooke shall provide proof that customers have received notice within 10 days after the date of the notice. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of issuance of the Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any charges held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 21st day of October, 2005.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of the Commission Clerk  
and Administrative Services

By: Kay Flynn  
Kay Flynn, Chief  
Bureau of Records

( S E A L )

MCB

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), 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.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on November 11, 2005.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating 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.