

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Analysis of Utilities, Inc.'s financial accounting and customer service computer system.

DOCKET NO. 120161-WS
ORDER NO. PSC-12-0604-PCO-WS
ISSUED: November 6, 2012

ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION TO EXTEND
INFORMAL INVESTIGATORY PERIOD

Utilities, Inc. (UI) is an Illinois corporation which owns approximately 75 subsidiaries throughout 15 states including 14 water and wastewater utilities within Florida. Utilities, Inc. of Eagle Ridge (Eagle Ridge or Utility), a wholly-owned subsidiary of UI, is a Class B utility providing wastewater service to approximately 822 customers in Lee County. Water service is provided by Lee County Utilities. On June 24, 2011, Eagle Ridge filed an application for rate increase in Docket No. 110153-SU, and the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) intervened. On December 21, 2011, Order No. PSC-11-0587-PAA-SU (PAA Order) was issued. On December 22, 2011, Eagle Ridge timely filed a protest of the PAA Order and on January 9, 2012, OPC timely filed a cross-petition also protesting the PAA Order. On May 18, 2012, Eagle Ridge and OPC (collectively, "Parties") filed a Joint Motion Requesting Commission Approval of Stipulation and Settlement Agreement. By Order No. PSC-12-0346-FOF-SU, issued July 5, 2012, the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement was approved.

In the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement, the Parties agreed that Eagle Ridge would file a petition to open a separate generic docket to address the protested issue relating to the Utility's Phoenix Project. OPC agreed not to oppose the petition, and Utilities Inc. agreed not to object to OPC raising issues regarding the Phoenix Project and other issues raised in OPC's cross-petition. On May 23, 2012, Utilities, Inc., on behalf of its Florida-subsiidiaries, filed the aforementioned petition for the establishment of a generic docket which was assigned Docket No. 120161-WS. In the Petition, the Parties agreed to a 120-day investigatory period "in order to meet informally with Commission staff in a good faith effort to resolve or narrow the disputed issues."

On October 17, 2012, the Parties filed a Joint Motion to Extend Informal Investigatory Period to hold the case in abeyance through February 28, 2013. In support of the Motion, the parties state that OPC served 29 questions to UI in early July 2012. The parties state that the person primarily responsible to respond to the questions on behalf of UI was on maternity leave and only recently returned. Thus, the parties estimate that it will take until November for UI to prepare its responses.

It appears that the Parties have shown good cause for extending the instant docket through February 28, 2013, in order to continue their investigation. The Motion shall therefore be granted.

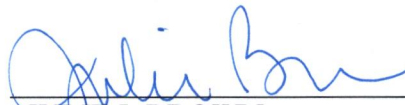
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Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Julie I. Brown, as Prehearing Officer, that Utilities, Inc. and the Office of Public Counsel's Joint Motion to Extend Informal Investigatory Period is hereby granted, as set forth herein. It is further

ORDERED that this proceeding is held in abeyance through February 28, 2013.

By ORDER of Commissioner Julie I. Brown, as Prehearing Officer, this 6th day of November, 2012.



JULIE I. BROWN

Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

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.

ORDER NO. PSC-12-0604-PCO-WS

DOCKET NO. 120161-WS

PAGE 3

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.