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DOCKET NO. 960451-WS - APPLICATION FOR RATE INCREASE IN
DUVAL, NASSAU, AND ST. JOHNS COUNTIES BY UNITED WATER
FLORIDA INC.

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BLANCA RODRIQUEZ, DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE
STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DATE FILED: DECEMBER 18, 1996

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BLANCA RODRIQUEZ

1 -
2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is Blanca Rodriquez and my business address is 7825 Baymeadows
4 Way, Suite B-200, Jacksonville, FL, 32257.

5 Q. Please state a brief description of your educational background and
6 experience.

7 A. I am an environmental manager and supervise the Drinking Water Section.
8 I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and 20 years
9 experience in the engineering field.

10 Q. By whom are you presently employed?

11 A. I am employed by the FDEP.

12 Q. How long have you been employed with the Department of Environmental
13 Protection and in what capacity?

14 A. I have been employed by the FDEP during the last 12 years as an
15 engineer. At this time, I am an environmental manager supervising the
16 Drinking Water Section.

17 Q. What are your general responsibilities at the Department of
18 Environmental Protection?

19 A. In addition to supervising 11 people in my section, I am responsible for
20 the permitting, compliance and enforcement activities for the Public Water
21 Systems in the FDEP's Northeast District.

22 Q. Are you familiar with United Water Florida Inc.'s Ponte Vedra water
23 facility in St. John's County?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Does the utility have a current construction permit from the Department

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1 of Environmental Protection for the Ponte Vedra water facility?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the
4 construction permit.

5 A. On November 7, 1996 a construction permit (WC55-296951) was issued for
6 the installation of corrosion control treatment equipment. A construction
7 permit (WC55-145141) for Ponte Vedra's water treatment plant number one was
8 issued on February 15, 1988. A construction permit for water treatment plant
9 number two was issued on February 26, 1986.

10 Q. Is the plant in compliance with its permit?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Are the treatment facilities and distribution system sufficient to serve
13 the present customers?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure
16 throughout the distribution system?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Does the utility have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event
19 of a power outage?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Rule
22 62-555.312, Florida Administrative Code?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Rule 62-699,
25 Florida Administrative Code?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
3 accordance with Section 62-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?

4 A. No cross-connection program is on file with the Department.

5 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plant and distribution
6 facilities satisfactory?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Does the water produced by the utility meet the State and Federal
9 maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Does the utility monitor the organic contaminants listed in Section
12 62-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to
15 regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Does the utility maintain the required chlorine residual or its
18 equivalent throughout the distribution system?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Are the plant and distribution systems in compliance with all the other
21 provisions of Chapter 62, Florida Administrative Code, not previously
22 mentioned?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Has UWF's Ponte Vedra water facility been the subject of any Department
25 of Environmental Protection enforcement action within the past two years?

1 A: Yes. The utility did not submit a general permit for corrosion control
2 after exceeding the copper level. A warning letter was issued and a meeting
3 between and the utility and the department was held. The utility submitted
4 a permit application and the permit was issued. Even though no formal action
5 has been taken at this time, the Department may pursue penalties through a
6 Consent Order.

7 Q. Are you familiar with United Water Florida Inc.'s Ponce de Leon water
8 facility in St. John's County?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Does the utility have a current construction permit from the Department
11 of Environmental Protection for the Ponce de Leon water facility?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the
14 construction permit.

15 A. A well constuction permit (WC55-52712) was issued on March 1, 1982.

16 Q. Is the plant in compliance with its permit?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Are the treatment facilities and distribution system sufficient to serve
19 the present customers?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure
22 throughout the distribution system?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Does the utility have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event
25 of a power outage?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Rule
3 62-555.312, Florida Administrative Code?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Rule 62-699,
6 Florida Administrative Code?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
9 accordance with Section 62-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?
- 10 A. No cross-connection program is on file with the Department.
- 11 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plant and distribution
12 facilities satisfactory?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Does the water produced by the utility meet the State and Federal
15 maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Does the utility monitor the organic contaminants listed in Section
18 62-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to
21 regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Does the utility maintain the required chlorine residual or its
24 equivalent throughout the distribution system?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q- Are the plant and distribution systems in compliance with all the other
2 provisions of Chapter 62, Florida Administrative Code, not previously
3 mentioned?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Has UWF's Ponce de Leon water facility been the subject of any
6 Department of Environmental Protection enforcement action within the past two
7 years?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Are you familiar with United Water Florida, Inc.'s St. John's Highlands
10 water facility in St. John's County?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Does the utility have a current construction permit from the Department
13 of Environmental Protection for this facility?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the
16 construction permit.

17 A. The well number two construction permit (WC55-169222) was issued on
18 November 22, 1989. The treatment plant construction permit (WC55-78743) was
19 issued on December 27, 1983. The well number three construction permit (WC55-
20 225818) was issued March 1, 1993.

21 Q. Is the plant in compliance with its permit?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Are the treatment facilities and distribution system sufficient to serve
24 the present customers?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure
2 throughout the distribution system?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Does the utility have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event
5 of a power outage?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Rule
8 62-555.312, Florida Administrative Code?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Rule 62-699,
11 Florida Administrative Code?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
14 accordance with Section 62-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?
- 15 A. No cross-connection control program is on file with the Department.
- 16 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plant and distribution
17 facilities satisfactory?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Does the water produced by the utility meet the State and Federal
20 maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Does the utility monitor the organic contaminants listed in Section
23 62-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to

1 | régulations. suggest the need for additional treatment?

2 | A. No.

3 | Q. Does the utility maintain the required chlorine residual or its
4 | equivalent throughout the distribution system?

5 | A. Yes.

6 | Q. Are the plant and distribution systems in compliance with all the other
7 | provisions of Chapter 62, Florida Administrative Code, not previously
8 | mentioned?

9 | A. Yes.

10 | Q. Has UWF's St. John's North water facility been the subject of any
11 | Department of Environmental Protection enforcement action within the past two
12 | years?

13 | A. No.

14 | Q. Are you familiar with United Water Florida Inc.'s Yulee water facility
15 | in Nassau County?

16 | A. Yes.

17 | Q. Does the utility have a current construction permit from the Department
18 | of Environmental Protection for this facility?

19 | A. Yes.

20 | Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the
21 | construction permit.

22 | A. The construction permit (WC45-1074) for the Nassau County Detention
23 | Center treatment plant was issued on April 1, 1977. The construction permit
24 | (WC 45-185118) for the Lofton Oaks water treatment plant was issued on
25 | February 13, 1992. The construction permit (WC45-136154) for the Otter Run

1 | wāter treatment plant was issued on November 11, 1987.

2 | Q. Is the plant in compliance with its permit?

3 | A. Yes.

4 | Q. Are the treatment facilities and distribution system sufficient to serve
5 | the present customers?

6 | A. Yes.

7 | Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure
8 | throughout the distribution system?

9 | A. Yes.

10 | Q. Does the utility have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event
11 | of a power outage?

12 | A. No auxiliary power is available at the Detention Center or at Lofton
13 | Oaks. Auxiliary power is available at Otter Run.

14 | Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Rule
15 | 62-555.312, Florida Administrative Code?

16 | A. Yes.

17 | Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Rule 62-699,
18 | Florida Administrative Code?

19 | A. Yes.

20 | Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
21 | accordance with Section 62-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?

22 | A. Yes.

23 | Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plant and distribution
24 | facilities satisfactory?

25 | A. Yes.

1 Q. Does the water produced by the utility meet the State and Federal
2 maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Does the utility monitor the organic contaminants listed in Section
5 62-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to
8 regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment?
9 A. No.
10 Q. Does the utility maintain the required chlorine residual or its
11 equivalent throughout the distribution system?
12 A. Yes.
13 Q. Are the plant and distribution systems in compliance with all the other
14 provisions of Chapter 62, Florida Administrative Code, not previously
15 mentioned?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. Has UWF's Yulee water facility been the subject of any Department of
18 Environmental Protection enforcement action within the past two years?
19 A. No.
20 Q. Do you have anything further to add?
21 A. No.
22
23
24
25