

July 28, 1998

The Florida Public Service commission:

I am deeply concerned about the hearing before you August 12, 1998. I received a letter from Florida Cities Water company concerning raising water rates for Fort Myers area.

They are seeking recovery of Environmental Litigation cost, imposed for bringing certain repairs up to your standards. They seem to have missed your deadline on this, and was fined by you. It is my understanding they want to recover the cost of the fine.

It seems to me that it was not the customers fault for this to happen. It was an internal matter for the water company. They should be made to stand the penalty cost out of their profit. What justification can be given for passing this fine of financial liability to the customers when the responsibility clearly lies with Florida Cities Water Company ?

Learn to live within your means as we senior citizens do on a fixed income. County taxes are said to be going up next year..... Fire, Schools, Police etc. Again, why should we be held financial hostages for public corporate mistakes ?

I suppose Tallahassee is the place to hold meetings. However, most senior citizens cannot be there due to seasonal occupancy. My recommendation is to have at least one hearing at the local level on a date that would precipitate greater participation.

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

The water rates are somewhat fair. We just got notice recently that a rate was given to the water company. Why is it that every time water rates increase, the sewer rates also increase ? Washing cars, watering lawns and all outdoor water use goes back into the ground and does not pass through the sewage plants. I strongly encourage you not to give in to the water company and allow this increase in our water rates.

I am 68 and my wife is 69. We are year round residents of Florida, and have been for some time. It seems that every thing increases in price and never goes down. We pay our taxes every year and spend our money in Florida. For a change give us all a BREAK and veto this water increase.

Sincerely,


George W. McElfish

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