

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

VOTE SHEET

DECEMBER 15, 1998

RE: DOCKET NO. 950495-WS - Application for rate increase and increase in service availability charges by Southern States Utilities, Inc. for Orange-Osceola Utilities, Inc. in Osceola County, and in Bradford, Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Duval, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Volusia, and Washington Counties.

Issue 1: In light of the Commission's vote on remand at the November 13, 1998, special agenda conference, what is the appropriate action that should be taken with regard to surcharges?

Recommendation: Recovery of the Category I surcharges should be accomplished through a one-time charge to the customers who were customers during the period of time in which the incorrect rates were in place. This should be accomplished by calculating a per-month base facility surcharge to be applied to each ERC. This base facility surcharge should be applied, by meter size, to affected customers for the period of time they were utility customers. In this way, the surcharges would be apportioned in such a manner that each affected customer would be held responsible for his or her pro-rata share. ~~Further, the utility should recover the amount of revenue deficiencies due to customer attrition from the affected customers~~

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: Full Commission

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING

*[Handwritten signatures under MAJORITY: Susan J. Clark, J. Henry Dearo, and Joe Garcia]*

*[Handwritten signature under DISSENTING with circled number 1]*

REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

*Commissioner Johnson dissented on Issue 1.*

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~~left remaining on Florida Water's systems as of the date of Category I rate implementation who were customers during the period of time in which the incorrect rates were in place. If protested, this should be made an issue in the scheduled remand hearing. The utility should be directed to provide the calculations of the surcharges to be applied to the affected customers within 7 days of the vote:~~

*30 days of the effective date of the new rates\**

**MODIFIED**

*Issue is to be treated as proposed agency action. Surcharge will be collected over 6-month period (with finance charges added) for combination water/wastewater customers. Company will use best judgment concerning what is reasonable minimum to collect. After reasonable collection efforts, Company will report to PSC on uncollectible amount. PSC will provide a mechanism to recover the uncollectible amount.*

Issue 2: Should Florida Water Services Corporation be required to place the Category I rates in effect on a prospective basis and what are the appropriate rates?

Recommendation: Yes. Florida Water Services Corporation should be required to place the Category I rates in effect on a prospective basis as shown on Water Schedule No. 7 and Wastewater No. 7. The utility should submit a proposed notice and tariffs consistent with the Commission's decision for Staff's approval within 7 days of the vote. The approved rates should be effective for service rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets pursuant to 25-30.475(1), Florida Administrative Code. The rates should not be implemented until proper notice has been received by the customers. The utility should provide proof of the date notice was given within 10 days after the date of notice.

**APPROVED**

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Issue 3: If the Commission approves immediate surcharges relating to Category I items, what tariffs and notice should be required?

Recommendation: If the Commission approves immediate surcharges relating to Category I items, Florida Water Services Corporation should be required to submit tariffs which reflect the Commission's decision. The tariffs should contain either the amount of the monthly base facility surcharge or any alternate methodology the Commission may approve. The utility should submit a proposed notice consistent with the Commission's decision for Staff's approval within ~~7 days of the vote~~. The approved surcharges should be effective for service rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheets pursuant to 25-30.475(1), Florida Administrative Code. The surcharges should not be implemented until proper notice has been received by the customers. The utility should provide proof of the date notice was given within 10 days after the date of notice.

~~APPROVED~~

Modified

*30 days of the effective date of the new rates \**

*\* RAR note: Correction made based on advice of staff and review of audiotape. kf 1/4/99*

Issue 4: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: No. The docket should remain open pending final disposition of the remand.

**APPROVED**