

STATE OF FLORIDA

Commissioners:
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DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
NOREEN S. DAVIS
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

March 10, 2000

Mr. Vincent Formosa
President & General Manager
Useppa Island Utilities, Inc.
P.O. Box 640
Bokeelia, Florida 33922

Re: Docket No. 000090-SU, Petition of Useppa Island Utilities, Inc. to Increase Wastewater Rates in Lee County.

Dear Mr. Formosa:

This will confirm that Commission Staff will hold a customer meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2000. The location of the meeting will be the Collier Inn Conference Facility on Useppa Island. We ask that, if at all possible, you or another knowledgeable representative of the utility attend the meeting in order to answer customer questions. Seating should be arranged so that the Florida Public Service Commission staff are at the front of the room on an elevated platform in front of the audience. If a table is used, a modesty skirt should cover the front and sides. We anticipate six staff members will be conducting the meeting. An additional table facing the staff should be provided for customers who wish to offer comments regarding the quality of service the utility provides, the proposed rate increase, and other issues.

The original customer meeting notice is enclosed. Please note that the date has been left blank so that you can fill in the date that the notice is sent to the customers. The customers must have at least fourteen days' notice of the meeting, calculated from the day that they receive the notice. Please furnish me with a copy of the notice, as reproduced at the time it is distributed to your customers, together with a cover letter indicating the exact date(s) on which the notice was mailed or otherwise delivered to the customers.

Please have a copy of the utility's filing available for review by all interested persons at the administrative offices of Useppa Inn and Dock Company, during its regular hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), Monday - Friday.

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DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

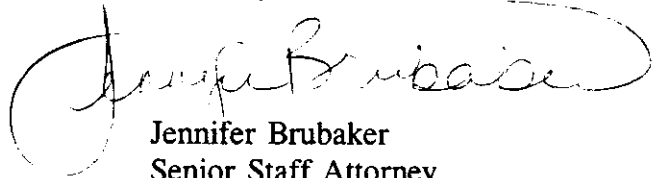
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Mr. Vincent Formosa
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 413-6228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Brubaker".

Jennifer Brubaker
Senior Staff Attorney

JB/rc

Enclosure

cc: Office of Public Counsel
Division of Consumer Affairs
Division of Records and Reporting (000090-SU)
Division of Water and Wastewater (Willis, Rendell, Davis, Wetherington, Casey)

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETINGS
TO THE CUSTOMERS OF USEPPA ISLAND UTILITY, INC.

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 000090-SU

APPLICATION OF USEPPA ISLAND UTILITY, INC.

FOR A LIMITED PROCEEDING TO INCREASE WASTEWATER RATES

IN LEE COUNTY

Issued:

Notice is hereby given that the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission will conduct a customer meeting to discuss the petition of Useppa Island Utility, Inc. (Useppa Island or utility) for a limited proceeding to increase wastewater rates in Lee County. The meeting will be held at the following time and place:

2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2000
Collier Inn Conference Facility
Useppa Island, Florida

All persons who wish to comment are urged to be present at the beginning of the meeting, since the meeting may be adjourned early if no customers are present. The meeting will begin as scheduled and will continue until all the customers have been heard.

Any person requiring some accommodation at the customer meeting(s) because of a physical impairment should call the Division of Records and Reporting at (850)413-6770 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting(s). Any person who is hearing or speech impaired should contact the Florida Public Service Commission by using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to give customers and other interested persons an opportunity to offer comments to the Public Service Commission Staff regarding the quality of service the utility provides, the proposed rate increase, and to ask questions and comment on the utility requested rates included in this notice

as well as other issues. Staff members will summarize Useppa Island's proposed filing, the preliminary work accomplished, and answer questions to the extent possible. A representative from the utility has also been invited to respond to questions.

At the beginning of the meeting, procedures will be established for the order of comments. The Public Service Commission Staff will have sign-up sheets, and customers will be called to speak in the order that they sign-up. Public Service Commission Staff will be available to coordinate customers' comments and to assist members of the public.

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to staff may do so at the meetings, orally or in writing. Written comments may also be sent to the Commission at the address given at the end of this notice. Your letter will be placed in the correspondence file of this docket. You may also submit comments through the Public Service Commission's toll-free facsimile line at 1-800-511-0809.

BACKGROUND

Useppa Island Utility, Inc. is a class C water and wastewater utility serving 143 water and wastewater customers in Lee County. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection mandated that Useppa Island increase its wastewater treatment facilities to meet current as well as all future demand. The utility completed this work on January 25, 2000, and filed a petition to increase wastewater rates to recover the costs of this required upgrade.

According to the utility's 1998 annual report filed with the Commission, the utility's 1998 wastewater revenues were \$106,078 and its adjusted wastewater operating expenses were \$121,489, resulting in a net operating loss of (\$15,411) for the wastewater system.

CURRENT AND REQUESTED RATES AND CHARGES

Staff has compiled the following rates and charges for the purpose of discussion at the customer meeting. These rates are preliminary and subject to change based on information gathered at the customer meeting, further staff review, and the final decision by the Commissioners. The utility's current and requested rates and charges, as filed, are as follows:

RESIDENTIAL WASTEWATER RATES

Base Facility Charge	Existing	Requested
Meter Size	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>
All meter sizes	\$ 23.29	\$ 28.53

RESIDENTIAL WASTEWATER RATES (continued)

	<u>Existing Rate</u>	<u>Requested Rate</u>
Gallonge Charge Per 1,000 gallons	\$ 6.42	\$ 7.83

(6,000 gallon max. per month)

GENERAL SERVICE WASTEWATER RATES

Base Facility Charge <u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Existing Rate</u>	<u>Requested Monthly Rate</u>
5/8" x 3/4"	\$ 23.29	\$ 28.53
3/4"	34.94	
1"	58.23	
1-1/2"	116.46	
2"	186.34	
3"	372.67	
4"	582.30	
6"	1,164.61	

Gallonge Charge Per 1,000 gallons (No Maximum)	\$ 7.70	\$ 9.39
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STAFF REPORTS AND UTILITY APPLICATION

The results of staff's preliminary investigation are derived from the utility's filing dated January 20, 2000. Copies of this filing may be examined by interested members of the public at the administrative offices of Useppa Inn and Dock Company, during its regular hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), Monday - Friday.

PROCEDURES AFTER CUSTOMER MEETINGS

After the meetings, Public Service Commission Staff will prepare a recommendation which is scheduled to be submitted to the Public Service Commission on May 18, 2000. The Public Service Commission will then vote on staff's recommendation at its June 6, 2000 agenda conference. The Commission will thereafter issue a proposed agency action (PAA) order containing rates which may be different from those contained in staff's final recommendation. Substantially affected persons have 21 days from the date the PAA order is issued to protest the Commission's proposed agency action order. If no timely protest is received, a consummating order will be issued. Five to ten customers or persons who attend the meeting and who wish to receive a copy of the recommendation and the order should so indicate at the meeting. Those individuals are expected

to distribute the information in the recommendation and the order to other customers. Anyone who is unable to attend and who wishes to obtain a copy of the recommendation or the order may do so in writing to the Commission at the address at the end of this notice.

HOW TO CONTACT THE COMMISSION

Written comments regarding the utility and the proposed rates, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for this case, may be directed to this address:

Director, Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

All correspondence should refer to "Docket No. 000090-SU, Useppa Island Utility, Inc."

If you wish to contact the Commission regarding complaints about service, you may call the Commission's Division of Consumer Affairs at the following toll-free number: 1-800-342-3552.

This notice was prepared by Commission Staff for distribution by the utility to its customers.