

-State of Florida



Public Service Commission

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RECORDS AND REPORTING

DATE: MARCH 16, 2000

TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING (BAYÓ)

FROM: DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER (KAPROTH) *KK WBM*
DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (CHRISTENSEN) *R* *of sma*

RE: DOCKET NO. 000248-WS - TARIFF REVISION FOR PAYMENT OF CHARGES FOR RECONNECTION, REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXTRA EXPENSES, AND PAYMENT OF CHARGES FOR OFF-HOUR SERVICE CONNECTION IN MARTIN COUNTY BY INDIANTOWN COMPANY, INC.

COUNTY: MARTIN

AGENDA: 03/28/00 - REGULAR AGENDA - DECISION ON SUSPENSION OF CHARGES - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: 60-DAY SUSPENSION DATE: APRIL 11, 2000

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\WAW\WP\00248.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

Indiantown Company, Inc. (Indiantown or utility) is a Class B water and wastewater utility, providing service to approximately 1,719 water and 1587 wastewater customers in Martin County. According to its 1998 Annual Report, the utility recorded water revenues of \$471,480 and wastewater revenues of \$523,998 with expenses of \$647,774 and \$810,265, respectively. The utility's service area is located in a water use caution area in the South Florida Water Management District.

On February 11, 2000, Indiantown filed an application for approval of a new service availability tariff which requires that payments be made in person at the service company's business office during regular business hours. On February 23, 2000, the utility

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revised its tariff application to delete the premises visit charge (in lieu of disconnection).

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the utility's proposed tariff to require payments be made in person at the service company's business office during regular business hours and the deletion of the premises visit charge from its current tariff be suspended?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes, the utility's proposed tariff to require that payments be made in person at the service company's business office during regular business hours before the disconnection of utility services and the deletion of the premises visit charge (in lieu of disconnection) should be suspended pending a further investigation by staff. (KAPROTH, CHRISTENSEN)

STAFF ANALYSIS: On February 11, 2000, Indiantown filed an application for approval of a new service availability tariff which states that:

PAYMENT OF CHARGES Payment of charges for reconnection, reimbursement for extra expenses and payment of charges for off hour service connection, as described in Rule Numbers 19.0, 20.0 and 21.1 of this tariff, must be made in person at the Service Company's Business office during regular business hours, or must be mailed and received at the business office in advance of the work to be done. Payments will not be accepted by personnel in the field or by office personnel at a location outside of the Service Company's business office."

On February 23, 2000, the utility revised its tariff application to delete the premises visit charge (in lieu of disconnection). The premises visit states as follows:

"This charge would be levied when a service representative visits a premises for the purpose of discontinuing service for nonpayment of a due and collectible bill and does not discontinue service because the customer pays the service representative or otherwise makes satisfactory arrangements to pay the bill."

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Pursuant to Section 367.091(5), Florida Statutes, the tariff sheets proposed by the utility shall become effective within sixty (60) days after filing, unless the Commission votes to withhold consent to the operation of any or all portions of the new rate schedules, giving a reason or statement of good cause for withholding its consent. In addition, Section 367.091(2), Florida Statutes, states that the utility rates, charges, and customer service policies must be contained in a tariff approved by and on file with the Commission. Moreover, Section 367.101, Florida Statutes, states that "the [C]ommission shall, upon request or upon its own motion, investigate agreements or proposals for charges and conditions for service availability".

Staff has reviewed the filing and has considered the utility's proposed changes. However, staff believes it is reasonable and necessary to require further amplification and explanation of the proposals and to require production of corroborative information, if necessary. Therefore, staff recommends that the proposed service availability tariff and the deletion of the premises visit charge (in lieu of disconnection) from its current tariff should be suspended.

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ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: No, This docket should remain open pending further investigation and recommendation on whether the tariff filing should be approved. (CHRISTENSEN)

STAFF ANALYSIS: This docket should remain open in order for staff to conclude its investigation and for the Commission to decide whether to approve the tariff filing.