



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Billie Messer
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission

FROM: Michael D. McDaniel, Growth Management Administrator *MDM*

RE: Public Service Commission Utilities Expansion Application
Aquasource Utility, Inc., Highlands County, PSC Docket No. 001585-WU

DATE: November 28, 2000

Attached for your consideration is the Department's review of the Aquasource Utility, Inc.'s application for an amended certificate to expand the service area in a section of Highlands County, Florida. The Department has reviewed the application for consistency with the applicable local government comprehensive plan, in this case Highlands County. The Department has no objections to the application.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in this decision-making process.

MDM/mfm

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Florida Public Service Commission
Division of Regulatory Oversight

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MEMORANDUM

To: Charlie Gauthier, Chief, Bureau of Local Planning *CG*
Through: Mike McDaniel, Growth Management Administrator *MDM*
From: Mary Frances Mullins, Planner IV
Date: November 14, 2000
Subject: Public Service Commission Utilities Expansion Application
Aquasource Utility, Inc.; Highlands Co.;
PSC Docket No. 001585-WU

Comments due to PSC **November 30, 2000**

Summary

Aquasource Utility, Inc. (Aquasource) has applied to the Public Service Commission for an amended certificate to expand its Water Facilities service area in Highlands County, Florida. Aquasource (formerly Lake Josephine Heights Water System) currently provides potable water to areas in western Highlands County, approximately midway between Sebring and Lake Placid, including in the expansion area.

Background

Aquasource purchased the Lake Josephine System in June, 1999. This application is for amendment of Water Certificate No. 424-W to add territory to its service area, pursuant to the PSC's Order No. PSC-00-1389-PAA-WU to correct the discrepancy between the Utility's certificated service area and that which it is actually serving. The Utility is already serving the area to be added to the Certificate. Many of the lands within the existing and expanded service area is designated on the County's Future Land Use Map as Agricultural (1 du/5ac). There are also lands included that are designated as Medium and High Density Residential and Vested Subdivision. Much of the eastern part of the lands being added is on or near U.S. Hwy. 27.

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Conclusion and Recommendation

The proposed and existing service territory of Aquasource utility, Inc., on its face, would not appear to be consistent with the low density land uses designated by the Highlands County comprehensive plan. The County planning staff said that, even though it is designated for Agricultural land use, the area is mostly vested subdivisions and that the area is appropriate for development. In addition, the County indicated that there is ground water contamination on The Ridge which requires residents to either use central water facilities or install an expensive treatment system for on-site wells. In addition, the area is already being served by the water utility; therefore, there must be great enough a population that makes the service financially feasible. Staff does not recommend any objections to the application.

Note: There appears to be a discrepancy in the legal description between the expanded service territory and the Notice of Application (Range 28 East vs. Range 29 East). This review is based on the service area all being in Range 29 East, which is the location of the original territory.