

LILA A. JABER  
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF FLORIDA



CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
(850) 413-6044

Public Service Commission

March 11, 2002

Mr. Martin S. Friedman  
Rose, Sundstrom & Bentley, LLP  
2548 Blairstone Pines Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

**Re: Docket No. 020071-WS, Request by Utilities, Inc. of Florida for Approval of File and Suspend Rate Increase in Marion, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas and Seminole Counties**

Dear Mr. Friedman:

We have received your letter dated February 26, 2002 (supplementing previous correspondence), requesting test year approval for Utilities, Inc. of Florida (UIF or utility). Your correspondence states that the utility is requesting to use a historical test year ended December 31, 2001, with pro forma adjustments. UIF is also requesting that it be allowed to file its minimum filing requirements (MFRs) on or before June 1, 2002. Your correspondence states that the utility intends to file five separate sets of MFRs, one for each county where systems are located. In your correspondence, you state that the utility intends to seek interim rate relief using the year ended December 31, 2001 as a test year. Further, you state that the utility does not intend to file its application using the Proposed Agency Action (PAA) provision in Section 367.081(8), Florida Statutes. The utility's test year request as outlined above is hereby approved. You should also be aware that prefiled direct testimony must be filed with the MFRs if you do not elect to request the PAA process.

For administrative purposes only, Docket No. 020071-WS has been assigned to the forthcoming case. Your petition will be deemed filed on the date that the Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services receives the complete petition, revised tariff sheets, the MFRs, testimony (if not requesting PAA), and the filing fee. To minimize any regulatory lag that may occur, we request that you file the above no later than June 30, 2002. Because of the difficulty in scheduling hearing dates it is not anticipated that an extension of this filing date will be granted.

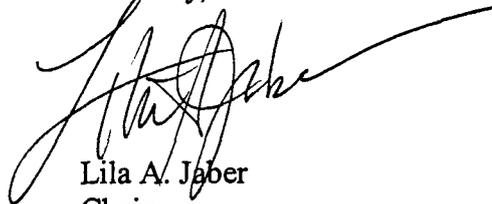
Under the file and suspend law, the time period for processing the request will begin on the date that all of the required data is completely filed. If not complete, the official filing date will be the date the complete corrections to the deficiencies are filed. The utility is instructed to file all information with its original filing that it wishes the Commission to consider. Because of the time limitations contained in Section 367.081, Florida Statutes, and the lengthy auditing and investigation

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required, there is a possibility that information filed at a later time will not be considered. Lastly, the utility should be prepared to justify its requested test year operation and maintenance expenses, particularly those which have increased above the level of customer growth and inflation from those approved for the December 31, 1992 test year in Docket No. 930826-WS and the December 31, 1993 test year in Docket No. 940917-WS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lila A. Jaber', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lila A. Jaber  
Chairman

LAJ:jbk

cc: Dr. Mary Bane, Executive Director  
Division of The Commission Clerk & Administrative Services  
Division of Economic Regulation (Willis, Merchant, Kyle)  
Office of the General Counsel (Gervasi, Espinoza)  
Division of Auditing and Safety (Vandiver)