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DIVISION OF ECONOMIC REGULATION
(850) 413-6900

Public Service Commission

March 15, 2002

Mr. F. Marshall Deterding
Rose Sundstrum & Bentley, LLP
2548 Blairstone Pines Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Ms. Gabriele Umbel, General Manager
Sun Communities Finance LLC d/b/a Water Oak Utility
106 Evergreen Lane
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Re: Docket No. 010616-WS - Complaint by Dr. William F. Weir against Sun Communities Finance, LLC d/b/a Water Oak Utility

Dear Mr. Deterding & Ms. Umbel:

We have deferred this docket from the scheduled March 19, 2002 Agenda Conference in order to obtain additional information, as well as, attempt to reach a settlement. The revised scheduled Agenda Conference is May 21, 2002.

Mr. Weir, along with the other part-time residents, would offer either of the following settlement proposals:

1. Install a separate irrigation meter on the existing water service line, or behind the existing water meter as a deduct meter. This would involve a meter installation fee of \$100. This may, or may not, require an additional base facility charge, depending on the size of the service line and the location of the irrigation meter.

2. Submit a signed affidavit which indicates the time away from residence. The wastewater vacation rate would only apply for **full** billing periods when the customers are away. Therefore, if there is a partial month, the regular wastewater charges would apply. Furthermore, if there is a single instance of abuse by a customer, they would no longer be eligible for a wastewater vacation rate.

In order to fully evaluate these proposals of resolution, staff would like to request additional information. Staff believes that the installation of a deduct irrigation meter behind the existing water

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DOCUMENT NUMBER 03047 MAR 15 2002 FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Mr. F. Marshall Deterding
Page 2
March 13, 2002

meter is a reasonable resolution and the simplest in terms of implementation. I understand, through my telephone conversation with Ms. Umble, that the biggest obstacle would be the billing procedures. Therefore, please provide the following information:

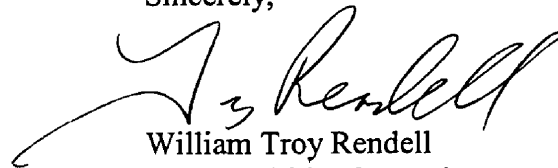
- a. The estimated dollar amount of computer programming costs to institute a billing program to incorporate irrigation "deduct" meter readings for the purpose of wastewater billing.
- b. Whether the utility would be opposed to this irrigation meter arrangement if these additional costs were considered in staff's analysis in Docket No. 010087-WS, the reuse docket.
- c. The size of the service lines for a typical residential residences. (i.e. 5/8"; 3/4"; 1"; etc.) Also provide the size of the service line at Dr. Weir's residence.
- d. Provide a copy of a residential water and wastewater bill. This should include meter reading, billing date, water service charge, and wastewater service charge.
- e. Whether there is a general service customer with a separate meter installed on a swimming pool which is only billed for water service. If so, how this is accomplished.
- f. Whether there is a general service customer with a separate meter installed on an irrigation system which is only billed for water service? If so, how this is accomplished.
- g. Whether there are any other reasons, besides the billing program, why the utility is requiring a separate irrigation service line.
- h. Whether the utility would be opposed to placing an irrigation deduct meter behind the existing potable water meter in order to avoid any additional demand being placed upon the water system.

Further, in the utility's letter dated November 28, 2000, to Dr. Weir, it was indicated that the meter installation fee was \$175. However, the utility's water tariff First Revised Sheet No. 17.0, indicates a Commission approved charge of \$100.00. Please provide an explanation as to why a different charge was presented.

Mr. F. Marshall Deterding
Page 3
March 13, 2002

Since this docket is scheduled to go to the May 21, 2002 Agenda Conference, please provide your responses **no later than** March 31, 2002, pursuant to Rule 25-30.335, Florida Administrative Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Rendell", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

William Troy Rendell
Public Utilities Supervisor

cc: Division of Economic Regulation (Costner, Biggins, Willis)
Office of the General Counsel (Espinoza)
~~D~~Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Service (Dkt. No. 010616-WS)
Dr. Weir