

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

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COMMISSION CLERK

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DATE: December 21, 2005

TO: Director, Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services (Bayó)

FROM: Division of Economic Regulation (Edwards, Hudson, Rendell, Revell)
Office of the General Counsel (Jaeger)

Handwritten initials and signatures: SH, E, M, JRT, MAH

RE: Docket No. 050563-WU – Application for increase in water rates in Polk County by Park Water Company Inc.
County: Polk

AGENDA: 01/05/06 – Regular Agenda – Decision on Suspension of Rate Increase – Interested Persons May Participate

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

PREHEARING OFFICER: Arriaga

CRITICAL DATES: 01/20/06 (60-Day Suspension Date)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: None

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\ECR\WP\050563.RCM.DOC

Case Background

Park Water Company Inc. (Park Water or the utility) is a Class B utility providing water service to approximately 783 customers in Polk County. Water rates were last established for this utility by Order No. PSC-00-1774-PAA-SU, issued September 27, 2000, in Docket No. 991627-SU, In re: Application for rate increase in Polk County by Park Water Company Inc. Consummating Order No. PSC-00-1957-CO-WU, issued October 23, 2000, made Order No. PSC-00-1774-PAA-SU final and effective.

On November 21, 2005, Park Water filed the Application for Rate Increase at issue in the instant docket. After review of the Minimum Filing Requirements (MFRs), staff determined

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Docket No. 050563-WU
Date: December 21, 2005

that the MFRs contained a large number of deficiencies that will require extensive revisions by the utility. These revisions will not be received by staff until after the statutory 60-day limit to suspend the requested rate increase; therefore, the official filing date has not been established. The utility requested that the application be processed using the Proposed Agency Action (PAA) procedure and did not request interim rates. The test year established for final rates is the historical twelve-month period ended December 31, 2004.

The utility requested final rates designed to generate annual water revenues of \$839,082. This represents a revenue increase of \$600,000 (250.96%).

This recommendation addresses the suspension of Park Water's requested rate increase. The Commission has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 367.081, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Discussion of Issues

Issue 1: Should the utility's proposed final water rate increase be suspended?

Recommendation: Yes. Park Water's proposed final water rate increase should be suspended.
(Revell)

Staff Analysis: Section 367.081(6), F.S. , provides that the Commission may, for good cause, withhold consent to the implementation of the requested rates by a vote to that effect within 60 days after the date the rate request is filed. Further, Section 367.081(8), F.S., permits the proposed rates to go into effect (secured and subject to refund) at the expiration of five months from the official date of filing if: (1) the Commission has not acted upon the requested rate increase; or (2) if the Commission's PAA action is protested by a party other than the utility.

Staff has reviewed the filing and has considered the information filed in support of the rate application and the proposed final rates. Staff recommends that it is necessary to require further investigation of this information, including on-site investigations by staff accountants and engineers. Based on the foregoing, staff recommends that it is appropriate to suspend the utility's proposed rate increase.

Docket No. 050563-WU
Date: December 21, 2005

Issue 2: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: No. The docket should remain open pending the Commission's final action on the utility's requested rate increase. (Revell, Jaeger)

Staff Analysis: The docket should remain open pending the Commission's final action on the utility's requested rate increase.