



Alturas Utilities, LLC
P.O. BOX 10186
BROOKSVILLE, FL. 34603
352-302-7406

March 31, 2010

Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL. 32399

RECEIVED-FPSC
10 APR -5 AM 10:18
COMMISSION
CLERK

RE: Docket # 090477

Dear Commission Clerk:

Enclosed Please find a copy of the customer notice sent to the customers of Alturas Utilities, LLC on March 31, 210.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Smallridge
Alturas Utilities, LLC.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
ALTURAS UTILITIES,LLC. P.O. BOX 10186 BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603
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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETING
TO THE CUSTOMERS OF ALTURAS UTILITIES, L.C.C.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
10 APR -5 AM 7:41

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 090477-WU

APPLICATION OF ALTURAS UTILITIES, L.C.C.

FOR A STAFF-ASSISTED RATE CASE IN

POLK COUNTY

Issued: March 31, 2010

Notice is hereby given that the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission will conduct a customer meeting to discuss the application of Alturas Utilities, L.L.C. (Alturas or Utility) for a staff-assisted rate case in Polk County to cover increasing costs and to earn a fair rate of return on its investment. The meeting will be held at the following time and place:

6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 14, 2010
Bartow Civic Center Game Room
2250 S. Floral Ave.
Bartow, Florida 33820

All persons who wish to comment are urged to be present at the beginning of the meeting, since the meeting may be adjourned early if no customers are present. One or more of the Commissioners of the Florida Public Service Commission may attend and participate in this meeting. The meeting will begin as scheduled and will continue until all the customers have been heard.

If a named storm or other disaster requires cancellation of the meeting, Commission staff will attempt to give timely direct notice to the parties. Notice of cancellation of the meeting will also be provided on the Commission's website (<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/>) under the Hot Topics link found on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Office of the General Counsel at (850) 413-6199.

Any person requiring some accommodation at the customer meeting because of a physical impairment should call the Office of Commission Clerk at (850)413-6770 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting. Any person who is hearing or speech impaired should

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

contact the Florida Public Service Commission by using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to give customers and other interested persons an opportunity to offer comments to the Public Service Commission Staff regarding the quality of service the Utility provides, the proposed rate increase, and to ask questions and comment on staff's preliminary rates included in this notice as well as other issues. Staff members will summarize the Utility's proposed filing; the preliminary work accomplished, and answer questions to the extent possible. A representative from the Utility has also been invited to respond to questions.

At the beginning of the meeting, procedures will be established for the order of comments. The Public Service Commission staff will have sign-up sheets, and customers will be called to speak in the order that they sign-up. Public Service Commission staff will be available to coordinate customers' comments and to assist members of the public.

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to staff may do so at the meetings, orally or in writing. Written comments may also be sent to the Commission at the address given at the end of this notice. Your letter will be placed in the correspondence file of this docket. You may also submit comments through the Public Service Commission's toll-free facsimile line at 1-800-511-0809.

BACKGROUND

Alturas Utilities, L.L.C. (Alturas or Utility) is a Class C water utility serving approximately 76 water customers in Polk County. Alturas is located in the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). For 2008, the Utility reported operating revenues of \$19,488 and an operating loss of \$16,535.

Alturas has been under Commission jurisdiction since March 21, 2005, when it was granted a transfer of a portion of Keen Sales, Rentals and Utilities territory and was issued certificate No. 628-W. On December 12, 2009, Alturas applied for a staff-assisted rate case (SARC). The Commission last established rate base for this Utility in 2005.

Staff has audited the Alturas' records for compliance with Commission rules and orders, and examined all components necessary for rate setting. The staff engineer has also conducted a field investigation, which included a visual inspection of the water and wastewater facilities along with the service area. The Utility's operating expenses, maps, files, and rate application were also reviewed to determine reasonableness of maintenance expenses, regulatory compliance, Alturas' plant in service, and quality of service. Staff has selected a historical test year ended October 31, 2009.

CURRENT AND PRELIMINARY RATES AND CHARGES

Staff has compiled the following rates and charges for the purpose of discussion at the customer meeting. These rates are preliminary and subject to change based on information gathered at the customer meeting, further staff review, and the final decision by the Commissioners. The Commission will be reviewing the Utility's service availability charges in the pending case and may adjust those charges as well. The Utility's current and staff's preliminary rates and charges are as follows:

MONTHLY WATER RATES

<u>RESIDENTIAL AND GENERAL SERVICE BASE FACILITY CHARGE:</u>	<u>EXISTING RATES</u>	<u>PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDED RATES</u>
<u>General and Residential Service</u>		
<u>Base Facility Charge by Meter Size:</u>		
5/8"X3/4"	\$11.00	\$12.41
3/4"	\$16.50	\$20.40
1"	\$27.50	\$31.03
1-1/2"	\$55.00	\$62.05
2"	\$88.00	\$99.28
3"	\$176.00	\$198.56
4"	\$275.00	\$310.25
6"	\$550.00	\$620.50
<u>Residential Gallonage Charge</u>		
Per 1,000 gallons	\$3.25	\$0.00
Per 1,000 gallons, 0-5,000 gallons	\$0.00	\$5.83
Per 1,000 gallons, 5,000-7,000 gallons	\$0.00	\$8.43
Per 1,000 gallons, above 7,000 gallons	\$0.00	\$10.54
<u>General Service Gallonage Charge</u>		
Per 1,000 gallons	\$3.25	\$7.04
<u>Typical Residential 5/8" x 3/4" Meter Bill</u>		
<u>Comparison</u>		
3,000 Gallons	\$20.75	\$29.90
5,000 Gallons	\$27.25	\$41.56
10,000 Gallons	\$43.50	\$90.04

STAFF REPORTS AND UTILITY APPLICATION

The results of staff's preliminary investigation are contained in a staff report dated March 17, 2009. Copies of the report and the Utility's application may be examined by interested members of the public from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the following location:

Bartow Civic Center
2250 S. Floral Ave.
Bartow, Florida 33820

UTILITY CONTACT INFORMATION

Alturas Utilities, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 10186
Brooksville, FL 34603
(352) 302-7406
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PROCEDURES AFTER CUSTOMER MEETINGS

After the meeting, the Public Service Commission staff will prepare a recommendation which is scheduled to be filed with the Public Service Commission on May 19, 2010. The Public Service Commission will then vote on staff's recommendation at its June 1, 2010 agenda conference. The Commission will thereafter issue a proposed agency action (PAA) order containing rates which may be different from those contained in staff's final recommendation. Substantially affected persons have 21 days from the date the PAA order is issued to file a protest to the order. Five to ten customers or persons who attend the meeting and who wish to receive a copy of the recommendation and the order should so indicate at the meeting. Those individuals are expected to distribute the information in the recommendation and the order to other customers. Anyone who is unable to attend and who wishes to obtain a copy of the recommendation or the order may do so by requesting in writing to the Commission at the address at the end of this notice. Also, detailed docket information is available on the PSC website at www.floridapsc.com. You may obtain a copy of the recommendation and the order once they are filed by clicking on **Dockets and Filings/Dockets** and then typing on the docket number, **090477**

HOW TO CONTACT THE COMMISSION

Written comments regarding the Utility and the proposed rates, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for this case, may be directed to this address:

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

All correspondence should refer to "Docket No. 090477-WU, Alturas Utilities, L.L.C.".

If you wish to contact the Commission regarding complaints about service, you may call the Commission's Division of Regulatory Compliance and Consumer Assistance at the following toll-free number: 1-800-342-3552.

This notice was prepared by Commission staff for distribution by the Utility to its customers.