Diamond Williams

From:

Susan Sherman [Susan.Sherman@arlaw.com]

Sent:

Tuesday, September 27, 2011 4:51 PM

To:

Filings@psc.state.fl.us

Cc:

bruce.may@hklaw.com; kajoyce@aquaamerica.com; kelly.jr@leg.state.fl.us;

CHRISTENSEN.PATTY@leg.state.fl.us; Rlloyd1@aol.com; wdco@comcast.net; David Bernstein;

Kenneth Curtin; dbussey@hotmail.com; Kelly.Sullivan.Woods@gmail.com; Ralph Jaeger;

jrichards@pascocountyfl.net; kkurz@yescommunities.com; Andrew McBride;

cecilia_bradley@oag.state.fl.us

Subject:

AQUA UTILITIES FLORIDA, INC. RATE ACTION (Docket. No. 100330-WS): MOTION FOR

INVESTIGATION, ENTRY OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDER, etc.

Attachments: 2934_001.pdf

Electronic Filing

Person Responsible for this electronic filing: a.

> David S. Bernstein, Esq. Adams and Reese LLP 150 Second Avenue North, Suite 1700 St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 Direct: (727) 502-8215

E-Fax: (727) 502-8915 David.Bernstein@arlaw.com

Docket No. 100330-WS b.

> In Re: Application for increase in water/wastewater rates in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, and Washington Counties by Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc.

- Document being filed on behalf of YES COMPANIES, LLC d/b/a ARREDONDO C. **FARMS**
- d. There are a total of 12 pages
- The document attached for electronic filing is Intervener, YES Companies, LLC e. d/b/a Arredondo Farms', Motion for Investigation, Entry of Cease and Desist Order, and Entry of Order to Show Cause why Sanctions Should Not Be Imposed Against Petitioner, Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., for Improperly Retaliating Against Customers Who Testified at the September 12, 2011, Customer Service Hearing in Gainesville, Florida,

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

Sue

Susan G. Sherman, CP, FRP **Certified Paralegal** Adams and Reese LLP

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

06993 SEP 27 =

150 Second Avenue North, Suite 1700

St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Direct: (727) 502-8243 E-Fax: (727) 502-8943 Main: (727) 502-8200 Fax: (727) 502-8282

Email: <u>susan.sherman@arlaw.com</u>
Web Site: <u>www.adamsandreese.com</u>

ADAMS AND REESE LLP

Baton Rouge | Birmingham | Houston | Jackson | Memphis | Mobile | Nashville | New Orleans | Sarasota | St. Petersburg | Tampa | Washington, D.C.

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for increase in water/wastewater Rates in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Lee Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, and Washington Counties by Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc.

Docket No. 100330-WS

Filed: September 27, 2011

MOTION FOR INVESTIGATION, ENTRY OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDER, AND ENTRY OF ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY SANCTIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED AGAINST PETITIONER, AQUA UTILITIES FLORIDA, INC.

FOR IMPROPERLY RETALIATING AGAINST CUSTOMERS WHO TESTIFIED AT THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 CUSTOMER SERVICE HEARING IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Intervener, YES Companies, LLC d/b/a Arredondo Farms ("YES"), by and through its undersigned counsel, files this its Motion for Investigation, Entry of Cease and Desist Order, and Entry of Order to Show Cause Why Sanctions Should not be Imposed against Petitioner, Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. ("Aqua") for Improperly Retaliating against Customers Who Testified at the September 12, 2011 Customer Service Hearing (the "Gainesville Hearing") in Gainesville, Florida (the "Motion"), and in support states:

- 1. On or about June 15, 2010, Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. ("Aqua") informed the Florida Public Service Commission ("PSC") of its intention to submit an application of general rate relief for its water and wastewater systems in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, and Washington Counties ("Rate Case").
- 2. As to Alachua County, the water and wastewater systems operated by Aqua and which are part of the Rate Case serve what is known as the Arredondo Farms

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

06993 SEP 27 =

Mobile Home Park ("Property"). The Property consists of 445 mobile home lots along with various common area elements and facilities. Aqua supplies the water and wastewater to all of the mobile home lots and the common area elements and facilities.

- 3. YES is the owner of the Property and also a customer of Aqua as to several lots at the Property.
- 4. On or about June 13, 2011, the PSC entered Order No. PSC-11-0256-PAA-WS (the "PAA Order"), in which the PSC approved, in part, water and wastewater increases for Aqua as sought in the Rate Action, including as to the Property.
- 5. In or about July, 2011, the Office of Public Counsel, among other parties, filed a petition contesting the PAA Order (the "Appeal").
- 6. As part of the Appeal, the PSC held customer service hearings at various locations across the State to take testimony from Aqua customers regarding the quality of water and service provided by Aqua and the affordability of Aqua's product.
- 7. At the Gainesville Hearing on September 12, 2011, dozens of residents of the Property, including Mr. Eugene Davis (Lot 46) and Ms. Regina Lewis (Lot 2639) gave testimony regarding the poor quality of water and service and predatory billing practices of Aqua. Additionally, YES representatives Mr. Jeremy Gray, Ms. Mallory Starling, and Mr. Mike Green also gave testimony in opposition to Aqua at this time.
- 8. Aqua was present at the Gainesville Hearing and took detailed notes of each witness's testimony and asked follow up questions to the witnesses as to specific bills referenced, addresses, and spelling of names.
- 9. Aqua represented to the PSC that it was taking these notes so that it could file rebuttal testimony in the Appeal. However, upon information and belief, Aqua was

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taking this information so that it could retaliate against the brave customers who spoke against it at the Gainesville Hearing, including, to wit:

- a. Mr. Eugene Davis, who had a heated exchange with the attorney for Aqua at the Gainesville Hearing, was retaliated against by Aqua by receiving a shut off notice from Aqua the day following the Gainesville Hearing. A copy of the pertinent documentation relating to this retaliation is attached hereto as Exhibit "A";
- b. Ms. Regina Lewis, a longtime Aqua customer who spoke at the Gainesville Hearing in opposition to Aqua, received a "Dear OCCUPANT" letter from Aqua the next day following the Gainesville Hearing which required her to "apply" for service from Aqua or face discontinued water service. A copy of the pertinent documentation relating to this retaliation is attached hereto as Exhibit "B";
- c. YES, a former customer of Aqua at Lot 2440 at the Property, was improperly sent to collections on September 22, 2011 on an account that Aqua knew was paid in full as of April, 2011. This followed the extremely damaging testimony of YES representatives Mr. Jeremy Gray, Ms. Mallory Starling, and Mr. Mike Green at the Gainesville Hearing. A copy of the pertinent documentation relating to this retaliation is attached hereto as Exhibit "C"; and
- d. Others who bravely testified in opposition to Aqua but have not yet come forward to reveal the retaliation they are suffering at the hands of Aqua.

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10. This retaliation and harassment by Aqua against witnesses to this Appeal is improper and unjust, makes a mockery of this proceeding, and should be immediately investigated by the PSC, ordered to cease, and sanctioned. See e.g. PSC-96-0624-FOF-WS, issued May 9, 1996, in Docket No. 950495-WS, In Re: Application for rate increase and increase in service availability charges by Southern States Utilities, Inc. for Orange-Osceola Utilities, Inc. in Osceola County, and in Bradford, Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Duval, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Volusia, and Washington Counties (holding that PSC has authority to sanction misconduct).

WHEREFORE, Intervener, YES Companies, LLC d/b/a Arredondo Farms, respectfully requests that this Public Service Commission grant its Motion, investigate the retaliation alleged herein, order Aqua to immediately cease and desist all retaliation against witnesses to this proceeding, enter an order to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed against Aqua, and any further relief that is necessary, just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS AND REESE, LLP David S. Bernstein, Esquire 150 Second Avenue North, Suite 1700 St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 Direct: (727) 502-8200

E-Fax: (727) 502-8282 David Bernstein@arlaw.com

By:

David S. Bernstein, Esq. FL Bar No. 454400 Andrew J. McBride, Esq. FL Bar No. 0067973 Attorneys for YES

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished via email (where provided below) and U.S. Mail on September 21, 2011 to:

Kimberley A. Joyce Aqua American, Inc., 762 West Lancaster Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 kajoyce@aquaamerica.com

Robert Lloyd P.O. Box 63 Captiva, Florida 33924 Rlloyd1@aol.com

D. Bruce May, Jr. P.O. Box 810, Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0810 bruce.may@hklaw.com

Patricia Christensen

J.R. Kelly Office of Public Counsel, c/o Florida Legislature, 111 W. Madison Street, Room 812, KELLY.JR@leg.state.fl.us

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400 Christensen.Patty@leg.state.fl.us

Joseph D. Richards Pasco County Attorney's Office 8731 Citizens Drive Suite 340 New Port Richey, Florida 34654 jrichards@pascocountyfl.net

David L. Bussey 4948 Britni Way Zephyrhills, Florida .33541 dbussey@hotmail.com

William Coakley 5934 Lake Osborne Drive Lantana, Florida 33461 wdco@comcast.net

Cecilia Bradley Office of the Attorney General The Capitol – PL101 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050 cecilia bradley@oag.state.fl.us

Kelly Sullivan 570 Osprey Lakes Circle Chuluota, Florida 32667 kelly.sullivan.woods@gmail.com

Ralph Jaeger Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd Tallahassee, Florida 32399 RJaeger@PSC.STATE.FL.US

Attorney



Account Number EUGENE DAVIS 7117 SW ARCHER RD LOT 46 **GAINESVILLE, FL 32608**

001410993 1049504

F123

ARREDONDO FARMS 1336568

Agua Utilities Florida, Inc. 762 W. LANCASTER AVENUE 3RYN MAWR, PA 19010-3489

Tel: 877.987.2782 Fax: 866.780.8301

eMail: custserv@aquaamerica.com

10 Day Shut Off Notice **COLLECTION DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS ARE** 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS

Date of Notice

Shut Off Date

Total Amount Due

1

September 13, 2011 September 26, 2011\$ 239.52

Your bill for \$ 239.52 is overdue. Because your bill is overdue, we will SHUT OFF service to:

7117 SW ARCHER RD LOT 46 after 8:00 AM on or after September 26, 2011.

To stop the shut off, you must do the following immediately:

1. Pay the total amount overdue. To pay by phone, call our toll free number at 866.269.2906 or go to the payment website at https://paynow7.speedpay.com/aqua/index.asp.

2. Contact Aqua at 877.987.2782 (Select Collections) to let us know that you made a payment, to make a payment arrangement, or to dispute the overdue bill. You can also contact Aqua at our address above.

3. Call 877.987.2782 (Select Collections) if you or someone in your home has a serious illness or a medical condition.

Important Notice: Payments will not be accepted by Aqua representatives visiting the property. To avoid service termination due to unpaid bill(s), you must make payments at an authorized payment location. For the nearest location, please call 877.987.2782 (Select Collections). If we shut off your service, you may have to pay the following charges to have service restored:

Overdue amount:			\$ 239.52
Reconnect Fee :			35.00
Service Deposit (If required):	 -	 	50.00
Total if we shut off your service:			\$ 324.52

If your service is shut off for non-payment, after making the required payment you must contact Aqua at 877-987-2782 and schedule to have your service reconnected. Your service will be reconnected in accordance with your state approved utility regulations. In most cases service will not be restored until the next business day after your required payment amount has been confirmed.

> Keep top portion for your records. Return this portion with your payment.

AQUA Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. PO Box 328 . BRYN MAWR, PA 19010-0328 **URGENT NOTICE - OPEN IMMEDIATELY**

Seg=5482 Cyc= 1up=1059814 PC=T

*****AUTO**MIXED AADC 189 C 23 P 51 **EUGENE DAVIS** 7117 SW ARCHER RD LOT 46 GAINESVILLE FL 32608-4674 րդո[ովը[անդինուրերի իրի հետևի հինուրերի հինուրերի հինուրերի հինուրերի հինուրերի հինուրերի հինուրերի հինուրերի



Service To: **EUGENE DAVIS** 7117 SW ARCHER RD LOT 46 **GAINESVILLE, FL 32608**

Account Number

001410993 1049504

Total Amount Due

239.52

Due Date

PAST DUE

Amount Enclosed

Please make check payable to Aqua Util. FL. Print your account number on your check, then mail to address on back.

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK





Aqua America, Inc. 762 Lancaster Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3489

301-2339

Premises Number:

649289

Date 09/13/2011

Dear OCCUPANT:

Our records indicate that we have not received an application for service at this address where water and/or wastewater service is being used.

Please call us immediately at 1-877-987-2782 and apply for service so that we can continue supplying this service. Our office hours are weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We cannot leave the service on if we do not receive an application for service.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Cordially,

Aqua Customer Service

PAP513-A-3



Aqua America, Inc. 762 Lancaster Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3489

Seq=65

OCCUPANT 7117 SW ARCHER RD UNIT 2639 GAINESVILLE, FL 32608-4661



0000UMFNT NUMBER-DATE 0 **6 9 9 3 SEP 27 =**

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK



Service To: **REGINA LEWIS** 7117 SW ARCHER RD UNIT 2639 GAINESVILLE, FL 32608-4661 Lot: 13261437 Block:



001630714 0649289

ARREDONDO FARMS

1336568

PWSID # FL2010042

Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. 762 W. Lancaster Avenue

Tel: 877.987.2782

Total Amount Due

Questions about your water/sewer service?... Contact us before the due date.

Fax: 866.780.8292

Bill Date

Average Dady Usage et Gallons

Current Charges Due Date

Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3489

e Mail: custserv@aquaamerica.com

August 18, 2011

\$ 292.83

September 09, 2011

Meter Data	Meter	Size	Billing Period	Days	Read Type	Meter Readings	Usage	Units
The same of the sa	56584519	5/8	07/26/11 07/11/11	15	Actual Actual	136600 135600	1,000	Gallons
Average Daily Usage = 6			Total Days:	15		Total Usage:	 1,000	Gallons

Billing Detail

Amount Owed from Last Bill		\$ 379.40
Total Payments Received		0.00
Remaining Balance	***************************************	379.40
Adjustments		73.10 Credit
water base Facility Charge		7.86
1,000 gallons @ \$0.00731 pe	r gallon	7.31
Current Water Charges		15.17
Sewer Base Facility Charge		17.01
1,000 gallons @ \$0.00682 pe	r gallon	6.82
Current Sewer Charges		23.83
Deposit		50.00 Credit
Interest On Deposit		3.99 Credit
Utility Tax		1.52
Amount Due		\$ 292.83

Water Usage History



Message Center (see reverse side for other information)

This is your final bill for service at this property.

the convenience of paperless billing while For us, being green comes naturally. That's why we're happy to introduce Aqua Onio helping us take care of the environment. Visit www.aquaamerica.com/aquaonline today to make the switch!

> Keep top portion for your records. Return this portion with your payment.

AOUA Water/Sewer Bill

Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. 762 W. Lancaster Avenue • Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3489

Seq#/ Cyc=33M9 tup=1049978A PC#F

************SINGLE-PIECE C] P] **REGINA LEWIS** PO BOX 192 GAINESVILLE FL 32602-0192 Indicabilitationalilliannilliannilliannilliannilliannillianil

0649289

Service To:

Account Number

\$ 292.83

Amount Enclosed

Amount Due

REGINA LEWIS

Lot: 13261437 Block:

001630714 0649289

Please make check payable to Aqua Util. FL. Print your account number on your check, then mail to address on back.

7117 SW ARCHER RD UNIT 2639

Current Charges Due Date

September 09, 2011

GAINESVILLE, FL 32608-4661

00163071406492890000000292835



NCC

NCO Financial Systems, Inc. 150 Crosspoint Parkway Getzville, NY 14068 Toll free: (800)227-4000

September 22, 2011

Yes Communitie 7117 SW Archer Rd Lot 1 Gainesville, FL 32608

Aqua Pennsylvania

Account Number:

15286131086452

Our Reference Number:

2Y1JPC

Current Balance Due:

\$67.87

Dear Yes Communitie:

From Source of the service of the se This letter is intended to verify that we can accept \$67.87 until 9/30/11 as payment in full for the above account.

Please remit payment to:

Standard Mail:NCO Financial Systems, Inc.

PO Box 15740

Wilmington, DE 19850-9609

Overnight Mail: NCO Financial Systems, Inc.

507 Prudential Road

Horsham, PA 19044

Upon clearance of your payment, the account will be considered paid in full.

NEVED INM This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. This is a NOTE ON THAT communication from a debt collector. Calls to or from NCO Financial Systems, Inc. may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance.

Sincercly,

NCO Financial Systems, Inc.

Office Hours: 8:00am - 9:00pm Monday through Thursday.

8:00am - 5:00pm Friday. 8:00am - 12:00 Noon Saturday.

EXT 53442

12P -

ME TO UNI

HELP-POLO

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WE DISPETE

could not

NCO-Utilities-BIF

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK



NCO Financial Systems, Inc.

150 CrossPoint Parkway Getzville, NY 14068 716-404-2100 (Main) 1-800-227-4000 (Main) 716-404-2212 (Fax)

Fax

To:	COMMUNITIE YES	From:	ANDREW	BOYER		
Fax:	352-372-7271	Date:	9/21/11			
Phon	81	Pages	2			
Re:						
☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply☐ Please Recycle						

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YES COMMUNITIES 7117 SW ARCHER RD LOT 2440 GAINESVILLE, FL 32608

001528613 1086452

ARREDONDO FARMS 1336568

Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc. 762 W. LANCASTER AVENUE BRYN MAWR, PA 19010-3489 Tel: 877.987.2782 Fax: 866.780.8301

eMail: custserv@aquaamerica.com

Reminder Notice **COLLECTION DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS ARE** 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM WEEKDAYS

Reminder Date

Total Amount Due

February 22, 2011

\$ 22.00

Dear Customer:

Our records indicate that we have not received payment of your final bill for this service location. If you have already made your payment, please accept our thanks and disregard this notice. If you have not made your payment, you may pay immediately with your credit card, ATM/debit card, or by funds transfer from your checking, savings, or money market bank account by calling toll free to 866.269.2906 or you may go the payment website: https://paynow7.speedpay.com/aqua/index.asp

If payment is not received within 10 days of the reminder date, we will forward the account to a collection agency. Please contact our Customer Service Department at 877,987.2782 (Select Collections), Monday - Friday, 7:30AM - 5:00₱M, if you have any questions.

Aqua Customer Service Department

....Keep top portion for your records.... Return this portion with your payment.

Service To: YES COMMUNITIES 7117 SW ARCHER RD LOT 2440 GAINESVILLE, FL 32608

Agua Utilities Florida, Inc. PO Box 328 . BRYN MAWR, PA 19010-0328

*****AUTO**MIXED AADC 189 YES COMMUNITIES 7117 SW ARCHER RD LOT 2440 GAINESVILLE FL 32608-4651

ելելիլունիյոնը ինչերի իլնահեկ նվարհասանի վահակիլի ինաև

Account Number

001528613 1086452

Total Amount Due

\$ 22.00

February 22, 2011

Amount Enclosed

Please make check payable to Aqua Util. FL. Print your account number on your check, then mail to address on back.

001528613108645200000000022006



PHelp Invoice Header / Distributions #86452-022211: AQUA UTILITIES FLORIDA, INC. VendorID: 001014 Invoice # 86452-022211 Customer 0015286131086452 **Approved** Status: Account #: Original PO: 22.00 **Invoice Amount:** Ordered By: 2/22/2011 **Invoice Date:** Batch Name: ALAPR4 - 04/01/2011 02:16:08 2/22/2011 **Invoice Due Date:** Work Order # Memo: Mark for Use Separate check: Tax: * **Invoice Detail** Image Vendor Line Items WorkFlow History Log Comment Attachments (0) Payments Invoice Payments **Amount** State ClearedDate **Payment Date Remit Type** CheckNumber \$22.00 Outstanding 04/01/2011 Check 92112 Total: \$22.00