

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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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

DATED: October 6, 2011

COMMISSION CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony of Benjamin L. Piltz has been served by U.S. Mail this 6th day of October, 2011, to the following:

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**DOCKET NO. 100330-WS** - 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.

**WITNESS:** Direct Testimony of Benjamin L. Piltz  
Appearing on Behalf of the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission.

**DATE FILED:** October 6, 2011

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DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BENJAMIN L. PILTZ

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. Benjamin L. Piltz, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Northeast District Office, 7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite B-200, Jacksonville, Florida 32256.

Q. Please provide a brief description of your educational background and experience.

A. I received a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology from the University of North Florida in 2004. After graduation, I worked at Levine-Fricke Recon as a Biologist I, conducting Phase I assessments, wetland restoration oversight, and quarterly sampling events for systems in the Dry Cleaning Remediation Program until I joined the Northeast District Potable Water Section in 2006.

Q. What are your general responsibilities at the Department of Environmental Protection?

A. In January 2006, I began employment with the Northeast District DEP in the Potable Water Section as an Environmental Specialist I. My work entails Sanitary Surveys, Compliance Inspections, review and entry of chemical and microbiological reports, ensuring that water systems remain in compliance with the applicable parts of the Florida Administrative Code pertaining to Potable Water systems. I am also responsible for initiating enforcement in order to assist potable water systems in returning to compliance status.

Q. Are you familiar with the AUF water systems in Putnam County, particularly the Beechers Point, Hermit's Cove, Palm Port, Pomona Park, River Grove, Saratoga Harbor, Welaka Mobile Home Park and Wootens water systems?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. Are these systems in compliance with all applicable construction permits?

A. No permits relating to water plant construction or upgrades have been submitted to the Department for the water systems listed above since 2009. However, a Distribution System Permit for a water main extension for the Pomona Park Potable Water System was issued on

1 July 2, 2009. This work has not been currently been completed, but may be completed  
2 concurrently with a road widening project sometime in the future.

3 Q. Have any of these AUF systems been the subject of any FDEP compliance  
4 enforcement action within the past three years?

5 A. Yes. Aqua Utilities Florida failed to conduct the analyses for the River Grove potable  
6 water system for Disinfection Byproducts in 2009 during the July through September  
7 timeframe. The violation was resolved by Consent Order and is now closed.

8 Q. Other than any violations discussed above, is AUF in compliance with all DEP  
9 requirements for their water systems in Putnam County?

10 A. The facilities are in compliance with DEP Potable Water Requirements as of this time.

11 Q. Is the overall operation and maintenance of these water treatment plants and  
12 distribution facilities satisfactory?

13 A. Minor deficiencies were observed during the recent inspections at the Aqua Utilities  
14 water plants in Putnam County. Beecher's Point WTP was observed to have some minor  
15 piping corrosion. Hermit's Grove WTP had minor biogrowth on the piping at the wellhead  
16 and some piping corrosion. These deficiencies have already been corrected and the  
17 Department was notified in a timely manner. The well casings at Palm Port WTP, Well #1 at  
18 Pomona Park WTP, and River Grove Subdivision WTP are less than 12" above the well pad.  
19 AUF will not be required to fix this until there is work done on the wells, or if the system has  
20 bacteriological or chemical problems in the future. The flowthrough tank at Wootens WTP  
21 was observed to be in poor shape during a Compliance Inspection completed May 24, 2011.  
22 If removing the flowthrough tank does not change the permitted capacity of the water plant,  
23 then a permit is not required and Aqua Utilities is only required to provide notification before  
24 removing the tank.

25

1 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

2 A. Aqua Utilities have had the following precautionary boil water notices (PBWNs).

3 Beechers Point (Consecutive) 09/09 (Wholesale system had a line break)

4 12/10 (Main break)

5 Hermit's Cove 06/09 (Main Break)

6 11/10 (Well pump not left in Auto)

7 05/11 (Distribution system upgrades)

8 Palm Port 02/11 (Distribution system upgrades)

9 03/11 (Main Break)

10 Pomona Park 8/10 (Well pump replacement)

11 River Grove 02/09 (Plant repairs)

12 01/11 Distribution system upgrades)

13 Saratoga Harbor 04/09 (Main Break)

14 Welaka MHP None for maintenance issues.

15 Wootens 02/10 (Tank replacement)

16 Notification to the Department has always been the day of incident (or following business day  
17 in some cases due to occurring late at night or during weekends) via direct contact with me, or  
18 through voicemail. As a follow up to the notification, written notification is provided through  
19 their internal Malfunction reports being cc'd to me when routing them with Aqua Utilities.

20 These reports have indicated in the past that that the public is notified the same day the

21 Department is. Notification to customers and the Department associated with tank inspections  
22 were done the week prior to the inspections.

23 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

24 A. Yes.

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