

Samuel K. Johnson
Commissioner, District 5

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Board of County Commissioners

October 7, 2011

RECEIVED-FPSC
11 OCT 13 AM 9:02
COMMISSION
CLERK

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

Re: Florida Public Service Commission Docket 100330, 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.

To Whom It May Concern:

On November 16, 2010, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 10-174 (enclosed) in regard to the above-referenced Docket urging the Public Service Commission to:

- 1) Aggressively examine Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., rate case Docket 100330 and deny, delay, and/or minimize the requested rate increase in light of the fact that the Commission recently granted Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., substantial rate increases in Polk County; and,
- 2) In addition to its current standards, consider the economic times citizens are facing and further consider, when possible, delaying rate increases until they are absolutely necessary.

Citizens in Polk County continue to struggle as our unemployment rate is still at 12.2% as of July 2011. The information below from the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests a reverse in the trend of lowering unemployment rates, and indicates the rates may be heading back to our November 2010 high of 13.2%:

11 OCT 13 AM 9:27

10/13/11

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE

07510 OCT 13 =

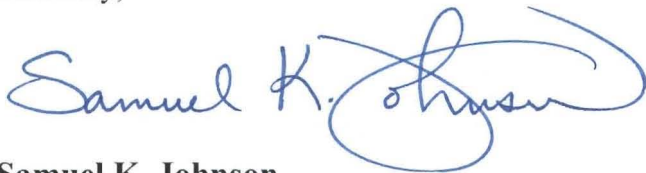
Equal Opportunity Employer

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Year	Period	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
2011	Jan	275890	240712	35178	12.8
2011	Feb	274436	242145	32291	11.8
2011	Mar	274435	243364	31071	11.3
2011	Apr	273651	244082	29569	10.8
2011	May	272538	242802	29736	10.9
2011	Jun	272261	240368	31893	11.7
2011	Jul	272446	239258	33188	12.2
2011	Aug	270789(P)	238004(P)	32785(P)	12.1(P)

I ask that you consider the Polk County Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. 10-174 and the economic times citizens are facing as you continue your analysis of this request.

Sincerely,



Samuel K. Johnson
Polk County Commissioner



DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
07510 OCT 13 =
FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

RESOLUTION No. 10-174

A RESOLUTION OF THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS URGING THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO DILIGENTLY FULFILL ITS ROLE OF ENSURING THAT FLORIDA'S CONSUMERS RECEIVE SOME OF THEIR MOST ESSENTIAL SERVICES — ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, TELEPHONE, WATER, AND WASTEWATER — IN A SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND RELIABLE MANNER DURING ITS REVIEW OF THE AQUA UTILITIES RATE CASE DOCKET 100330, "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."

WHEREAS, Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., provides water and/or wastewater services to Polk County citizens via its Breeze Hill, Gibsonia Estates, Lake Gibson Estates, Orange Hill/Sugar Creek, Rosalie Oaks, Sugar Creek/Orange Hill, and Village Water utility systems; and

WHEREAS, Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., is seeking to increase its water and wastewater rates through Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) Docket 100330, "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.;" and

WHEREAS, the PSC exercises regulatory authority over utilities in one or more of three key areas: rate base/economic regulation; competitive market oversight; and monitoring of safety, reliability, and service; and

WHEREAS, our nation is going through one of the most difficult economic times in its history, with the national unemployment rate hovering around 10%, and Florida's unemployment rate as of June 2010 being approximately 11%; and

WHEREAS, despite signs of economic recovery at the national level, economic conditions in cities, towns, and villages across the country continue to worsen; and

WHEREAS, it appears that Social Security recipients will not receive a cost of living increase for the second year in a row; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners that:

- 1) The Public Service Commission aggressively examines Aqua Utilities, Florida, Inc., rate case Docket 100330 and deny, delay, and/or minimize the requested rate increase in light of the fact that the Commission recently granted Aqua Utilities, Florida, Inc. substantial rate increases in Polk County.
- 2) The Public Service Commission, in addition to its current standards, consider the economic times citizens are facing, and further consider when possible delaying rate increases until they are absolutely necessary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2010.

ATTEST:

RICHARD M. WEISS, Clerk

By: Freida L. Wade
Deputy Clerk N. 31



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Edward V. Smith
Chairman

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

07510 OCT 13 #

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