		FILED AUG 29, 2014 DOCUMENT NO. 04846-14 FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK				
1		000001 BEFORE THE				
2	FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION					
3	APPLICATION FOR STAFF-ASSISTED					
4	RATE CASE IN POLK COUNTY BY DOCKET NO. 130178-SU CROOKED LAKE PARK SEWERAGE					
5	COMPANY .	/				
6						
7						
8	PROCEEDINGS:	CUSTOMER MEETING				
9	COMMISSION STAFF	CHERYL BULECZA-BANKS				
10	PARIICIPAIING.	SONICA BRUCE PENELOPE BUYS				
11		SHANNON HUDSON DICK DURBIN				
12	DATE:	Thursday, July 17, 2014				
13	TIME:	Commenced at 6:05 p.m.				
14		Concluded at 6:40 p.m.				
15	PLACE:	Lake Wales Public Library 290 Cypress Garden Lane				
16		Lake Wales, Florida				
17	TRANSCRIBED BY:	LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR Official FPSC Reporter				
18		(850) 413-6734				
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	FLOR	IDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION				

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1			I N	DEX			
2	SPEAKER:				PA	GE NO.:	
3	RAY GEORGE				10		
4	WALLY HOUK				14		
5	SAM KIPE				22		
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PROCEEDINGS

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MS. BRUCE: My name is Sonica Bruce, and I am an Economic Analyst in the Division of Economics. I would like to introduce Shannon Hudson, the Rate Supervisor in the Division of Economics; Cheryl Bulecza-Banks, the Assistant Director in the Division of Accounting and Finance; our staff engineer, Penelope, excuse me, Penelope Buys in the Division of Engineering; and last, but not least, Dick Durbin, who you all met as you entered the building, and he's in the Office of Public Information. We also have the utility representative in the audience who will not be speaking tonight, just here for the purposes of listening.

Can you hear me? Not too good? I'm so sorry. I'll try to speak a little louder.

Tonight I will describe the rate case process, receive customer comments, called in the order in which you signed up. And the comments will be recorded to ensure that the Commissioners and other staff understand your concerns. And a transcript of the recording will be placed into the docket file.

I wanted you all to know that this meeting is for you all to voice your opinions or to offer comments regarding quality of service, metering, billing, or any other issues that you guys may have.

During my presentation tonight I will discuss the, discuss the staff-assisted rate case process, preliminary rates, and what you can do.

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I'm going to start off by talking a little bit about Crooked Lake's history. The utility began operations in 1996. In 1998, the Commission granted the utility a grandfather certificate 517-S for its wastewater system. The utility's rate increase was a staff-assisted rate case, SARC, approved in 2007. Crooked Lake Wastewater System applied for the current SARC on June 27, 2013.

What is a staff-assisted rate case, SARC? This is where Commission staff assists small water and wastewater utilities with rate relief requests. This eliminates the need to hire accountants or outside engineers.

Now I'll discuss the steps in the SARC process. The application was filed on June 27th, 2013. A staff auditor conducted an examination of the utility's books and records. Our engineer conducted a review of the utility's operations and contacted the Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that the utility was in compliance with its regulations and rules.

We then prepared a staff report which

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indicates our find -- our findings and rate increase. And please understand that the rate increase can change. This is a best estimation of what we know at this time. So by the time the recommendation comes up again, it can change.

Again, this customer meeting is held for input from you all, get your perception of the utility. After this customer meeting we will go back and file and prepare a recommendation to be heard before the Commission. Staff considers customer input and information obtained subsequent to its preliminary staff report for its cetera recommendations to the Commissioners. The rates in the final recommendation again may be different from the staff report.

At the Commission Conference the Commissioners may ask questions of staff prior to voting on staff's recommendation. Because we are not the decision-makers, the Commission may approve, deny, or modify staff's recommendation.

You as well as the utility may speak at agenda. If you all decide that you want to come to agenda to speak, please contact our staff attorney Charles Murphy to let him know that you want to speak. This will ensure that you all will be heard.

Proposed Agency Action: This is an order that

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the Commission proposes what it plans to do to issue --I'm sorry. It's an order that describe what the Commission plans to do to resolve matters. This order is issued within 20 days. A 21-day protest period then begins where any substantially affected party other than a utility may protest. The utility must agree to accept final rates and charges set by the Commission unless they produce less revenue than the existing rates and charges.

If you decide to protest and the protest is filed in a timely fashion, a hearing would be held in a service territory or as close as possible. The hearing would be before at least three Commissioners. The utility and protesting parties will litigate the issues. Customers can testify before the Commissioners. If you decide to testify, you are responsible for filing the testimony. You, as the customer, will incur expenses. Prudently incurred costs incurred by the utility can be passed along to the customers through rates. This is a timely and expensive process.

Now I'm going to talk a little bit about Crooked Lakes, Crooked Lake Park's SARC. The slide you're looking at now represents the operating income. Based on staff's analysis of the unaudited books and records during the test year, the utility showed a net

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000007 loss of \$24,648. Based on our analysis of the audited 1 books and records for Phase I, the utility has a net 2 income of \$12,348 and \$53,221 for Phase II. 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. What is 4 Phase II? Is it defined anywhere? 5 MS. BRUCE: Sir, if you -- did you sign up to 6 7 speak? UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 8 Yes. 9 MS. BRUCE: If you let me finish the 10 presentation, we'll talk about it. 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. 12 MS. BRUCE: Thank you. I appreciate it. The next slide represents the wastewater 13 14 rates, the current and proposed rates. Currently you 15 pay a monthly BFC of \$15.46 for all meter sizes. The bulk rate for College Park is \$1,546. This rate is 16 17 determined by the number of customers times the BFC. 18 And your gallonage charge is \$3.06 per 1,000 gallons, 19 which includes the 8,000 gallon gallonage charge. On a going-forward basis, staff recommends a 20 21 BFC of \$15.50 for all meter sizes. College Park, 22 \$1,550, and gallonage cap which includes 6,000 23 gallons -- I'm sorry, I'm sorry -- a \$3.81 gallon charge 24 per 1,000 gallons, which includes a \$6,000 cap --25 6,000-gallon cap. I'm sorry.

I want to explain what this gallonage cap is. The gallonage cap indicates or recognizes that not all the wastewater -- water -- that not all the water sold returns to the wastewater system. We assumed that 80 percent of the water does not return. We assumed that the extra 20 -- that 20 percent is for irrigation, washing, boat washing, or things of that nature. And based on our analysis of the billing data, it shows that we capture 80 percent of those gallons at 6,000 gallons. So with that being said, we are recommending that the gallonage cap be set at 6,000 gallons.

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For Phase II staff is recommending \$20.88 for the BFC for all meter sizes. And for College Park, again that would be \$22,088, and again that's the 100 customers times the BFC. And on a going-forward basis for Phase II for the gallonage charge we recommend \$5.32.

The slide you're looking at now represents the wastewater bill comparison at various levels of consumption for the current and preliminary rates. Based on our analysis of the billing data, your average consumption is about 3,500 gallons. So with that being said, you can look at the 3,000 consumption level, and with the current rates that you have now you pay about \$24.64. On a going-forward basis for Phase I you'll pay

\$26.93, and for Phase 2, \$36.84. And for those of you that may go over, I'm going to give you a few, just a few minutes or so just to look at the chart just to give you an idea of what you use.

Let me explain Phase 2. I'm sorry. Phase 2 are the rates that the, that are designed to pay the future cost of the pro forma items that the utility is recommending. The pro forma items are items that they're trying to get in compliance with DEP. So, again, those rates will represent those items that would be added on as plant addition.

MS. BUYS: The company, there's a wastewater treatment plant modification, and that's to be in compliance with DEP for their permit which was issued in 2013. There's collection system mapping and cleaning, which will help locate the lines and would replace -- so they can be replaced and have a better flow to the main station. There's also replacement of an electrical control panel to fix floating, sticking, and failure at a lift station. And these are all to be in compliance with DEP. DEP is requiring this so they can be in compliance.

MS. BRUCE: Okay. Thank you, Penny.

Crooked Lake's SARC is scheduled to be filed on September 22nd, 2014, and it's scheduled to be heard

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at the Commission Conference on October 2nd, 2014. Again, the Commission may either approve, deny, or modify staff's recommendation.

As a customer, what can you do? You can provide comments at today's meeting, provide written comments, obtain a copy of staff's recommendation, and monitor the agenda.

As you all walked in this evening, you all should have received a Special Report. This report indicates the docket number, and I'll explain to you in a few minutes what the docket -- why the docket number is so important.

But on the back of this form is a consumer comment section. For those of you that do not wish to speak tonight, you can fill out this form and it carries the same weight as an oral comment. You can fill this out and put a stamp on it and send it back to the Commission.

For those of you that wish to obtain a copy of the recommendation, you may go to www.FloridaPSC.com, click on the Clerk's Office tab, and type in that docket number, and everything in the docket will show up, and the recommendation will be there as well. For those of you -- on the day of the agenda you can go to the Conferences and Meeting Agendas, click on the red

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button, and the screen will come up.

The Office of Public Counsel, they're your advocate before the Commission. If you have any concerns that you feel that have not been addressed, you may call 1-800-342-0222 or you may go to www.FloridaOPC.gov. Also, the Commission has a consumer hotline. If you have any concerns regarding quality of service, billing, metering or such, you may contact the Commission at 1-800-342-3552.

This concludes my slideshow presentation. I would like to give you a few reminders before we get started.

One, the meeting is being recorded. Customers will be called in the order that they signed up. Come forward to the microphone when your name is called, give your name -- well, we don't have a microphone, so you'll just stand up. I'm sorry. You'll just stand up. I'm sorry. Give your name, address, and please spell your last name.

The first person we have to speak is Mr. Ray George.

MR. GEORGE: Ray George, I live at 4610 Caloosa Lake Boulevard in Caloosa Lake Village. And my first comment is I still have no definition in terms of time what Phase II, and that's a substantial

increase of 25 percent. Is there any sense -- what is the sense of time between recommended rate Phase I and Phase II.

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MS. BRUCE: The utility was required to, I guess, make repairs to the plant and they were in some trouble with DEP. So to put, to get the utility back into compliance, they're required to make these additions.

MS. HUDSON: The utility has 12 months, typically allotted 12 months to complete the pro forma addition. So once Phase I are -- once the Commission issues their order, they have 12 months from that date to get the items completed and verify that they were done, and then Phase II rates could be put in place.

MR. GEORGE: So maybe a year, maybe two. And there is reference in both of these to Crooked --College Park sewage, Crooked Lake Sewage Company. It is the same thing. And it's also the same for Caloosa Lake Village.

MS. HUDSON: It's our understanding that College Park is a mobile home park?

MR. GEORGE: Yes.

MS. HUDSON: And you're saying?

MR. GEORGE: Caloosa Lake Village is an immobile park, and Crooked Lakes is a house park, but

000013 they're all three served by the same water company and 1 2 sewer company. 3 MS. HUDSON: Correct. MR. GEORGE: And the other part is we have no 4 sewerage beefs but everything here makes you believe we 5 do. We have water reuse. 6 7 MS. HUDSON: Right. Wastewater is billed --MR. GEORGE: Which is why I understand why 8 9 80 percent is a good, probably a pretty close figure (inaudible). But is this also going to apply to the 10 11 water rates? 12 MS. HUDSON: Your water, the wastewater bill 13 that you currently pay now is based on your water usage, 14 and I believe your water company is Park Water. 15 MR. GEORGE: Yes. MS. HUDSON: So whatever water -- those 16 17 billings are --MR. GEORGE: But they're billed separately. 18 19 Water is listed separately and sewage is billed 20 separately. 21 MS. HUDSON: Right. But they use the meter 22 readings, they use the meter readings --23 MR. GEORGE: Right. MS. HUDSON: -- to determine your wastewater 24 25 bill.

000014 MR. GEORGE: But I'm talking about the charge 1 2 amount. Is it going to go on the water part too? 3 MS. HUDSON: It's going to be on your wastewater side. We're not here -- Park Water is a 4 separate utility. They're not in currently for a rate 5 case. It would be on your water side -- I mean, your 6 7 wastewater side. MR. GEORGE: It's a separate utility but they 8 9 own the meters. There is no sewer meters. MS. HUDSON: They do the billing for Crooked 10 11 Lake. MR. GEORGE: For both. 12 13 MS. HUDSON: Right. 14 MR. GEORGE: That's why I'm asking, because 15 that's no mention of --MR. HOUK: Well, the sewer rates that you're 16 17 being charged for are based on your water usage, and 18 that's where your meter is. And Park Water Company 19 reads the meter and then they bill for your water and 20 sewer usage. 21 MR. GEORGE: I understand. 22 MR. HOUK: So this, this letter, this meeting 23 is all about increasing the sewer portion of that. 24 MR. GEORGE: My question is is that going to 25 apply to the water portion? The answer --

MS. HUDSON: Is no. And can we get your name, sir? MR. HOUK: Wally Houk. MS. HUDSON: Okay. MR. GEORGE: That's all I have. MS. BRUCE: Our next speaker is Mr. Wally Houk. And thank you so much, Mr. George. MR. HOUK: My name is Wally Houk. I live at 4738 Easton Street, Crooked Lake Park. The first question I have is I would like to call attention to the letter that was sent out dated June 27th. On page 2 under background, the last sentence of paragraph -- of the first paragraph, it denotes that gross revenues were 129,567, total operating expenses, 126,602, resulting in a net loss of 2,966. My first question would be after you cited the numbers in the financial portion, none of these numbers agreed with anything I saw on that. MS. BRUCE: Now that shouldn't be net loss. That's, that's a mistake. It is incorrect. It should be net income. MR. HOUK: And that was my second question. Okay. All right. For the record. So the guys made

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money.

MS. BANKS: But they are two different periods of time you're looking at. The rate of what you're looking at is set on a June basis.

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MR. HOUK: Okay. Okay.

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MS. BANKS: That is a year end number, so they won't match.

MR. HOUK: Okay. Okay. All right. The first thing I'd like to do, if I may, is poll the audience since they're customers of the water and/or sewer company and find out how many, including myself, are presently hooked up to the sewer system. Raise your hand. So about half the group, maybe a little more than half the group is currently using the sewer system with Crooked Lake Park Sewerage Company.

Now my next question, if I may, is ask that same group how many of them have had problems with their, including myself, with the sewer getting stopped up, the mainline getting stopped up in the last year or two, three, four, five. So you've had problems with the sewer?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

MR. HOUK: Okay. A smaller number has been affected that way. And I -- my observation would be that the, the sewer line is inadequate. When it was installed many years ago -- if I'm not mistaken, I've

had my plumbers tell me that the mainline is only a 4-inch line, and that's the line leading from my house to the sewer is a 4-inch line. So it stands to reason if you've got a number of homes and/or mobile homes putting the waste material from their homes into the main, that that mainline should be bigger. Now I don't know what the code is these days, but I think it's too small and there definitely needs to be some improvements, which is a good segue into my next question.

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I think the engineer touched on it, the reason for the increase in the fees in Phase II are to maybe retrofit some of those smaller lines. I hope that's, I hope that's part of the planning for the, for the increase.

MS. BANKS: Just an aside, can you tell us when was the most recent time you had that problem?

MR. HOUK: I sure can. It was Tuesday, July 8th, two weeks ago. And I can -- I hooked up to the sewer line, my best guess would be about 13 years ago. And I was on a septic system and I was having a lot of problems with it. And I didn't even know I had access to a sewer main. It turns out that it was already put in right down in my backyard in the right-of-way. So I'm thinking, oh, boy, this is going

to be great. I can hook up to the sewer and no more sewer problems. Well, that hasn't worked out because in a 13-year period I've probably had the plumbers out to my house at least ten times, I'd say ten to 12 times. So almost once a year I've had a problem with that. And I'm so good at it now I can, I know exactly what's happening when it's starting to --

MS. BANKS: Did you -- have you -- do you contact the company when that happens?

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MR. HOUK: Well, I understand there's a new process. I call my plumbers, which is A. D. Baynard in Lake Wales, and they're the best. They're reasonable, they're professional, and they do great work. And they are so familiar with that line they know right where to go and what to do and they've got it going.

But I understand the process now is that they, when I call them, they have to call the new owners of the sewer company and get approved as to whether or not they're going to, is it okay to go out and, you know, unplug or unclog the line. The plumbers have to get assurance from them that they're going to get their money or I'm going to have to pay for it even if it's on the sewer main, which is not my responsibility.

24 MS. BANKS: Correct. Have these blockages25 been in the main?

MR. HOUK: Yes, ma'am.

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MS. BANKS: So, okay, so that is kind of interesting that they've been working on, plumbers have been working on utility property.

MR. HOUK: Well, yeah. I guess that's, the previous owner, I guess that's the arrangement, an arrangement they had. I'm not sure.

MS. BANKS: Okay. Okay.

MR. HOUK: But I can tell you that before I would call the plumbers, they're out, they've got it fixed within a few hours, and everybody is happy. You know, they get, they get paid and everything. They, they would bill the sewer company directly. And now with the new ownership, which I don't know what they, where they are, they're either in Brandon or Tampa, I think. And so I don't know what the conflict is. But just a couple of weeks ago I had them out, and they got approval from the new owners and they came out and fixed it.

But, yeah, about probably once a year since I've been hooked up to it. That's an average. There have been times when it was a couple of times in a single year. If it happens just once, I can tell you it's inconvenient.

MS. BANKS: Certainly. Certainly.

MR. HOUK: Because you can't flush the toilet, you can't take a shower or bath because the water just doesn't drain out, and you've got all kinds of stuff gurgling up in the toilet. It's very (inaudible).

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So that would be, one of my main questions would be that there's going to be some improvement in the sewer main itself. I was surprised that more people here aren't having problems with it. I'm wondering if it's just maybe the location where I'm at, maybe the pipe is not running downhill.

Interestingly enough, another thing I found out, I live on Easton Street, which runs north and south. And the sewer company is north of me, but the line in my backyard actually flows to the south. And it makes a turn about three houses down, makes a turn toward an alleyway, and then it makes another turn to the south, and then it turns back east and goes to the lift station. And I believe that's on (inaudible), but maybe -- what's the next street over, Benton?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

MR. HOUK: I think there's (inaudible). Okay. And then it flows back north and takes it back. So, you know, that's a classic case if you go outside and get (inaudible). But whatever, it's just not working I'd say as efficiently as it probably should. Because

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that's, I think that's too much incidence of occurrence, you know, ten or 12 times in a 12- or 13-year period. So I hope that the -- the substantial increase, that's a 38 percent increase for me going from Phase I to Phase II, so I would hope that that would include retrofitting or at least looking into that issue with an inadequate size line.

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A question I also had, I've not researched this, but I know it's been a slow and long process in rate increases and they haven't been too substantial that I recall in the past ten years or so, but does this, does the Phase II rate, is that more comparable to what other municipalities or cities or sewer systems are charging or is this -- I don't know. I haven't researched it. Compared to the city of Lake Wales, for instance, what they charge for sewer, sewer rates. MS. HUDSON: I don't know off --UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's 3.47 per 1,000 gallons. MR. HOUK: Sir? **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** The city charges 3.47 per 1,000 gallons. MR. HOUK: For sewer? UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

MS. BANKS: There's a lot of distinction

between a municipal system and a government-owned system.

(Simultaneous conversation.)

They don't, they don't pay property taxes, they don't pay income taxes. There's also typically a larger customer base in which to spread the cost. So when you're having a small utility it's harder to absorb that as opposed to if you had several thousand customers

MR. HOUK: Okay. Okay. All right. Well, while we're talking about it, is that what you said, some of the things that would be included, why the substantial increase?

MS. BANKS: Most of that increase has to do with the surge tank and the digester tank and the sludge bed. That is the biggest cost, that \$393,000, to become compliant with DEP.

MR. HOUK: Okay.

MS. BANKS: They also plan to -- a mapping system, which they don't have, to currently identify which lines need to be improved, replaced. And that's what they're talking about, they have to identify them first.

MR. HOUK: Okay.

MS. BANKS: And then, and clean them. And so, and that cost right there is 50,000, and then the

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1	000023 electrical, electric control panel is about \$6,000.					
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	That's a smaller amount. But first we have to, the					
3	company has to identify where the lines are, the					
4	condition, and what needs to be replaced. And					
5	probably					
6	MR. HOUK: 4738 Easton Street, I can tell you.					
7	MS. BANKS: I suspect, I suspect they're					
8	taking notes right now.					
9	MR. HOUK: Okay. And these folks (inaudible).					
10	Yeah.					
11	All right. I think that's all I've got. And					
12	we know one of my questions was when Phase II would					
13	take place, so we know it's anywhere from a year to two					
14	years, year and a half.					
15	MS. BRUCE: A year to a year and a half, 18					
16	months.					
17	MR. HOUK: Okay. That's it for me.					
18	MS. BRUCE: Thank you so much, Mr. Houk.					
19	Thank you so much for your comments.					
20	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I have my name put					
21	on the list?					
22	MS. BANKS: Certainly. Absolutely.					
23	MR. KIPE: Sam Kipe.					
24	MS. BUYS: What is your last name?					
25	MR. KIPE: Kipe, K-I-P-E. I didn't want to					
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speak out of turn.

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MS. BANKS: Certainly. And actually --

MS. BRUCE: Mr. Kipe, you can stand up. Yes. Thank you. Did I pronounce it correctly?

(Simultaneous conversation.)

MR. KIPE: I didn't know if there was anybody before me.

MS. BANKS: There wasn't.

MR. KIPE: I'll try to make this as short and sweet as I can. A question, we have a gentleman that works for us -- I'm a Plant Manager at Chemical Containers -- and he just happens to be in the hospital right now and he lives on Easton Street.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That must be Richards.

MR. KIPE: P.G. Richards. And just talking with him prior to him being hospitalized unexpectedly, he was talking to me about he is on a septic system. So when it comes to this billing -- and he doesn't know I'm asking this question -- but when it comes to this billing, how is Mr. Richards' bill going to work?

MS. BANKS: It will not change. He's only being billed for water. That's all he'd be billed for.

MR. KIPE: Okay. Then reverse it. I think (inaudible) ready for this. Chemical Container has a septic system, a really nice septic system. So, I mean,

000025 I'm not the Chief Financial Officer, I'm just a Plant 1 Manager, so are we going to be billed for water and 2 sewer or how is that going to be handled? 3 MS. BRUCE: Repeat that scenario again. 4 Ιt sounds like you said --5 MS. BANKS: He's on a septic -- they're on a 6 7 septic. MR. KIPE: They're on septic. Okay. 8 So the 9 same question I just asked for Mr. Richards, is --MS. BRUCE: And the same answer. It's the 10 11 same answer. 12 MR. KIPE: Same answer? MS. BRUCE: 13 Yes. 14 MS. BANKS: Yes. 15 MS. BRUCE: Thank you so much, Mr. Kipe. Could you spell your last name again, please? 16 17 MR. KIPE: K-I-P-E. 18 MS. BRUCE: Okay. Is there anybody else that 19 wishes to speak? If not, this concludes our meeting. 20 And we'll be around packing up, so if you all can think 21 of anymore questions, we'd love to talk with you. And 22 thank you all so much for attending. 23 MS. BANKS: And you can also, if you want to 24 fill out those forms, you know, we'll be here for a 25 little bit. So if you want to go ahead and hand them in

	000026
1	rather than worrying about mailing them in, that's fine
2 3	too. We'll take them with us.
	(Customer meeting concluded at 6:40 p.m.)
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000027 1 STATE OF FLORIDA) CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 COUNTY OF LEON) 3 I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission 4 Hearings Reporter, Hearing Reporter Services Section, Office of Commission Clerk, do hereby certify that the 5 foregoing proceedings were transcribed from digital recording to the best of my ability. 6 7 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' 8 attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I 9 financially interested in the action. DATED this 29th day of August, 2014. 10 11 12 13 Linda Boles 14 LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR 15 Official FPSC Hearings Reporter (850) 413-6734 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION