

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for approval of water rate tariff
for a revision in customer billing from
quarterly billing to monthly billing by W.B.B.
Utilities, Inc. in Lake County.

DOCKET NO. 140171-WU
ORDER NO. PSC-14-0681-TRF-WU
ISSUED: December 9, 2014

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

ART GRAHAM, Chairman
LISA POLAK EDGAR
RONALD A. BRISÉ
EDUARDO E. BALBIS
JULIE I. BROWN

ORDER APPROVING WATER RATE TARIFF REVISION

BY THE COMMISSION:

Background

W.B.B. Utilities, Inc. (W.B.B. or Utility) is a Class C water utility located in Lake County serving approximately 74 customers. As of December 31, 2013, the Utility's annual report shows annual operating revenue of \$38,119 and a net operating loss of \$5,807.

On September 4, 2014, Lake Idlewild Utility Company filed an application on behalf of W.B.B., requesting a revision in customer billing from quarterly to monthly. There is a pending application for the transfer of W.B.B. to Lake Idlewild Utility Company.¹ The 60-day statutory deadline for this Commission to suspend the Utility's requested tariff revision is November 3, 2014. By letter dated October 27, 2014, the Utility extended this 60-day deadline through November 25, 2014. This order addresses the Utility's request for monthly billing. We have jurisdiction pursuant to Section 367.091, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Decision

Currently, W.B.B. bills customers a base facility charge of \$35.61, along with a charge per 1,000 gallons of \$1.55 on a quarterly basis. The Utility filed a request to change its billing from quarterly to monthly. W.B.B. indicated that monthly billing allows for timely price signals, promotes conservation efforts, and allows customers to monitor their water usage in an effort to minimize the impact of their bill. Also, the Utility stated that monthly billing promotes revenue

¹ See Docket No. 140170-WU, In re: Application for approval of transfer of Certificate No. 531-W from W.B.B. Utilities, Inc. to Lake Idlewild Utility Company in Lake County. The sale of the W.B.B. system to Lake Idlewild took place on August 29, 2014, pending Commission approval pursuant to Section 367.07(1), F.S. The current operator is requesting the instant tariff modification on behalf of the certificated entity, W.B.B. Utilities, Inc.

stability by allowing it to cover its monthly operation and maintenance expenses in a more timely manner.

We agree with the Utility that monthly billing is beneficial to both the customers and the Utility. Monthly billing encourages water conservation because customers will get more timely information of their water usage patterns. Also, monthly billing allows the Utility to match revenues as closely as possible to expenses. We find the Utility's request to be reasonable and it is therefore approved. The appropriate monthly rates are shown on Schedule No. 1. The Utility anticipates its final quarterly bill will be issued the end of December 2014 and the first monthly bill will be issued the end of January 2015.

W.B.B. shall be required to bill on a monthly basis until authorized to change the billing cycle by this Commission in a subsequent proceeding. W.B.B. shall be required to file a proposed customer notice indicating the change from quarterly to monthly billing and the date on which the change to monthly billing will become effective. The monthly billing shall be effective for services rendered on or after the stamped approval date of the tariff sheet, pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the monthly billing shall not be implemented until Commission staff has approved the proposed customer notice and the notice has been received by the customer. The Utility shall provide proof of the date notice was given within 10 days of the date of the notice.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that W.B.B. Utilities, Inc. request for approval of a proposed tariff to change its billing from quarterly to monthly is hereby approved. W.B.B. shall bill on a monthly basis until authorized to change the billing cycle by this Commission in a subsequent proceeding. W.B.B. shall file a proposed customer notice indicating the change from quarterly to monthly billing and the date on which the change to monthly billing will become effective. The monthly billing shall be effective for services rendered on or after the stamped approval date of the tariff sheet, pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the monthly billing shall not be implemented until Commission staff has approved the proposed customer notice and the notice has been received by the customers. The Utility shall provide proof of the date notice was given within 10 days of the date of the notice. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of issuance of the Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any charges held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no protest is filed by a person whose interests are substantially affected within 21 days of the issuance of the Order, the Tariff Order shall become final upon the issuance of a Consummating Order and the docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 9th day of December, 2014.



HONG WANG
Chief Deputy Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 413-6770
www.floridapsc.com

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

JEV

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on December 30, 2014.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

W.B.B. Utilities, Inc.
Water Rates

	<u>Quarterly Rates</u>	<u>Monthly Rates</u>
<u>Residential Service</u>		
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size		
5/8"x3/4"	\$35.61	\$11.87
3/4"	\$53.42	\$17.81
1"	\$89.03	\$29.68
1-1/2"	\$178.05	\$59.35
2"	\$284.88	\$94.96
3"	\$534.16	\$178.05
4"	\$890.26	\$296.75
6"	\$1,780.52	\$593.51
Charge per 1,000 Gallons - Residential	\$1.55	\$1.55