

**Ashley Quick**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Brown  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2016 7:46 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: Utilities,Inc. of Sandalhaven requested rate hike

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 150102-SU.

Thank you,  
Joann

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**From:** Barmann LLD [<mailto:dolebar@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2016 8:48 PM  
**To:** [desk@winktv.com](mailto:desk@winktv.com)  
**Cc:** [rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com)  
**Subject:** Fw: Utilities,Inc. of Sandalhaven requested rate hike

Dear Wink News please help,

Call for action referred me to you about this matter. See original e-mail below.

This story is about a small group of 853 customers in Englewood, that have to foot the bill for a requested 137% rate hike, for a privately owned wastewater utility that make some bad business decisions.

My Condo association (Fiddlers Green II )and other associations have been trying to work on this problem. Meetings were attended and a contingency from these groups went before the Florida Public Service Commission in Tallahassee. When I spoke to our Condo President, about this meeting, he said it pretty much fell on deaf ears.

In all of the reports I have read,from the Florida Public Service Commission about this rate hike, nowhere is it stated that there was a concern for the undue monetary strain that this will put on its customers. BUT it was stated by the Commission, in the Utilities, Inc. of Sandalhaven Customer Notice dated Feb. 2016, "the increases were designed to allow the Utility the opportunity to recover its reasonable and prudent costs for providing service, and a reasonable rate of return on its investment in facilities necessary to provide such wastewater service". Request for 137% increase, reasonable?

Sorry, I do not see anything from the Commission that states, for Sandalhaven customers to have "the opportunity to work out a reasonable and prudent rate for wastewater service". This is a monopoly and it seems we have no recourse.

Let me spell out the impact of this for us "little guys" - Fixed income, where in our budget does an extra \$760.32 a year come from to pay for our increased bill? From less food or less medicine ? Not

a reasonable choice for any human but that is now the very realistic choice a good many of us will have to make ,when we pull the checkbook out at the end of each month, if this unfair rate hike remains.

Most Sincerely,

Lora Barmann  
[ratehike@yahoo.com](mailto:ratehike@yahoo.com)  
Zip code 34224  
Phone # upon request

**From:** Call for Action <[callfora4@winknews.com](mailto:callfora4@winknews.com)>  
**To:** [ratehike@yahoo.com](mailto:ratehike@yahoo.com)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2016 11:08 AM  
**Subject:**

DOCKET NO. 150102-SU

Taken from customer notice dated February 2016- To all Utilities,Inc.of Sandalhaven Customers:

137% RATE INCREASE requested by Utilities,Inc.of Sandalhaven for wastewater services for 853 customers.  
*Customers are in a small service area of Englewood,FL. (7/6/2016)*

84.53% increase was given as an adjusted proposal by Florida Public Service Commission(1/16/2016 # PSC 16-0013-PAA-SU). The Office of Public Counsel has protested the above order.

State Law says that Utilities may implement rate increases during protest period and they did as reflected in my 3/10/16 wastewater bill.

In a span of just 7 months my wastewater bill has gone from \$62.29 to \$125.65 with new rate (based on my ave. use of 5,000 gal.) I am sure an increase in my Condo Assn. Maintenance fees will go up as well.

Utility made some poor business decisions and had some challenges in the housing bubble and now this small customer base is left paying for these mistakes and I simply cannot afford \$760.32 or more a year from this increase and hopefully will not go up any more. As I see it I have no recourse.

I am begging for someone with some clout to look into this and help put a stop to this unfair and very discriminatory rate hike. Please let us work on a reasonable increase.

Thank you for any help you can give in this matter.