

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Item 4

VOTE SHEET

June 9, 2016

FILED JUN 09, 2016
DOCUMENT NO. 03479-16
FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

Docket No. 160006-WS – Water and wastewater industry annual reestablishment of authorized range of return on common equity for water and wastewater utilities pursuant to Section 367.081(4)(f), F.S.

Issue 1: What is the appropriate range of returns on common equity for water and wastewater utilities, pursuant to Section 367.081(4)(f), Florida Statutes?

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the current leverage formula approved by the Commission in Order No. PSC-15-0259-PAA-WS continue to be used until the leverage formula is readdressed in 2017. Accordingly, staff recommends the following leverage formula:

$$\text{Return on Common Equity} = 7.13\% + (1.610 \div \text{Equity Ratio})$$

Where the Equity Ratio = Common Equity ÷ (Common Equity + Preferred Equity + Long-Term and Short-Term Debt)

Range: 8.74% @ 100% equity to 11.16% @ 40% equity

Additionally, staff recommends that the Commission cap returns on common equity at 11.16 percent for all WAW utilities with equity ratios less than 40 percent. Staff believes this will discourage imprudent financial risk. This cap is consistent with the methodology in Order No. PSC-08-0846-FOF-WS.

APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING

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REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

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(Continued from previous page)

Issue 2: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: No. Upon expiration of the protest period, if a timely protest is not received from a substantially affected person, the decision should become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order. However, this docket should remain open to allow staff to monitor changes in capital market conditions and to readdress the reasonableness of the leverage formula as conditions warrant.

APPROVED