

Florida Public Service Commission
Director, Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870

Dear Sir/Madam

Nov 18, 2016

I received a letter dated 11/4/16, indicating that there was going to be another increase in the water rate in Highlands County.

In 2014, a significant water rate increase was requested and subsequently approved.

At that time, I presented data that was compiled by a company (Raftelis) that shows water rates for all counties in Florida. At the time the study was done, the water rate in Highlands County, was among some of the highest of all counties.

<http://www.raftelis.com/static/images/2012-Florida-Water-Rate-Survey.pdf>

Many residents in Florida are retirees who are living on fixed incomes and are struggling to make ends meet, and are unable to absorb these bi-annual increases.

The purpose for this letter is to request further evaluation and consideration before allowing another increase in water rates.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,



Larry LaBeau
151 Fairway Dr
Lake Placid, Florida 33852
734 652 8115

cc: Martin Friedman Esquire
Freedman & Freedman P.A.

Ann Marie Ryan
Florida Consumer W/W Alliance

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COMMISSION
CLERK

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 TO THE HIGHLANDS COUNTY CUSTOMERS OF
 UTILITIES, INC. OF FLORIDA
 AND
 ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

RE: DOCKET NO.: 160101-WS

APPLICATION FOR INCREASE IN WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES IN CHARLOTTE,
 HIGHLANDS, LAKE, LEE, MARION, ORANGE, PASCO, PINELLAS, POLK, AND SEMINOLE
 COUNTIES BY UTILITIES, INC. OF FLORIDA

DATED: November 4, 2016

NOTICE OF INTERIM RATE INCREASE

On November 1, 2016, the Florida Public Service Commission approved interim water rates for Utilities, Inc. of Florida customers in Highlands County. The interim rates will be effective November 9, 2016. The interim rates will be collected subject to refund, pending the Florida Public Service Commission's final decision regarding final rates. If a refund is ordered, it will include interest based upon Commission determined factors.

The current rates, the Utility's requested interim rates, the Utility's requested final rates and the Commission approved interim rates are set forth below. The final rates are subject to change based on information presented at the customer and technical hearings, and the final decision by the Commissioners.

WATER SERVICE

	Test Year Rates 12/31/15	Current Rates	Utility Requested Interim	Utility Requested Final	Staff Recommended Interim
<u>Residential and General Service</u>					
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size					
5/8"X 3/4"	\$15.83	\$15.94	\$18.41	\$19.10	\$18.17
3/4"	\$22.75	\$23.92	\$27.62	\$28.66	\$27.26
1"	\$39.56	\$39.84	\$46.01	\$47.73	\$45.43
1-1/2"	\$79.12	\$79.68	\$92.02	\$95.46	\$90.85
2"	\$126.59	\$127.49	\$147.23	\$152.75	\$145.36
3"	\$253.19	\$254.98	\$294.47	\$305.49	\$290.72
4"	\$395.60	\$398.40	\$460.10	\$477.32	\$454.25
6"	\$791.20	\$796.80	\$920.20	\$954.65	\$908.50
Charge per 1,000 gallons - Residential and General Service	\$6.72	\$6.77	\$7.82	\$8.11	\$7.72

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HOW TO CONTACT THE COMMISSION

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to Commission staff may do so at the meetings, either orally or in writing. Other written comments regarding the Utility and the proposed rates, or requests to be placed on the mailing list for this case, may be directed to this address:

Florida Public Service Commission
Director, Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870

A courtesy copy of written comments and complaints is not required, but may be mailed or emailed to the following:

Martin S. Friedman, Esquire
Friedman & Friedman, P.A.
766 North Sun Drive, Suite 4030
Lake Mary, Florida 32746
mfriedman@ff-attorneys.com

All correspondence should refer to "Docket No. 160101-WS, Utilities, Inc. of Florida" Your letter will placed in the correspondence file of this docket. You may also submit comments through the Florida Public Service Commission's toll-free facsimile line at 1-800-511-0809, or the Commission's website available at <http://floridapsc.com/ConsumerAssistance/ComplaintForm>.

If you wish to contact the Florida Public Service Commission regarding complaints about service, you may call the Commission's Division of Consumer Assistance and Outreach at the following toll-free number 1-800-342-3552.

This notice was prepared by the Utility and approved by Commission staff for distribution by the Utility to its customers. If you have any questions, please call the Utility's office at 866-842-8432.

Utilities, Inc. of Florida

Larry & Pat LaBeau
151 Fairway Dr
Lakeland, Florida 33852

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SAINT PETERSBURG FL
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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0870

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