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Docket No. 16101-WS, Utilities, Inc. of Florida

As a resident of Seminole County, FL., I am writing to express my displeasure with the proposed rate increases in my water and sewer rates as they pertain to the former Sanlando business purchased by Utilities Inc. a number of years ago.

I know nothing about operating a utility. I do know that when you have any business that has fixed assets, they all have a useful life. Book and tax depreciation do not reflect how long before an asset will need to be replaced. I do know condominium association are required to establish reserves for major capital items. So what are the requirements for utilities?

Duke Energy is dealing (not very well) with the failure of the insulation on their buried cable in our neighborhood. Shouldn't the cost of replacement be part of their rates? Or, should I look forward to a request for an increase in my electric rates?

As far as I know, Utilities Inc. is a private company. It's not a government like Flint, MI., so they can't say "we need and deserve" a new water system to the state and federal government. I hate the use of the word 'fair' when applied to so many things today. Testing and rules for competitive events are suppose to be fair. Life is not fair.

We, the people of Florida, depend upon the Public Service Commission to establish rules and regulations, and approve rates that provide a reasonable rate of return for all regulated monopolies. That's no small job. If I buy a stock in a public utility company, I know what dividend they are paying. It's the responsibility of that company to generate enough earnings to continue to pay that dividend, and maybe earn enough money to increase that dividend and maybe the price of the stock. As a stockholder, I want the company to

earn more. If I'm a customer I want ^{my} rates to be low. If I'm both, then I'm conflicted, which is how I feel you should be.

Assuming Utilities Inc. is privately held, they still have owners (investors), and they want a return on their investment.


I don't know how you determine what Utilities Inc. earns each year, and what gets paid to the investors, vs. what is set aside in reserves for future capital expenditures. All I know is that my lowest bill last year was \$35.91, and might have been \$77.33 with the requested rate increase. My highest bill was \$93.07 and might have been \$182.07.

I'm a single guy, with an outside shower. Most of my water is applied to my yard. My irrigation system is set to off, I have a rain gauge, and only water when I think it's needed. My Social Security check is going down because the .03% increase doesn't come close to covering my increased cost of Medicare. My total Utilities Inc. bills last year were \$854.07. Double that and we're talking \$1,700.

I'm asking you to do your job, and determine that whatever increase you grant, you know you did the right thing.

William Butz
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 1/16/17

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