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March 3, 2017

Florida Public Service Commission
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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Docket No. 160101-WS, Utilities of Pennbrooke, Inc.

Dear Sirs:

I am a customer of utilities of Pennbrooke, Inc. and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed water and wastewater rate case.

I would like to comment on Utilities, Inc. of Florida proposal for uniform rates for all Florida customers. Utilities, Inc. states uniform rates would be similar to gas and electric utilities, however, there are significant differences.

Natural gas utilities are basically a pipes and meters utility. While water utilities have both pipes and meters, they also supply the product and in the many cases treat the effluent. This can result in significant differences in infrastructure costs between service areas. Even gas utility rates of a given company may be different if infrastructure costs per customer are different, such as small towns verse larger cities.

Electric utilities supply the product but do not treat. But where electric utilities have a uniform rate structure, the customers are interconnected with a common integrated product supply. The only interconnection of Utilities, Inc. service areas is possibly the aquafer and I don't think this qualifies as an interconnection. Even electric rates of a given company may be different if infrastructure costs per customer are different, such as urban verse rural.

I don't believe a uniform rate structure for all of Utilities, Inc. customers in Florida can be justified. I base my comments on 37 years of work in the electric and natural gas utility industry.

Because the test year of this rate case is 2015, I believe pro-forma additions are warranted, but limited only to those completed. Items on the to do or wish list should not be included, as this utility has a history of trying to include such items and then never completes them.

Finally the water quality and pressure issues continue. I live in a area of the community which has a higher elevation. While iron content in the water may not be as prevalent as the lower elevation areas close to the supply, it still requires a filter to make the water drinkable and frequent cleaning of water fixtures. Being at a higher elevation, pressure is an issue. It's just adequate at best and unsatisfactory on irrigation days.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Michael Chase



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