

Collin Roehner

From: Office of Commissioner Brown
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160101-WS - Application for Increase in Water and Wastewater Rates by Utilities Inc. of Florida - FW: Utilities Inc. Summertree Water System
Attachments: Utilities Inc Letter.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160101-WS. Thank you.

From: Flip Mellinger [<mailto:flipmellinger@pascocountyfl.net>]
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 4:32 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Brown; 'Mary.Yeargan@dep.state.fl.us'
Cc: Mike Moore; Mike Wells; Ron Oakley; Kathryn Starkey; Jack Mariano; Michele Baker; Jeffrey Steinsnyder; 'Mike Fasano'; 'Ann Marie Ryan'; 'SIMPSON.WILTON@flsenate.gov'; 'Rogers.rachel@flsenate.gov'; 'richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'jared.ochs@myfloridahouse.gov'; 'sayler.erik@leg.state.fl.us'; Braulio Baez; Mark Futrell; 'Brian Armstrong'; Michael J. Carballa; Robert G. Marin; 'Patrick Flynn'; John Hoy
Subject: Utilities Inc. Summertree Water System

Please see the attached letter requesting support for action.

Flip Mellinger

Assistant County Administrator, Utility Services
Pasco County Utilities Administration Bldg
19420 Central Blvd
Land O' Lakes, FL 34637

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CUSA18A7



April 21, 2017

Julie I. Brown, Chairman, **via email**
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Mary Yeargan, Director, **via email**
Southwest District,
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
13051 N. Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, Fl. 33637

Dear Chairman Brown and Director Yeargan,

I am writing today to ask that you take immediate action regarding the Utilities Inc. operation within the Summertree subdivision in Pasco County. This heavy-hearted request comes after witnessing serious public health and safety concerns, of which we notified Utilities Inc. and to which Utilities, Inc., did not respond. Following our water supply interconnect on December 21, 2016, Utilities Inc. has continuously been flushing water through their distribution system in a failing attempt to meet minimum disinfectant levels. The continued flushing, coupled with Utilities Inc.'s failure to communicate regularly with the Summertree community, is causing panic over the quality and reliability of the water supply. Citizens within the Summertree community are now reporting illnesses that they believe are directly related to the water supply.

We now believe that there are biologics living within the Summertree distribution system that continue to deplete the disinfectants in our water supply. I have personally recommended, and offered to assist with, performing a chlorine burn within the system to kill off these disinfectant depleting organisms within the Summertree distribution system. Utilities Inc. has replied that they do not need our assistance and that they are capable of performing chlorine burns. We believe that their continuous flushing is counterproductive and is actually allowing the disinfectant depleting organisms to flourish through a continuous supply of free ammonia contained in the chloramine disinfectants in the water we supply. The estimated 150,000-200,000 gallons per day of flushed water is overflowing the communities stormwater ponds and continues to freely flow into surrounding natural wetlands, leaving citizens concerned about the impacts to flora and fauna.

I announced early on that I was concerned with biologics in the Summertree distribution system prior to interconnecting our water supply. We anticipated that Utilities Inc. may need to flush for a few days to remove debris that may break off their pipe walls. Had Utilities Inc. not rushed to remove their old water production facilities, they would have had the facilities available to perform a chlorine burn within the system. Facilities will now have to be constructed to perform the needed chlorine burn.

In February 2017 we communicated our concerns with continued flushing with Utilities Inc., only to get a response blaming Pasco County Utilities and Tampa Bay Water for insufficient disinfectant levels. In March 2017 I again offered assistance to resolve the need for continued flushing. Our offer was again rejected with Utilities Inc. attempting to blame Pasco County Utilities for the water we supply them. We have had FDEP onsite to inspect and confirm that we are meeting and exceeding all regulatory requirements, confirming that the problem is not with our water supply. This continuous flushing for the past four months is obviously not solving the problem within the Summertree distribution system and the time has passed for further action.

I was notified on Wednesday that Utilities Inc. was flushing through one of their blow-off valves, connecting it to a fire hose which ends inside a storm drain, creating a direct backflow hazard and endangering public health and safety. Due to their unresponsive behavior and apparent inability to properly operate their utility, we request that you order Utilities, Inc., to take immediate action to remedy the situation so that the wasteful flushing can be stopped. Pasco County Utilities stands ready to provide immediate assistance to correct the ongoing disinfectant depletion issues.

Sincerely,



Flip Mellinger
Assistant County Administrator,
Utilities Services

Copy to via email:

Senator Wilton Simpson

Representative Richard Corcoran

Pasco County Commissioners

Mike Moore, Chairman

Mike Wells, Vice Chairman

Ron Oakley

Kathryn Starkey

Jack Mariano

Michele Baker, Pasco County Administrator

Jeffrey Steinsnyder, Pasco County Attorney

Mike Fasano, Pasco County Tax Collector

Ann Marie Ryan, Summertree Water Task Force

Eric Saylor, Office of Public Counsel

Braulio Baez, PSC Executive Director

Mark Futrell, PSC Deputy Executive Director, Technical

Brian Armstrong, Law Office of Brian Armstrong, PLLC

Michael Carballa, Pasco County Utilities Engineering Director

Rob Marin, Pasco County Operations and Maintenance Director

Patrick Flynn, Utilities Inc.

John Hoy, Utilities Inc.

UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION

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