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Public Service Commission

June 21, 2019

Martin S. Friedman, Esquire
Dean Mead
420 S. Orange Ave., Suite 700
Orlando, FL 32801

RECEIVED-FPSC
2019 JUN 21 AM 10:23
COMMISSION CLERK
STAFF'S FIRST DATA REQUEST

Re: Docket No. 20190031-WU - In re: Application for increase in water rates in Highlands County by Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

By this letter, the Commission staff requests that Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc. (Placid Lakes or utility) provide responses to the following data requests.

1. Please refer to the consent order No. 18-1360 and modification (Additions of Hydrogen Peroxide as a preoxidant and sodium hypochlorite as a disinfectant to improve water quality and decrease disinfection by-products) and provide the following information:
 - a. When was the modification completed?
 - b. When was the modification placed in service?
 - c. If the modification has not been placed in service, please explain why.
2. Please provide the disinfection by-products (HAA5s and TTHMs) testing results for the last four quarters, including the 2019 first quarter.
3. Please refer to MFR, Volume I, Schedule F-1.
 - a. Explain why the amount of unaccounted for water is negative for July 2018.
 - b. Provide the date, an explanation, and the amount of water lost due to any unusual occurrence such as a fire or line break during 2018.
 - c. What was the cause for the high percentage of unaccounted water (column 6) recorded for the month of August 2018?
 - d. How are the total gallons of water used for the utility's auto flushing program measured and/or calculated?
 - e. How are the total gallons of water used for valves, blow-offs, and hydrants measured and recorded and/or calculated?
 - f. Define "customer leak adjustments."
 - g. Explain how the customer leak adjustments were made and calculated.
 - h. Explain how the customer leak adjustments were measured and included as "other uses."

4. Please refer to MFR Volume I, schedule E-2, page 1 of 2.
 - a. The utility made an adjustment of \$16,485 to its test year revenues to account for adjustments to customer bills upon complaints. Please explain the adjustment of \$16,485 in greater detail by providing a schedule of the adjusted bills that displays the total gallons, adjusted gallons, the reason for the adjustment, and the dollar amount of the adjustment for each adjusted bill.

5. Please refer to MFR, Volume I, Schedule F-3.
 - a. The current SWFWMD water use permit No. 4980.010 issued on 09/06/2019 with an expiration date of 09/06/2022 allows 405,600 average gallons per day with a peak of 474,800 gallons per day. Please explain why the values of 401,100 and 469,400 were used instead.

6. Please refer to MFR, Volume I, Schedule F-5.
 - a. How were the gallons per day of excessive unaccounted for water (line 16) calculated based on the analysis on Schedule F-1?

7. For the current water treatment plant meter that is currently being used to measure the total amount of water pumped per day, please provide the following:
 - a. The date of installation.
 - b. The results of the most current accuracy or calibration meter test.

8. Please refer to MFR Volume III, page 264.
 - a. Please provide a copy of all bids that were obtained for each pro forma project.
 - i. Explain which bid was selected and why.
 - ii. If bids were not obtained for a project, please explain why.
 - b. Please provide a copy of any pro forma related invoices for costs that have already been incurred.
 - c. Please provide the estimated dates of when work for the following projects will begin and be placed into service.
 - i. Control System at Water Treatment Plant
 - ii. Hydrogen Peroxide Project
 - iii. Variable Flow Water Pumps

9. Please refer to MFR Volume III, page 265.
 - a. What is the remaining number of old meters that need to be replaced?
 - b. What is the total number of radio read meters that the utility has installed?
 - c. Will the utility be replacing the touch read meters with radio read meters?
 - d. What is the number of touch read meters in-service?

10. Please refer to MFR Volume III, page 265, which specified that in 2018, 60 of the newer radio read meters had to be replaced.
 - a. Why did the 60 newer radio read meters need to be replaced?
 - b. Did any of the newer radio read meters require replacement prior to 2018? If so, please indicate the year and the number of radio read meters that were replaced.

Mr. Martin S. Friedman

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11. Please refer to MFR Volume III, page 269. The proposal by Data Flow Systems (DFS) states that the proposed control panel is “an interim solution” and a separate proposal would be needed for a control panel with full functionality.
 - a. How long will the interim control panel be in place?
 - b. When does the utility anticipate receiving a separate proposal for a control panel with full functionality? If the utility has already received a separate proposal, please provide a copy of the document.

12. Please refer to MFR Volume III, pages 264 and 268. Please explain the necessity for a Hydrogen Peroxide treatment system, and what the utility plans to do with its current gas chlorination treatment system.

13. Please refer to MFR Volume III, page 264. When were the existing demand water pumps installed?

Please file all responses electronically no later than July 22, 2019, at the Commission’s website at www.floridapsc.com, by selecting the Clerk’s Office and Electronic Filing Web Form. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (850) 413-6473 or email me at mramos@psc.state.fl.

Sincerely,



Marissa Ramos
Public Utility Analyst II

cc: Division of Commission Clerk (Docket No. 20190031-WU)
Martin S. Friedman