

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for increase in  
water rates in Highlands County  
by Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc.

---

Docket No. 20190031-WU

**NOTICE OF FILING**

Applicant, PLACID LAKES UTILITIES, INC., by and through its undersigned attorneys, hereby gives notice of filing, in the above-referenced docket, the Affidavit of Mailing, evidencing that the Combined Initial and Interim Rate Customer Notice was sent by regular mail on July 18, 2019, to all customers of the Utility.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of July,  
2019, by:

DEAN MEAD  
420 S. Orange Ave., Suite 700  
Orlando, FL 32801  
Direct Telephone: (407) 310-2077  
[mfriedman@deanmead.com](mailto:mfriedman@deanmead.com)  
[gseegobin@deanmead.com](mailto:gseegobin@deanmead.com)

*/s/Martin S. Friedman*  
MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN  
For the Firm

**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

STATE OF FLORIDA

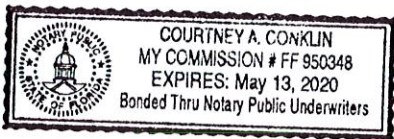
COUNTY OF HIGHLANDS


Before me, the undersigned authority, authorized to administer oaths and take acknowledgments, personally appeared MARIE McKINNEY, who attests that on July 18, 2019, Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc., ("Utility"), did cause to be sent by regular U.S. Mail, a copy of the Combined Initial Customer and Interim Rate Notice, attached hereto, to all customers of the Utility.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

  
MARIE McKINNEY

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019, by MARIE McKINNEY, who is personally known to me or has produced \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.



  
Print Name: Courtney A Conklin  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
My Commission Expires: 5/13/20

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**COMBINED INITIAL CUSTOMER NOTICE  
AND  
NOTICE OF INTERIM RATE INCREASE**

TO THE CUSTOMERS OF  
PLACID LAKES UTILITIES, INC.  
AND  
ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

RE: DOCKET NO. 20190031-WU

APPLICATION FOR INCREASE IN WATER RATES IN  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY BY PLACID LAKES UTILITIES, INC.

DATED: July 18, 2019

**BACKGROUND**

Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc. (the "Utility") is a water utility whose offices are located at 410 Washington Blvd., NW, Lake Placid, Florida 33852. The Utility's water facilities are located in Highlands County, Florida.

On May 13, 2019, the Utility filed an application with the Florida Public Service Commission (the "Commission") for an increase in its water rates to its customers in Highlands County based on an historical test year ending December 31, 2018. Final rates and interim rates are based upon the same test year. The application is assigned Docket No. 20190031-WU and June 21, 2016 was established as the official date of filing.

The Utility is requesting a rate increase because the existing rates do not provide sufficient revenues to cover the required expenses of operations on a going-forward basis and an opportunity to earn a fair return on the Utility's investment in used and useful property for the public use. The rate of return on equity requested in this proceeding is 9.07%. The overall rate of return requested is 6.67%. According to the Utility's books, Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc. states that its adjusted current overall rate of return without a rate increase is a negative 4.27%. The Utility's last rate proceeding and review of rate base was in Docket No. 20130025-WU, utilizing a test year ending December 31, 2012, which culminated in Order No. PSC-2013-0646-PAA-WU, issued December 5, 2013.

The Utility has incurred substantial additional operating costs and capital investment. Copies of the MFRs, the Rate Case Synopsis, and the Utility's application will be available for inspection at the following location:

The test period for setting rates is the historical period ended December 31, 2018.

## INTERIM RATES

On July 9, 2019, the Florida Public Service Commission approved an interim water rate increase for Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc. The interim rates will be effective July 23, 2019. 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 water rates, the Utility's requested interim water rates, the Utility's requested final water and the Commission approved interim water rates are set forth below. The final water rates are subject to change based on information gathered at the customer meeting, further Staff review, and the final decision by the Commissioners.

<u>Residential and General Service</u>	<u>Rates Prior to Filing</u>	<u>Utility's Requested Interim Rates</u>	<u>Commission Granted Interim Rates</u>	<u>Utility's Requested Final Rates</u>
<u>Base Facility Charge:</u>				
<u>Meter Size</u>				
5/8" x 3/4"	\$11.59	\$12.42	\$12.11	\$11.76
1"	\$28.98	\$31.05	\$30.28	\$29.39
1 1/2"	\$57.95	\$62.10	\$60.55	\$58.78
2"	\$92.72	\$99.36	\$96.88	\$94.04
3"	\$185.44	\$198.72	\$193.76	\$188.08
4"	\$289.75	\$310.50	\$302.75	\$293.88
6"	\$597.50	\$620.99	\$605.50	\$587.75
<u>Consumption Charge (per 1,000 gallons)</u>				
<u>Residential</u>				
0-10,000 gallons	\$4.34	\$4.65	\$4.54	\$5.21
10,001-20,000 gallons	\$6.52	\$6.99	\$6.81	\$7.81
Over 20,000	\$8.68	\$9.30	\$9.07	\$10.41
<u>General Service</u>	\$4.64	\$4.97	\$4.85	\$5.57

## **SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGES**

The Utility is not requesting any changes to its service availability charges. Even though not requested to do so, the Commission may review and adjust service availability charges.

## **PROCEDURES AFTER CUSTOMER MEETINGS**

The following tentative schedule was established by the Commission for the remaining major events in the Utility's rate case (a customer meeting will be scheduled and you will be provided with a separate notice of its date, time and location):

<b><u>Schedule Item</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>
Staff's PAA Recommendation	November 19, 2019
Agenda Conference on PAA Rates	December 3, 2019
PAA Order Issued	December 23, 2019
Protest Period Expires	January 13, 2020
Consummating Order if no Protest	January 15, 2020

## **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 to the following:

Martin S. Friedman, Esquire  
Dean Mead  
420 S. Orange Ave., Suite 700  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
[mfriedman@deanmead.com](mailto:mfriedman@deanmead.com)

All correspondence should refer to "Docket No. 20190031-WU, Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc." Your letter will be 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>.

Complaints may also be made by phone to the Office of Consumer Assistance and outreach at 1-800-342-3552, submitted through the Public Service Commission's toll-free facsimile line at 1-800-511-0809, or the Commission's website available at: <http://www.floridapsc.com/consumers/complaints/index2.aspx>

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 863-465-0345.

Placid Lakes Utilities, Inc.