

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: August 10, 2020

TO: All Certificated Water and Wastewater Utility Companies

FROM: Sevini K. Guffey, Public Utility Analyst III, Division of Economics *SKG*

RE: Undocketed - Proposed amendment of Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., Application for Miscellaneous Service Charges

The Florida Public Service Commission is reviewing the water and wastewater Application for Miscellaneous Service Charges rule for possible amendment. A copy of the draft rule is attached.

Each time the Commission adopts new rules or makes changes to existing rules, the agency prepares a Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs (SERC) pursuant to Section 120.541, Florida Statutes. The purpose and function of the SERC is to capture the incremental change in costs to affected entities of implementing and complying with the proposed rule changes compared to costs of implementing and complying with current rules.

Commission staff is requesting your input regarding the estimated incremental costs, if any, that might result from potential revisions to Commission Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., that could affect your regulated water and/or wastewater utility. If quantitative estimates of the incremental costs are unavailable, please provide a qualitative discussion of the cost differences to your utility between the current and draft rule.

The purposes of the recommended draft revisions to Rule 25-30.460, Application for Miscellaneous Service Charges, F.A.C. are to (1) add clarity and specificity to the rule, and (2) identify and define various miscellaneous service changes. Based on these intensions of the recommended rule revisions, please respond to the following questions:

1. Please identify the benefits to your utility if the proposed revisions to Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., are adopted.
2. Please identify the benefits to your utility customers/ratepayers if the proposed revisions to Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., are adopted.
3. Please identify the additional operational actions needed, if any, to comply with the proposed rule, and state the additional operational costs, if any, to your utility to comply with the proposed rule, if adopted.

All Certificated Water and Wastewater Utilities
8/10/2020

4. Is it your utility's opinion that the proposed revisions to Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., if implemented, will reduce directly or indirectly annual regulatory costs to your utility? If yes, please explain the reasons for the reduced costs and state by approximately how much the regulatory cost will be reduced annually?
5. Is it the utility's opinion that the proposed revisions to Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., if implemented, will directly or indirectly increase annual regulatory costs to your utility? If yes, please explain the reasons for the additional costs and state by approximately how much the annual regulatory cost will increase.
6. Is it the utility's opinion that the proposed revisions to Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., if implemented, will directly or indirectly increase annual transactional costs such as filing fees, license fees, equipment needed, procedures to comply with the rule, monitoring-reporting costs etc. to your utility? If yes, please explain the reasons for the additional costs and state by approximately how much the annual transactional cost will increase.
7. Is it the utility's opinion that the proposed revisions to Rule 25-30.460, F.A.C., if implemented, will directly or indirectly decrease annual transactional costs such as filing fees, license fees, equipment needed, procedures to comply with the rule, monitoring-reporting costs etc. to your utility? If yes, please explain the reasons for the reduced costs and state by approximately how much the annual transactional cost will reduce.
8. Does the utility estimate that the direct or indirect incremental financial impacts from the proposed revisions, if any, would be in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after implementation of this rule?
9. Is your utility considered a small business pursuant to Section 120.541, Florida Statutes (F.S.)? If yes, would your business have no adverse impacts from the proposed revisions to Rule 25-30.460, FAC? Or would it have minimal impacts? Please discuss.

Thank you for your time in reviewing the Commission's draft rule changes. Please file your responses with the Florida Public Service Commission, Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 no later than September 10, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact Sevini Guffey at sguffey@psc.state.fl.us.

SKG

Cc: Commission Clerk

1 **25-30.460 Application for Miscellaneous Service Charges.**

2 (1) All water and wastewater utilities may apply for miscellaneous service charges- and
3 ~~These charges shall be included in each company's tariff. If a utility provides both water and~~
4 ~~wastewater services, a single charge is appropriate unless circumstances require the utility to~~
5 ~~perform multiple actions during the premises visit or violation reconnection, and include rates~~
6 ~~for initial connections, normal reconnections, violation reconnections, and premises visit~~
7 ~~charges.~~

8 (2) The following identifies and defines miscellaneous service charges:

9 (a) A premises visit charge is levied when a service representative visits a premises to
10 discontinue service for nonpayment of a due and collectible bill and the customer pays the
11 service representative or otherwise makes satisfactory arrangements to pay the bill and service
12 is not discontinued. A premises visit charge is also levied when a service representative visits
13 a premises at the customer's request to (1) initiate service, (2) temporarily disconnect service,
14 (3) reconnect service after a temporary discontinuance, or (4) assess a service issue and it is
15 found to be the customer's responsibility. Initial connection charges are levied for service
16 initiation at a location where service did not exist previously.

17 ~~(b) Normal reconnection charges are levied for transfer of service to a new customer~~
18 ~~account at a previously served location, or reconnection of service subsequent to a customer~~
19 ~~requested disconnection.~~

20 ~~(b)(e)~~ A v-Violation reconnection ~~is a charge that~~ is levied prior to reconnection of an
21 existing customer after discontinuance of service for cause according to subsection 25-
22 30.320(2), F.A.C., ~~including a delinquency in bill payment.~~ Violation reconnection charges
23 are at the tariffed rate for discontinuation of water service and actual cost for discontinuation
24 of wastewater service.

25 ~~(c)(d)~~ A convenience charge is levied when a customer chooses to pay their utility bill by

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions
from existing law.

1 ~~debit or credit card either online or by telephone. Premises Visit Charge is levied when a~~
2 ~~service representative visits a premises at the customer's request for complaint resolution and~~
3 ~~the problem is found to be the customer's responsibility.~~

4 (d)(e) An investigation of meter tampering charge is levied when an investigation reveals
5 evidence of unauthorized connection to, or tampering with, the utility's meter or equipment,
6 pursuant to paragraph 25-30.320(2)(j), F.A.C. Premises Visit Charge (in lieu of disconnection)
7 is levied when a service representative visits a premises for the purpose of discontinuing
8 service for nonpayment of a due and collectible bill and does not discontinue service because
9 the customer pays the service representative or otherwise makes satisfactory arrangements to
10 pay the bill.

11 (c) A late payment charge is levied when a customer is delinquent in paying a bill for
12 service, pursuant to subsection 25-30.335(4), F.A.C.

13 (f) A non-sufficient funds charge is levied when a customer's payment is refused by the
14 drawee because of lack of funds, lack of credit, or lack of an account, pursuant to Section
15 68.065, F.S.

16 ~~(2) A utility may request an additional charge ("after hours charge") for overtime when the~~
17 ~~customer requests that the service be performed after normal hours. The after hours charge~~
18 ~~may be at the same rate specified for the existing charge during normal working hours. If the~~
19 ~~utility seeks a charge other than the normal working hours charge, the utility must file cost~~
20 ~~support.~~

21 (3) A utility may request after hours charges for a premises visit charge or violation
22 reconnection charge to account for the overtime when the customer requests that the service
23 be performed after normal business hours.

24 (4) An application for approval of new or revised miscellaneous service charges must be
25 accompanied by cost justification that supports the utility's requested charges, pursuant to

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Section 367.091(6), F.S.

Rulemaking Authority 350.127(2), 367.121 FS. Law Implemented 367.081, 367.121, 367.091

FS. History—New 11-30-93, Amended

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law.