

Ernest and Lani Pilgrim
2351 Snowy Plover Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
26 February 2021

Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dkt #: 20200139

As a new resident (January 2020) of Cypress Lakes, we have been told Utilities, Inc. bills have tripled during the past few years and are concerned about the current increase. Specifically, wastewater costs are the target in the latest increase.

In 2020, an expansion of our wastewater treatment system was necessary to accommodate approximately 120 additional homes in Cypress Lakes. Without notification to Property Management/Owners, Utilities, Inc. made that upgrade to the tune of nearly \$1,000,000. The price tag for this was placed on all our residents by action of the Public Service Commission and we have paid the bill. There has been no budgetary request since 2010 for our wastewater treatment plant.

But, we are now faced with an increase of an additional 30% in rates through request by Utilities, Inc. This is to pay for four other communities' sewer facilities. One of those systems is 50+ years old and is under court order to upgrade. Cypress Lakes community is the ONLY one in Polk County served by Utilities, Inc.

We request that the Public Service Commission deny the request for a rate increase and have it be assessed to those communities benefitting from the proposed \$26,000,000+ in capital expenditures.

Sincerely,



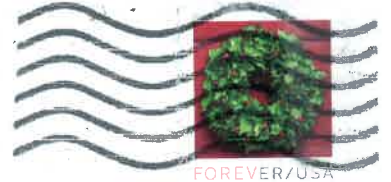
Ernest and Lani Pilgrim

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