

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: November 15, 2022

TO: Adam J. Teitzman, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Emily Knoblauch, Engineering Specialist III, Division of Engineering *EK LK*

RE: Docket No. 20210098-WU - Application for staff-assisted rate case in Pasco County by A Utility Inc.

Please file the attached affirmation of mailing from A Utility Inc., affirming that the customer meeting notices were sent to customers on November 8, 2022.

EK/jp

Attachment

A UTILITY, INC.

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**DOCKET NO. 20210098-WU – APPLICATION OF A UTILITY, INC. FOR
STAFF ASSISTED RATE CASE IN PASCO COUNTY**

AFFIRMATION OF MAILING

STATE OF FLORIDA

PASCO COUNTY

This statement submitted on November 9, 2022, affirms that on November 8, 2022, the attached Customer Meeting Notice for the above referenced staff assisted rate case was mailed via US mail service to the customers of A Utility, Inc.

Beverly Fonder "Sec"

Beverly Fonder

Secretary for A Utility, Inc.

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETING
TO THE CUSTOMERS OF A UTILITY INC.

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 20210098-WU

APPLICATION OF A UTILITY INC.

FOR A STAFF-ASSISTED RATE CASE IN

PASCO COUNTY

Date Issued: November 8, 2022

NOTICE is hereby given that the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a customer meeting to discuss A Utility Inc.'s (AUI or Utility) application for a staff-assisted rate case (SARC) in Pasco County. The meeting will be held virtually on the following date and time:

Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate at this meeting should contact the Office of Commission Clerk no later than five days prior to the meeting at 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 or (850) 413-6770 (Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8770 Voice or 1-800-955-8771 TDD).

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of this meeting is to give customers and other interested persons an opportunity to offer comments to Commission staff regarding the quality of service the utility provides and on the preliminary rates included in this notice. Customers and other interested persons may be asked follow-up questions. These comments will be taken into consideration by the Commission in its decision regarding the proposed rate increase.

This customer meeting will be conducted virtually. The Commission shall act as the host of the customer meeting and will use a combination of technologies to ensure full participation. The Commission will employ GoToMeeting as an audio and video platform for the meeting, and will provide for simultaneous, audio-only participation by telephone. Persons wishing to provide comments will present their comments over the telephone.

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CUSTOMER MEETING

A UTILITY INC.

DOCKET NO. 20210098-WU

DECEMBER 1, 2022, at 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Utility Introduction
3. Office of Public Counsel Introduction
4. Staff Presentation
5. Customer Comments (Please note: the order in which customers speak at the customer meeting is based upon the order in which they sign up.)
6. Next Steps
7. Adjourn

To speak at the virtual customer meeting, a customer must sign up via the PSC's online registration form, which will be available at www.FloridaPSC.com, under the "Hot Topics" heading on the home page. Customers can also register by contacting the Commission via email at speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us or calling (850) 413-7080. You will need to provide your name, address, and the name of the utility (A Utility Inc.). Registration will open beginning November 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. EDT, and the deadline to sign up is November 29, 2022, at noon. EDT. After registering to comment, either by the PSC website, email, or phone, you will be provided further instructions on how to participate, including the call-in number. Please note: the order in which customers speak at the customer meeting is based upon the order in which they sign up. To watch the meeting live, visit www.floridapsc.com and look for the "Watch Live Broadcast" icon on the left side of the webpage. If you do not have access to the internet, you may call (850) 413-7999 to listen to the meeting.

All customers who register to present comments at the meeting are urged to call-in promptly at the scheduled meeting time, since the meeting may be adjourned early if no customers are present. One or more of the Commissioners may attend and participate in this meeting. The meeting will begin as scheduled and will continue until all the customers have been heard.

If a named storm or other disaster requires cancellation of the meeting, Commission staff will attempt to give timely direct notice to the parties. Notice of the cancellation of the meeting will also be provided on the Commission's website under the Hot Topics link found on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Commission's Office of the General Counsel at (850) 413-6199.

BACKGROUND

A Utility Inc. (AUI or Utility) is a Class C utility serving 118 residential customers in Pasco County. The service area is located in the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The water system was initially built in 1963 to serve the residents of Tropical Trailer Park in Zephyrhills, Florida. The Utility was granted an original certificate in 1974, and was subsequently transferred four times before being transfer to AUI on May 20, 2021.¹

The Utility's rates were last set by the Commission in 1988.² According to AUI's 2020 Annual Report, total gross revenues were \$20,667, and total operating expenses were \$18,171, resulting

¹Order No. 6020, issued February 4, 1974, in Docket No. 1974037-W, *In re: Application of John W. Beeman for a certificate to operate a water utility in Pasco County, Florida*; Order No. 6998, issued November 14, 1975, in Docket No. 1974544-W, *In re: Application for transfer of water utility d/b/a Tropical Utilities and Certificate No. 165-W from John W. Beeman to Fisher Ames and his wife, Helen Ames, in Pasco County, Florida*; Order No. 10151, issued July 21, 1981, in Docket No. 19800253-W, *In re: Application for the transfer of Certificate No. 165-W from Fisher Ames and His Wife, Helen Ames, to Dale Hendryx, in Pasco County*; Order No. 11946, issued May 19, 1983, in Docket No. 19830048-W, *In re: Application for transfer of Certificate No. 165-W from Dale Hendryx to Barbara Cobb in Pasco County, Florida*; Order No. 19163, issued April 18, 1988, in Docket No. 19871156-WU, *In re: Application for transfer of Certificate No. 165-W from Melvin Cobb to Allen LaFortune and Otis Fonder (Tropical Park Water System) in Pasco County*.

²Order No. 21652, issued August 2, 1989, in Docket No. 19881601-WU, *In re: Application of ALLEN LaFORTUNE and OTIS FONDER for a staff-assisted rate case in Pasco County*.

in net operating income of \$1,950. On May 14, 2021, AUI filed an application for a staff-assisted rate case. Staff selected a test year ended December 31, 2020, for the instant case.

The results of staff's preliminary investigation are contained in a staff report dated November 1, 2022. Copies of the staff report and the Utility's application for a rate increase is available for review by members of the public by visiting <http://www.floridapsc.com/ClerkOffice/Docket> and entering 20210098, in the docket number search field.

CURRENT AND PRELIMINARY RATES AND CHARGES

Staff has compiled the following recommended rates for discussion at the customer meeting. These rates are preliminary and subject to change based on information gathered at the customer meeting, further staff review, and the final decision by the Commission. The Utility's current and staff's recommended preliminary rates are as follows:

A UTILITY INC.		DOCKET NO. 20210098-WU	
TEST YEAR ENDED 12/31/2020			
MONTHLY WATER RATES		UTILITY CURRENT RATES	STAFF RECOMMENDED RATES
<u>Residential</u>			
Flat Rate		\$15.26	\$21.51

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE COMMISSION

If you would like to share your comments with the Commission you may:

- Speak at the customer meeting on December 1, 2022, by contacting the Commission via www.FloridaPSC.com's online registration form, email at speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us, or calling (850) 413-7080 as indicated above. You will need to provide your name, address, and the name of the Utility (A Utility). Please register as soon as possible, preferably two business days prior to the meeting.
- Email your comments to the Commission at clerk@psc.state.fl.us
- Fill out and return, by US Mail or fax, the "Comment Card" attached to this Notice.
- Submit written comments to the Commission Clerk at the address below.

Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

All correspondence should refer to:

"Docket No. 20210098-WU, A Utility Inc."

- Address the Commissioners by phone during the Commission's Conference, currently scheduled for January 10, 2023. You may address the Commissioners during the Commission Conference even if you also provide written comments through any of the other methods. If you would like to provide comments at the Commission Conference, please contact Jacob Imig at (850) 413-6738 or jimig@psc.state.fl.us.

Please note that written comments are given the same consideration as if they were provided by phone during the Commission's Conference.

PROCEDURES AFTER THE CUSTOMER MEETING

Commission staff will prepare a recommendation which is tentatively scheduled to be submitted to the Commission on December 28, 2022. The Commission will then vote on staff's recommendation at its January 10, 2023, Commission Conference. As noted above, customers may address the Commission directly at this Conference. Customers may also watch the Commission Conference live from the PSC website at www.floridapsc.com. Look for the "Watch Live Broadcast" icon on the left side of the webpage.

The Commission will thereafter issue a proposed agency action (PAA) order containing rates which may be different from those contained in staff's final recommendation. Substantially affected persons have 21 days from the date that the PAA order is issued to protest the Commission's PAA order. Customers are able to obtain a copy of staff's recommendation and all documents filed in this docket under the Clerk's Office tab at the Commission's website (<http://www.floridapsc.com/>).

CONTACTING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL (OPC)

At any time during this process, you may contact the Office of Public Counsel (OPC). The OPC was established by the Florida Legislature to represent you and the other utility customers before the Commission. The OPC is independent from the Commission and can be reached at 1-800-342-0222 or www.floridaopc.gov.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact information for staff is provided below. You may also find additional information in the Rate Case Overview, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.floridapsc.com/Publications/RateCaseOverviews>.

For technical questions contact: Emily Knoblauch at (850) 413-6632 or
eknoblau@psc.state.fl.us
For legal questions contact: Jacob Imig at (850) 413-6738 or
jimig@psc.state.fl.us

If you wish to contact the Commission regarding complaints about service, you may call the Commission's Division of Consumer Assistance and Outreach at the following toll-free number 1-800-342-3552.

Application for staff-assisted rate case in Pasco County by

A Utility Inc.

DOCKET NO. 20210098-WU

Name _____

Address _____

To submit your comments about this docket to the Florida Public Service Commission, please complete this comment form and return it by mail, or fax it to 1-800-511-0809. Correspondence will be placed in the docket file.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Any email or other correspondence sent to a Florida Public Service Commissioner, or any other public official and / or employee of the PSC, in the transaction of public business is considered a public record and is subject to Florida's Public Records Law. This means that Florida law generally requires the PSC to provide a copy of any such email or correspondence, upon request, for inspection and copying to any Florida citizen or any member of the media.