

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Item 8

VOTE SHEET

FILED 12/6/2022
DOCUMENT NO. 11883-2022
FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

December 6, 2022

Docket No. 20220035-WS – Application for staff-assisted rate case in Polk County by S. V. Utilities, Ltd.

Issue 1: Is the quality of service provided by S. V. Utilities, Ltd. satisfactory?

Recommendation: No. The Utility is in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards; however, several customer comments regarding service interruptions have been received. As such, staff recommends that SV’s quality of service be considered marginal and no penalty be imposed at this time. Staff further recommends that the Utility meet with its customers within three months of issuance of the Consummating Order to discuss the service interruption issues. The Office of Public Counsel and Commission staff should be made aware of the meeting place, date, and time. Last, within one month after meeting with its customers, the Utility shall file a report with the Commission summarizing the results of the meeting.

APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS’ SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING

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REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

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Issue 2: Are the infrastructure and operating conditions of S. V. Utilities, Ltd.’s water and wastewater systems in compliance with DEP regulations?

Recommendation: Yes. SV’s water and wastewater treatment facilities are currently in compliance with DEP regulations.

APPROVED

Issue 3: What are the used and useful (U&U) percentages of S. V. Utilities, Ltd.’s water treatment plant (WTP), WWTP, water distribution, and wastewater collection systems?

Recommendation: SV’s WTP, WWTP, water distribution, and wastewater collection systems should be considered 100 percent U&U. Additionally, staff recommends that a 2.1 percent adjustment to purchased power and chemicals should be made for excessive unaccounted for water (EUW). No adjustment is recommended for excessive infiltration and inflow (I&I).

APPROVED

Issue 4: What is the appropriate average test year rate base for S. V. Utilities, Ltd.?

Recommendation: The appropriate average test year rate base for SV is \$192,696 for water and \$402,349 for wastewater.

APPROVED

Issue 5: What is the appropriate return on equity and overall rate of return for S. V. Utilities, Ltd.?

Recommendation: The appropriate return on equity (ROE) is 7.84 percent with a range of 6.84 percent to 8.84 percent. The appropriate overall rate of return is 7.84 percent.

APPROVED

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Issue 6: What are the appropriate amount of test year revenues for S. V. Utilities, Ltd.'s water and wastewater systems?

Recommendation: The appropriate test year revenues for SV's water system are \$104,124 and \$137,965 for the wastewater system.

APPROVED

Issue 7: What is the appropriate operating expense for S. V. Utilities, Ltd.?

Recommendation: That appropriate amount of operating expense for SV is \$156,623 for water and \$179,246 for wastewater.

APPROVED

Issue 8: Does S. V. Utilities, Ltd. meet the criteria for application of the Operating Ratio Methodology?

Recommendation: No. SV does not meet the requirement for application of the operating ratio methodology for calculating revenue requirement.

APPROVED

Issue 9: What is the appropriate revenue requirement for S. V. Utilities, Ltd.?

Recommendation: The appropriate revenue requirement is \$171,731 for water, resulting in an annual increase of \$67,607 (64.93 percent). The appropriate revenue requirement is \$210,790 for wastewater, resulting in an annual increase of \$72,825 (52.79 percent).

APPROVED

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Issue 10: What are the appropriate rate structures and rates for the water and wastewater systems of S. V. Utilities, Ltd.?

Recommendation: The recommended rate structures and monthly water and wastewater rates are shown on Schedule Nos. 4-A and 4-B of staff's memorandum dated November 22, 2022, respectively. The Utility should file revised tariff sheets and a proposed customer notice to reflect the Commission-approved rates. The approved rates should be effective for service rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheet pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the approved rates should not be implemented until staff has approved the proposed customer notice and the notice has been received by the customers. The Utility should provide proof of the date notice was given within 10 days of the date of this notice.

APPROVED

Issue 11: What is the appropriate amount by which rates should be reduced four years after the published effective date to reflect the removal of the amortized rate case expense?

Recommendation: The rates should be reduced as shown on Schedule No. 4 of staff's memorandum dated November 22, 2022, to remove rate case expense grossed-up for RAFs and amortized over a four-year period. Pursuant to Section 367.081(8), F.S., the decrease in rates should become effective immediately following the expiration of the rate case expense recovery period. SV should be required to file revised tariffs and a proposed customer notice setting forth the lower rates and rationale no later than one month prior to the effective date of the new rates. If the Utility files revised tariffs reflecting this reduction in conjunction with a price index or pass-through rate adjustment, separate data should be filed for the price index and/or pass-through increase or decrease and the reduction in the rates due to the amortized rate case expense.

APPROVED

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Issue 12: Should the recommended rates be approved for S. V. Utilities, Ltd. on a temporary basis, subject to refund with interest, in the event of a protest filed by a party other than the Utility?

Recommendation: Yes. Pursuant to Section 367.0814(7), F.S., the recommended rates should be approved for the Utility on a temporary basis, subject to refund with interest, in the event of a protest filed by a party other than the utility. SV should file revised tariff sheets and a proposed customer notice reflecting the Commission-approved rates. The approved rates should be effective for services rendered on or after the stamped approval date on the tariff sheet, pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(1), F.A.C. In addition, the temporary rates should not be implemented until staff has approved the proposed notice, and the notice has been received by the customers. Further, prior to implementing any temporary rates, the Utility should provide appropriate financial security.

If the recommended rates are approved on a temporary basis, the rates collected by the Utility should be subject to the refund provisions discussed in the staff analysis of staff’s memorandum dated November 22, 2022. In addition, after the increased rates are in effect, pursuant to Rule 25-30.360(6), F.A.C., the Utility should file reports with the Commission’s Office of Commission Clerk no later than the 20th of each month indicating both the current monthly and total amount subject to refund at the end of the preceding month. The report filed should also indicate the status of the security being used to guarantee repayment of any potential refund.

APPROVED

Issue 13: Should S. V. Utilities be required to notify the Commission within 90 days of an effective order finalizing this docket, that it has adjusted its books for all the applicable National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Uniform System of Accounts?

Recommendation: Yes. SV should be required to notify the Commission, in writing, that it has adjusted its books in accordance with the Commission’s decision. SV should submit a letter within 90 days of the Commission’s final order in this docket, confirming that the adjustments to all applicable NARUC USOA primary accounts have been made to the Utility’s books and records. In the event the Utility needs additional time to complete the adjustments, a notice providing good cause should be filed not less than seven days prior to the deadline. Upon providing a notice of good cause, staff should be given administrative authority to grant an extension of up to 60 days.

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Issue 14: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: No. If no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the order, a consummating order should be issued. The docket should remain open for staff's verification that the revised tariff sheets and customer notice have been filed by the Utility and approved by staff. In addition, this docket should remain open until the report with the summary of the results of the customer meeting has been submitted by the Utility. Once these actions are complete, this docket should be closed administratively.

APPROVED