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STATE OF FLORIDA



DIVISION OF
ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE
ANDREW L. MAUREY
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6900

Public Service Commission

December 21, 2023

Mr. Michael Smallridge
Pinecrest Utilities, LLC
5911 Trouble Creek Road
New Port Richey, FL 34652-5128
mike@fus1llc.com

VIA EMAIL

Re: Docket No. 20230071-WU – Application for staff-assisted rate case in Polk County by Pinecrest Utilities, LLC

Dear Mr. Smallridge:

This letter is to confirm that Commission staff will hold a **virtual** customer meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. We ask that, if at all possible, you or another knowledgeable representative of the Utility attend the meeting by phone in order to make a brief statement regarding the reason for your rate increase request. Attached is the customer meeting agenda.

As required by Rule 25-22.0407(8)(b), Florida Administrative Code, the utility must provide, in writing, a customer meeting notice to all customers within its service area no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the date of a customer meeting. Please find enclosed a draft Notice of Customer Meeting. The date has been left blank so you can fill in the date that the notice is sent to the customers. Please furnish me with a copy of the notice that is distributed to your customers, along with a cover letter indicating the exact date on which the notice was mailed or otherwise delivered to the customers.

Should you have any questions about the matters contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (850) 413-6742 or email at crichard@psc.state.fl.us.

Respectfully,

/s/ Christopher R. Richards

Christopher R. Richards
Public Utility Analyst III

Attachments

cc: Office of Public Counsel
Office of Commission Clerk (Docket No. 20230071-WU)

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CUSTOMER MEETING

PINECREST UTILITIES, LLC

DOCKET NO. 20230071-WU

JANUARY 23, 2024, at 2:00 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

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETING

TO THE CUSTOMERS OF PINECREST UTILITIES, LLC

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 20230071-WU

APPLICATION FOR A STAFF-ASSISTED RATE CASE

IN POLK COUNTY BY PINECREST UTILITIES, LLC

Date Issued: _____

NOTICE is hereby given that the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a virtual customer meeting to discuss Pinecrest Utilities, LLC (Pinecrest or Utility) application for a staff-assisted rate case (SARC) in Polk County. The meeting will be held virtually on the following date and time:

Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 2:00 PM

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 comment at the customer meeting must 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 (Pinecrest Utilities, LLC). Online registration to speak at the Customer Meeting will be available from January 9, 2024, beginning at 9:00 A.M.; through January 18, 2024, ending at 12:00 P.M. After registering to comment, either by 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, because 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

Pinecrest is a Class C water utility serving approximately 138 customers in Polk County. The Utility was transferred to the present operator in 2012.¹ Pinecrest’s rates and charges were approved in its last SARC in 2013.²

According to the Utility’s 2022 Annual Report, total gross revenue was \$59,184, and total operating expense was \$82,431.

On May 26, 2023, the Utility filed an application for a staff-assisted rate case.³ A test year ended December 31, 2022, has been established for the purposes of interim and final rates.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this case pursuant to Section 367.011, 367.081, 367.0812, 367.0814, 367.091, and 367.121, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

¹Order No. PSC-2012-0475-PAA-WU, issued on September 18, 2012, in Docket No. 110311-WU, *In re: Application for transfer of Certificate No. 588-W from Pinecrest Ranches, Inc., in Polk County, to Pinecrest Utilities, LLC.*

²Order No. PSC-2013-0320-PAA-WU, issued on July 12, 2013, in Docket No.120269-WU, *In re: Application for a staff-assisted rate case in Polk County by Pinecrest Utilities, LLC.*

³Document No. 03388-2023, filed on May 26, 2023.

CURRENT AND PRELIMINARY RATES

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:

PINECREST UTILITIES, LLC		SCHEDULE NO. 4		
TEST YEAR ENDED 12/31/2022		DOCKET NO. 20230071-WU		
MONTHLY WATER RATES				
	UTILITY CURRENT RATES	UTILITY INTERIM RATES	STAFF REC. RATES	4-YEAR RATE REDUC.
<u>Residential and General Service</u>				
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size				
5/8” x 3/4”	\$19.63	\$23.33	\$21.76	\$0.19
3/4”	\$29.45	\$30.74	\$32.64	\$0.29
1”	\$49.08	\$51.23	\$54.40	\$0.48
1-1/2”	\$98.15	\$116.65	\$108.80	\$0.96
2”	\$157.04	\$186.64	\$174.08	\$1.53
3”	\$314.08	\$373.28	\$348.16	\$3.06
4”	\$490.75	\$583.25	\$544.00	\$4.79
6”	\$981.50	\$1,166.50	\$1,088.00	\$9.57
Charge per 1,000 gallons – Residential and General Service	\$5.91	\$7.02	N/A	N/A
0-5,000 gallons	N/A	N/A	\$10.86	\$0.10
Over 5,000 gallons	N/A	N/A	\$13.57	\$0.12
Charge per 1,000 gallons – General Service	\$5.91	N/A	\$11.36	\$0.10
<u>Typical Residential 5/8” x 3/4” Meter Bill Comparison</u>				
3,000 gallons	\$37.36	\$44.39	\$54.34	
6,000 gallons	\$55.09	\$65.45	\$89.63	
10,000 gallons	\$78.73	\$93.53	\$143.91	

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 January 23, 2024, by contacting the Commission via email at speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us or calling (850) 413-7080 as indicated above.
- 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. 20230071-WU, Pinecrest Utilities, LLC”

- Address the Commissioners during the Commission’s Conference, currently scheduled for April 2, 2024. You may address the Commissioners during the Commission Conference even if you also provide written comments through any of the other methods.

Please note that written comments are given the same consideration as if they were provided 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 March 21, 2024. The Commission will then vote on staff’s recommendation at its April 2, 2024 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 OPC. The OPC was established by the Florida Legislature to represent you and 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: Christopher Richards at (850) 413-6742 or
crichard@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 service complaints, you may call the Commission's Division of Consumer Assistance and Outreach at the following toll-free number:
1-800-342-3552

