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DIVISION OF ENGINEERING
TOM BALLINGER
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6910

Public Service Commission

March 5, 2025

Mr. Michael Smallridge
Alturas Water, LLC
5911 Trouble Creek Road
New Port Richey, FL 34652-5128
mike@fusllc.com

VIA EMAIL

Re: Docket No. 20240119-WU - Application for staff-assisted rate case in Polk County, by Alturas Water, LLC.

Dear Mr. Smallridge:

This letter is to confirm that Commission staff will hold a **virtual** customer meeting on **Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** We ask that a knowledgeable representative of the Utility attend the meeting by phone, if possible, in order to make a brief statement regarding the rate increase request. Attached is the customer meeting Agenda.

As required by Rule 25-22.0407(9)(b), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), 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 the utility can fill in the date that the notice is sent to customers. Please furnish me with a copy of the notice that is distributed to customers, along with a cover letter indicating the exact date in which the notice was mailed or otherwise delivered to customers.

Should you have any questions about the matters contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (850) 413-6686 or email at owooten@psc.state.fl.us

Sincerely,
s/ Orlando Wooten
Orlando Wooten
Engineering Specialist

OW:pz

Attachments

cc: Office of Commission Clerk (Docket No. 20240119-WU)

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CUSTOMER MEETING

ALTURAS WATER, LLC

DOCKET NO. 20240119-WU

APRIL 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.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 ALTURAS WATER, LLC.

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 20240119-WU

APPLICATION FOR A STAFF-ASSISTED RATE CASE IN POLK COUNTY

BY ALTURAS WATER, LLC.

Date Issued: _____

NOTICE is hereby given that the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a customer meeting to discuss Alturas Water, LLC's (Alturas 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:

Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.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 the GoToMeeting app 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.

Customers may register to speak at the customer meeting in one of the following ways: (1) register using the PSC’s online registration form, which will be available at www.FloridaPSC.com, under the “Hot Topics” heading; (2) call the PSC at (850) 413- 7080; or (3) email speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us.

Registration will be available beginning March 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. EDT, and close at noon EDT two days prior to the customer meeting. Please note that the order in which customers will speak is based on the order in which they register. If you have questions about the sign-up process, please call (850) 413-7080. One day prior to the meeting, customers who signed up to speak will be provided further instructions from PSC staff on how to participate.

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

Alturas is a Class C utility providing water service to approximately 53 residential customers and 7 general service customers in Polk County. The Utility’s last SARC was in 2014.¹ In 2019, the Utility was transferred from Alturas Utilities, L.L.C. to Alturas Water, LLC.² In October 2020, the Utility, along with three sister utilities, was approved for a limited alternative rate increase.³

On August 12, 2024, the Utility filed an application for a SARC. Pursuant to Section 367.0814(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.), the official filing date of the SARC has been determined to be September 20, 2024. The 12-month period ending June 30, 2024, was selected as the test year for the instant case.

¹ Order No. PSC-16-0128-PAA-WU, issued March 29, 2016, in Docket No. 20140219-WU, *In re: Application for staff-assisted rate case in Polk County by Alturas Utilities, L.L.C*

² Order No. PSC-2019-0304-PAA-WU, issued July 29, 2019, in Docket No. 20180175-WU, *In re: Application to transfer facilities and Certificate No. 628-W in Polk County from Alturas Utilities, L.L.C. to Alturas Water, LLC.*

³ Order No. PSC-2020-0396-PAA-WS, issued October 22, 2020, in Docket No. 20200152-WS, *In re: Application for a limited alternative rate increase proceeding in Polk and Marion Counties, by Alturas Water, LLC, Sunrise Water, LLC, Pinecrest Utilities, LLC, and East Marion Utilities, LLC.*

The results of staff's preliminary investigation are contained in a staff report dated March 3, 2025. 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 20240119 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:

**ALTURAS WATER, LLC.
TEST YEAR ENDED 06/30/2024
MONTHLY WATER RATES**

**SCHEDULE NO. 4
DOCKET NO. 20240119-WU**

	UTILITY CURRENT RATES	STAFF RECOMMENDED RATES	4 YEAR RATE REDUCTION
<u>Residential and General Service</u>			
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size			
5/8" x 3/4"	\$17.85	\$18.99	\$0.14
3/4"	\$26.77	\$28.49	\$0.21
1"	\$44.62	\$47.48	\$0.35
1-1/2"	\$89.25	\$94.95	\$0.70
2"	\$142.80	\$151.92	\$1.12
3"	\$285.60	\$303.84	\$2.25
4"	\$446.25	\$474.75	\$3.51
6"	\$892.50	\$949.50	\$7.03
Charge per 1,000 gallons	\$8.05	N/A	N/A
Residential			
0 - 5,000 gallons	N/A	\$11.36	\$0.08
Over 5,000 gallons	N/A	\$14.20	\$0.11
Charge per 1,000 gallons - General Service	N/A	\$12.11	\$0.09
<u>Typical Residential 5/8" x 3/4" Meter Bill Comparison</u>			
5,000 Gallons	\$58.10	\$75.79	
10,000 Gallons	\$98.35	\$146.79	
15,000 Gallons	\$138.60	\$217.79	

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 April 2, 2025, 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. 20240119-WU, Alturas Water, LLC.”

- Address the Commissioners during the Commission’s Conference, currently scheduled for June 3, 2025. 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 Saad Farooqi at (850) 413-6214 or SFarooqi@psc.state.fl.us.

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 May 21, 2025. The Commission will then vote on staff’s recommendation at its June 3, 2025 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:	Orlando Wooten at (850) 413-6686 or owooten@psc.state.fl.us
For legal questions contact:	Saad Farooqi at (850) 413-6214 or SFarooqi@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 Polk County by
Alturas Water, LLC.

DOCKET NO. 20240119-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.