

MARCH 19, 1996

P.O. BOX 8590, HOBE SOUND, FL 33475

(12131 HECKLER DR. S.E.)

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RE: DOCKET NO. 960192-WU

I AM UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO ANY INCREASE IN RATES &/OR CHARGES FOR THE HOBE SOUND WATER CO. UNTILL FOUR (4) YEARS AGO THERE WAS NO CHARGE FOR METERS, AT LEAST NOT FOR PRIVATE RESIDENCES. SINCE THEN, YOUR ~~STAFF~~ ~~WAS~~ ~~TAKE~~ TO CHARGE, AS OF TODAY, A \$ 12.14 MONTHLY ~~METER~~ CHARGE, HAS RESULTED, FOR ME, IN A 30% PLUS PER MONTH INCREASE IN RATES.

THERE IS NO OTHER PUBLIC UTILITY, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, ANYWHERE, THAT HAS BEEN TREATED SO GENEROUSLY.

LETS PUT A STOP TO WE SMALL HOME OWNERS SUBSIDIZING THE ESTATES ON JUPITER ISLAND & BUSINESSES. AND, LETS STOP BILLING IN 10,000 GALLON INCREMENTS. LETS START BILLING GALLON BY GALLON & ROLL BACK ALL METER CHARGES. PERHAPS WHEN THEY STOP HOLDING ME UP WITH A METER INSTEAD OF A GUN, I MIGHT BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO THEIR REQUEST FOR A RATE INCREASE. V.T.U.

John P. Bernhard



Public Service Commission

State of Florida

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: April 5, 1996
TO: Blanco Bayó, Director, Records and Reporting
FROM: Joy Kelly, Chief, Bureau of Reporting
RE: 960192-WU, INFORMAL CUSTOMER MEETING HELD 3-20-96

IN RE: Limited proceedings, Hobe Sound Water Company.

DOCUMENT NOS. 03861, 4-4-96

The transcript for the above-described hearing has been completed and is forwarded for placement in the docket file, including attachments.

Please note that Staff distribution of this transcript was made to:

LEGAL, AFAD, WAW

The following exhibits are being filed with this transcript:

NONE

The following exhibits have not been furnished to the Bureau of Reporting to date and do not accompany this transcript:

NONE

Acknowledged by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joy Kelly", written over a horizontal line.

JK/pc

PSC/RAR 28 (Rev

7/94)

CAT

3
13217 SE Point O' Woods Court
Hobe Sound, Florida 33455
June 3, 1996

Director, Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

960192-114

Dear Director:

I was unable to attend your meeting regarding the request of Hobe Sound Water Company to get a rate increase. However, we are firmly opposed to this happening again. A yearly increase does not appear to be necessary for such a company. The residents of Jupiter Island have offered to purchase it and have been refused. Since the residents now own the Island, it would appear that they are the logical ones to own and control the utility, for their own protection. The possibility exists that another utility would make an offer to the present owners, but they would not have the interest of the present users of the water system.

I request you suggest to the present owners that if they find the water system a burden to them, they sell to those who are interested, the users.

Yours truly,
Betty F. Miller
(Betty F. Miller)

Mr. & Mrs. Edward D. Miller

RECEIVED
JUN - 7 1996

State of Florida

Commissioners:
SUSAN F. CLARK, CHAIRMAN
J. TERRY DEASON
JULIA L. JOHNSON
DIANE K. KIESLING
JOE GARCIA



DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
NOREEN S. DAVIS
DIRECTOR
(904) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

June 3, 1996

Herbert L. Gildan, Esquire
Nason, Gildan, Yeager, Gerson & White, P.A.
1645 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
Suite 1200
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Re: Docket No. 960192-WU - Application for a limited proceeding to include groundwater development and protection costs in rates in Martin County by Hobe Sound Water Company.

Dear Mr. Gilden:

Attached is a copy of the Staff Recommendation filed in this matter on May 30, 1996. The Commission is expected to consider this Recommendation at its June 11, 1996, Agenda Conference which will be held in Room 148, Betty Easley Conference Center, in Tallahassee beginning at 9:30 a.m. Due to the number of items to be covered at this conference, we cannot state the exact time at which this item will be heard. You are welcome to come to this Agenda Conference and observe and/or participate in the discussion of this item. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (904) 413-6199.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosanne G. Capeless".

Rosanne G. Capeless
Staff Counsel

RGC/mw

Enclosure

cc: Division of Water and Wastewater (Willis, Crouch, Austin,
Binford, Merchant, Munroe, Rendell)
Division of Records and Reporting

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June 3, 1996

Ms. Grace Walker
P. O. Box 1255
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

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Rosanne G. Capeless
Staff Counsel

RGC/mw

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Public Service Commission

June 3, 1996

Ms. Marion Frosch
9023 Adonis St.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

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Dear Ms. Frosch:

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Public Service Commission

June 3, 1996

John Bettendorf
10715 S.E. Seabreeze Ct.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

Re: Docket No. 960192-WU - Application for a limited proceeding to include groundwater development and protection costs in rates in Martin County by Hobe Sound Water Company.

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(904) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

June 3, 1996

Ms. Norma A. Schudy
12839 S.E. Berwick
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

Re: Docket No. 960192-WU - Application for a limited proceeding to include groundwater development and protection costs in rates in Martin County by Hobe Sound Water Company.

Dear Ms. Schudy:

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103 Harbor Way
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

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P. O. Box 7
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

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Ms. Ann Zeegers
9182 S.E. Apollo St.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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June 3, 1996

Herbert L. Gildan, Esquire
Nason, Gildan, Yeager, Gerson & White, P.A.
1645 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
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West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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Public Service Commission

RECEIVED
APR 29 1996

~~M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M~~

FPS-RECORDS/REPORTING

DATE: April 25, 1996
TO: Division of Records and Reporting
FROM: Rosanne G. Capeless, Attorney, Division of Legal Services *rgc*
RE: Docket No. 960192-WU - Application for a limited proceeding to include groundwater development and protection costs in rates in Martin County by Hobe Sound Water Company.

Please add the following to the above referenced docket's parties list:

Grace Walker
P. O. Box 1255
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

Marion Frosch
9023 Adonis St.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

John Bettendorf
10715 S.E. Seabreeze Ct.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

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Jim Spurgeon
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Ann Zeegers
9182 S.E. Apollo St.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

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cc: Division of Water & Wastewater (Willis, Crouch, Austin, Binford,
Merchant, Munroe, Rendell)

Nancy E.

2

043



March 6, 1996

Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumark Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-8050

To the Commission: Re: Docket No. 960192

We are in receipt of a communication from the Hobe Sound Water Company dated February 1996 concerning a request for an increase in said Company's base facility rates to recover costs associated with "the development and protection of groundwater resources."

Having spent most of my life in the electric utility business in New Jersey, I believe that such costs are costs of doing business and that such costs should not be allowed to be passed onto the consumer.

Such costs are not comparable to those of an electric company which does and should recover increases in the cost of fuel, as was the case back in the 1950s when the price of a barrel of oil went from \$2 a barrel to \$38 a barrel in the space of about a month.

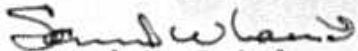
Rather it seems to me that the costs referred to in the communication of the Hobe Sound Water Company are more comparable to those of an electric company adding a new substation, transmission line or other related facilities for the purpose of maintaining quality of service. Such costs are costs of doing business and are not passed on to the customer.

According to my records, your commission on Aug. 2, 1994 approved an interim rate increase for a customer with a 5/8" meter from \$7.84 to \$9.83. The latest communication from the Hobe Sound Water Company shows that the current rate for such a customer is \$12.14. When and how it went from \$9.83 to \$12.14, I have no idea.

Nevertheless, it appears to me that an increase in this rate (referred to as "base facility charge") of \$4.30 (from \$7.84 to \$12.14) is in itself unconscionable, and that a further increase at this time should be denied.

It further appears to me, that the Commission would put its time and efforts regarding this company to better use were it to look into the management of the company, rather than to one rate increase request after another.

Very truly yours,



Samuel W. Laird
12687 SE Pinehurst Court
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

(407) 546-6787



Southern States Utilities • 1000 Color Place, Apopka, FL 32703 • 407/880-0058

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Ms. Blanca Bayo
Florida Public Service Commission
Director of Records & Reporting
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Re: Docket No. 960192-WU

Dear Ms. Bayo:

By this letter, I request that Matthew Feil, Esq. be put on the mailing list for the above-referenced docket. His address is as follows:

Matthew Feil, Esq.
Southern States Utilities, Inc.
1000 Color Place
Apopka, FL 32703

Also, please send a copy of the application filed in the instant docket. If you have any questions, please contact me at (407) 880-0058, ext. 267. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Henry
Paralegal

cc: Matt Feil

