

ORIGINAL

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING  
**FROM:** DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 9, 1997  
**RE:** DOCKET NO. 971471-SU- Highlands Utilities Corporation  
Request for a \$5.00 late payment charge.

Please file the attached letter in the above referenced docket.

SH\

ACK \_\_\_\_\_  
AFA \_\_\_\_\_  
APP \_\_\_\_\_  
CAF \_\_\_\_\_  
CMU \_\_\_\_\_  
CTR \_\_\_\_\_  
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LIN \_\_\_\_\_  
OPC \_\_\_\_\_  
RCH \_\_\_\_\_  
SEC 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
WAS \_\_\_\_\_  
OTH \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

LAW OFFICES  
**ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP**  
 2548 BLAIRSTONE PINES DRIVE  
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301  
 (904) 877-6555

ERNEST H. BENTLEY, P.A.  
 2 N. MADISON ST. 11 FLOOR  
 BRAN L. COOPER  
 MARVIN S. FRIEDMAN, P.A.  
 3700 N. JENNIS P.A.  
 STEVEN T. MENDLIN, P.A.  
 WILSON M. G. ROSE  
 HANNA L. SHIPPY  
 WILLIAM E. SUNDSTROM, P.A.  
 IRVING D. TRENOR, P.A.  
 JOHN L. WHARTON

MAIL STOP ADDRESS  
 POST OFFICE BOX 1587  
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301-1587  
 TELEPHONE (904) 877-6555

December 9, 1997

VIA TELECOPY

Ms. Sonica Hines  
 Division of Water and Wastewater  
 Florida Public Service Commission  
 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0873

RE: Highlands Utilities Corporation  
 Docket No. 971471-SU; Application for approval to implement  
 monthly late payment charge on delinquent accounts  
Our File No. 28087.05

Dear Sonica:

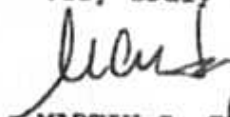
In our recent telephone conference, you requested that I provide you with the basis for which Highlands Utilities Corporation was requesting a \$5.00 late payment charge. I am cognizant that the Public Service Commission has granted various late payment charges for water and/or wastewater utilities beginning as early as 1978. The first flat fee rate charge was granted to Ortega Utility in 1989 in the amount of \$3.00. My rough calculation was that if you considered inflation since 1989, that \$3.00 late charge would be approximately \$5.00 in today's dollars. I do note also that the PSC by order number PSC-96-1409-POF-WU in November, 1996 approved a \$5.00 late payment charge for Crystal River Utilities, Inc.

Therefore, I believe that a \$5.00 late payment charge is reasonable and should be approved for Highlands Utilities Corporation. Should you disagree with my rationale, I would request a \$3.00 late charge for residential customers and a \$5.00 late charge for general service customers whose bills tend to be higher.

Ms. Sonica Hines  
December 9, 1997  
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If I can provide you with any additional information, please  
do not hesitate to give me a call.

Very truly yours,



MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN  
For the Firm

MSF/bar

cc: Ms. Lorri Lammie