

M E M O R A N D U M

June 12, 1998

TO: DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING
FROM: DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (JAEGER)
RE: DOCKET NO. 960545-WS - INVESTIGATION OF UTILITY RATES OF
ALOHA UTILITIES, INC. IN PASCO COUNTY

Please place the attached letters from Steve Watford and Representative Fasano, both dated June 11, 1998, in the above-referenced docket file.

RRJ/lw

Attachment

cc: Division of Water and Wastewater (Crouch, McRoy, Moniz, Rendell, Starling)
Office of Public Counsel
James Goldberg
Marshall Deterding, Esquire
Representative Mike Fasano

ACK _____
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EPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING



ALOHA UTILITIES, INC.

2514 Aloha Place
Hollywood, Florida 34691
(813) 937-4275

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: 6/11/98

TIME: 5:15

TELECOPY TO: Ralph Jagger, FPSC NUMBER OF PAGES: 3
(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

FAX NO.: 850-413-6235

FROM: Steve Watford FAX NO.: 813-938-2853

COMMENTS : _____

PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE IMMEDIATELY IF THE TRANSMITTED MATERIAL IS ILLEGIBLE OR IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES OF TRANSMISSION.



June 11, 1998

VIA FAX DELIVERY

Ralph Jaeger, Esquire
Division of Legal Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Aloha Utilities, Inc.; Docket No. 960545-WS Water Quality Survey

Dear Ralph

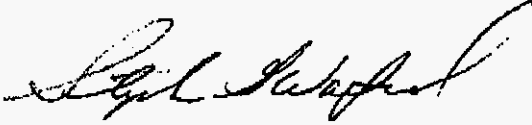
We at Aloha Utilities, Inc. today received a copy of Mr. Fasano's letter to you concerning the Commission's planned visit to Aloha's service territory on July 13th. At least there is one thing that Mr. Fasano and Aloha Utilities can agree upon and that is our pleasure that the Commission is finally going to visit the service territory of Aloha Utilities, Inc. and see for itself the quality of water delivered by Aloha to its customers.

Despite years of technical evidence submitted at hearings, reports by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and analysis by the Commission's own technical staff, Mr. Fasano continues to allege that Aloha is "hiding something" or refusing to accept responsibility for the water delivered by the Utility. Despite every bit of the scientific evidence and the opinions of regulatory agencies with expertise in the area of water quality being contrary to Mr. Fasano's assertions, he refuses to accept scientific evidence and *instead accuses the Utility of some sort of elaborate "cover up."* It has become apparent to us that Mr. Fasano's sole purpose is not to determine the facts, but rather to garner publicity.

As you are well aware, the DEP and the PSC's own technical staff have already viewed the water provided by Aloha, both with and without prior knowledge by Aloha of their visits. They are well aware that the "black water problems" which do exist and which Aloha has agreed do exist in some customer's homes, do not exist at all within Aloha's utility system. We invite the Commission's Engineering Staff to come by in advance of the Commissioner's July 13th visit, to view the regularly scheduled flushing of our system to see for themselves the absurdity of Mr. Fasano's allegations.

We look forward to the Commission's visit and, hopefully, to a final resolution of this case. With each additional unfounded allegation by Mr. Fasano the money paid by the customers of Aloha Utilities needlessly wasted. Monies could be much better spent on finding scientific solutions to the customer's problems and addressing those problems directly, rather than seeking to place blame on the Utility for no purpose other than publicity and political gain.

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Watford
President

SGW/ck

Florida House of Representatives

Mike Fasano

Representative, District 45
Majority Whip

Address

8700 Main Street
New Port Richey, FL 34654
(813) 885-5885

Office

1000 Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(904) 885-8585

June 11, 1998

Ralph Jaeger, Senior Attorney
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Mr. Jaeger:

I and many of the Aloha Utilities customers in the Seven Springs Service Delivery area appreciate the fact that Chairman Johnson, Commissioners Clark and Deason and many of the Commission staff will be making a site visit next month to see first hand the black water Aloha delivers to many of its customers. At the same time I am concerned that since Aloha is aware of this visit the utility will do all that it can to make sure that black water will not be seen on July 13, 1998. I have had several reports from constituents that Aloha has been flushing its lines, especially in those areas where the black water problem is the worst, every single day this week.

Aloha Utilities has a record of denying that any problems exist with its water system. With the impending site visit it is my concern that Aloha will make every effort between now and then to have its lines as clean as possible so that the commissioners will not be able to observe the extent of the black water problem to which so many customers have written, called and testified to. It is also my concern that once the site visit is complete any efforts to clean and flush water lines will be abandoned by Aloha.

For years Aloha has denied, delayed and filed appeals whenever the utility is ordered to take action. Since the credibility of this company is nil there is nothing Aloha can do that would surprise me except take responsibility for its actions and correct this major problem. No matter what the outcome of the site visit is it is my hope that the Public Service Commission will consider making future site visits without allowing Aloha Utilities to be notified of the date and time. I would appreciate your opinion of this request.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. As always, if there is ever anything I can do for you please do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours truly,

Mike Fasano
State Representative, District 45
Majority Whip

MF/gg

Commissioner

Florida Public Service Commission
Career Prep
Florida Department of
Government Administration
Tallahassee, Florida
32301-0001