

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Tariff revision for payment of charges for reconnection, reimbursement for extra expenses, and payment of charges for off-hour service connection in Martin County by Indiantown Company, Inc.

DOCKET NO. 000248-WS  
ORDER NO. PSC-00-0751-PCO-WS  
ISSUED: April 17, 2000

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JOE GARCIA, Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.  
LILA A. JABER

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

Indiantown Company, Inc. (Indiantown or utility) is a Class B water and wastewater utility, providing service to approximately 1,719 water and 1587 wastewater customers in Martin County. According to its 1998 Annual Report, the utility recorded water revenues of \$471,480 and wastewater revenues of \$523,998 with expenses of \$647,774 and \$810,265, respectively. The utility's service area is located in a water use caution area in the South Florida Water Management District.

On February 11, 2000, Indiantown filed an application for approval of a new customer service policy tariff which states that:

PAYMENT OF CHARGES Payment of charges for reconnection, reimbursement for extra expenses and payment of charges for off hour service connection, as described in Rule Numbers 19.0, 20.0 and 21.1 of this tariff, must be made in person at the Service Company's business office during regular business hours, or must be mailed and received at the business office in advance of the work to be done. Payments will not be accepted by personnel in the field or by office personnel at a location outside of the Service Company's business office.

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On February 23, 2000, the utility revised its tariff application to delete the premises visit charge (in lieu of disconnection). The premises visit states as follows:

This charge would be levied when a service representative visits a premises for the purpose of discontinuing service for nonpayment of a due and collectible bill and does not discontinue service because the customer pays the service representative or otherwise makes satisfactory arrangements to pay the bill.

Pursuant to Section 367.091(5), Florida Statutes, the tariff sheets proposed by the utility shall become effective within sixty (60) days after filing, unless the Commission votes to withhold consent to the operation of any or all portions of the new rate schedules, giving a reason or statement of good cause for withholding its consent. In addition, Section 367.091(2), Florida Statutes, states that the utility rates, charges, and customer service policies must be contained in a tariff approved by and on file with the Commission. Moreover, Section 367.101, Florida Statutes, states that "the [C]ommission shall, upon request or upon its own motion, investigate agreements or proposals for charges and conditions for service availability".

We have reviewed the filing and have considered the utility's proposed changes. However, we believe it is reasonable and necessary to require further amplification and explanation of the proposals and to require production of corroborative information, if necessary. Therefore, we find it appropriate to suspend the proposed customer service policy tariff and the proposed deletion of the premises visit charge (in lieu of disconnection) from the utility's current tariff.

Based on the foregoing, it is

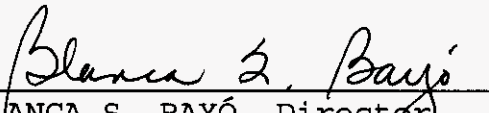
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Indiantown Company, Inc.'s proposed customer service policy tariff is suspended. It is further

ORDERED that Indiantown Company, Inc.'s proposed deletion of the premises visit charge (in lieu of disconnection) from the utility's current tariff is suspended. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 17th  
day of April, 2000.

  
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BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; (2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or (3) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.