BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for uniform service availability charges in Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties by United Water Florida Inc.

DOCKET NO. 000610-WS ORDER NO. PSC-00-1986-PCO-WS ISSUED: October 26, 2000

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ

ORDER SUSPENDING PROPOSED SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGES

BY THE COMMISSION:

BACKGROUND

United Water Florida Inc. (UWF or utility), is a Class A utility providing water and wastewater service to approximately 31,000 customers in Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties.

By Order No. PSC-97-0618-FOF-WS, issued May 30, 1997, in Docket No. 960451-WS, (May Order), we ordered UWF to file a service availability application within three years of the issuance of that Order. On June 16, 1997, UWF filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the May Order. On September 30, 1997, we issued Order No. PSC-97-1146-FOF-WS, (September Order), Granting in Part and Denying in Part Motion for Reconsideration and Amending Order No. PSC-97-0618-FOF-WS.

On May 19, 2000, UWF filed a Motion for Clarification of Time or in the alternative, Motion for Extension of Time. By Order No. PSC-00-1242-PCO-WS, issued July 10, 2000, we denied UWF's Motion for Clarification and approved the utility's Motion for Extension of Time to July 30, 2000.

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On July 25, 2000, UWF filed its Application Regarding Service Availability Charges and Policies for Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties, Florida, and Petition for Approval of Regulatory Accounting Treatment. On August 8, 2000, we notified the utility that the filing was deficient. On September 1, 2000, the utility responded to the notice of deficiency. We have reviewed the additional material filed by the utility, and have determined that the filing meets the requirements of Rule 25-30.565, Florida Administrative Code, and that September 1, 2000 shall be considered the official filing date.

In order to process the application and the petition, we need time to thoroughly review the utility's justification for the service availability charges and policies, and the requested regulatory accounting treatment.

Pursuant to Section 367.091(6), Florida Statutes, we may withhold consent to the operation of any or all portions of new rate schedules, by a vote to that effect within 60 days, giving a reason or statement of good cause for withholding that consent. If this Commission does not withhold consent, the proposed tariffs may be assumed in effect after 60 days.

We have reviewed the application, and have considered the proposed service availability policies and the information filed in support of the application. We believe it is reasonable and necessary to require further amplification and explanation regarding this data, and to require production of additional and/or corroborative data. Based on the above, the utility's requested service availability charges shall be suspended.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the service availability charges proposed by United Water Florida Inc. are hereby suspended. It is further

ORDERED that each of the findings made in the body of this Order is hereby approved in every respect. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this <u>26th</u> day of <u>October</u>, <u>2000</u>.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director

Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

JKF

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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is intermediate in nature, may request 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. Citizens of the State of Florida v. Mayo, 316 So.2d 262 (Fla. 1975), states that an order on interim rates is not final nor reviewable until a final order is issued. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.