

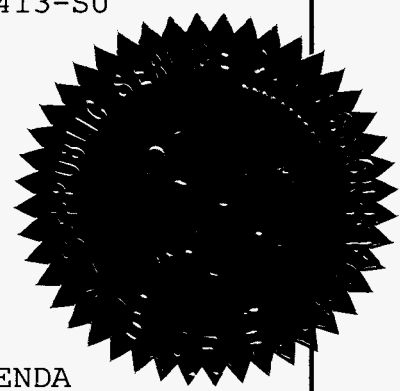
BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 100413-SU

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TARIFF
AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE A LATE FEE
OF \$14.00 IN POLK COUNTY BY WEST
LAKELAND WASTEWATER.



PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 18

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR
COMMISSIONER NATHAN A. SKOP
COMMISSIONER RONALD A. BRISÉ
COMMISSIONER EDUARDO E. BALBIS

DATE: Tuesday, November 30, 2010

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: LINDA BOLES, RPR, CRR
Official FPSC Reporter
(850) 413-6734

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Item Number 18.

4 **MS. BRUCE:** Commissioners, Sonica Bruce on
5 behalf of Commission Staff.

6 Item Number 18, Staff's recommendation is
7 a request for approval of tariff amendment to
8 include a late fee of \$14 in Polk County. Staff is
9 prepared to answer any questions that you may have
10 at this time.

11 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Commissioner Skop.

12 **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** Thank you.

13 Just one question. Again, I know this is
14 a suspend to give Staff more time to go investigate.
15 That's all well and good. But, you know, when I'm
16 reading this yesterday evening, a late fee of \$14,
17 I've been here almost four years, I don't seem to
18 remember one that high. And as a component as a
19 percentage of total bill, I would hope Staff would
20 take a detailed look at that. I, you know, would
21 stand to be corrected, if I'm wrong, but \$14 seems
22 to be almost shocking the conscience.

23 But, again, I'll let Staff do its own
24 thing. And I won't be here, I don't think, to see
25 this one again, but I felt compelled to opine as to

1 the magnitude of the late fee in relation to what
2 the average bill may be for the customers, and I
3 don't have transparency of that here. But I would
4 just encourage Staff to take a very diligent and
5 thorough look at what is fair, just and reasonable
6 pursuant to statutes.

7 **MS. BRUCE:** Commissioner, I have taken some
8 time. I wanted to contact the representative, Mike
9 Smallridge, just to let him know I had some time just,
10 just to be fair to look at the cost justification. And
11 you are correct, it really is high.

12 From speaking with him, I think -- rather
13 most companies base their justification on a monthly
14 charge. I think he did it on an annual, yearly
15 charge. He does understand that this \$14 is really
16 high, and we intend to bring it down together. So
17 I'm preparing a letter. I've spoken with him in
18 regards to my concerns, and I'm preparing a letter
19 to send out to him. So I promise you, it'll go
20 down.

21 **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** I want Staff to exercise
22 its own independent judgment. But, Ms. Bruce, I
23 appreciate all your hard work and efforts on this, and
24 just continue to ask the right questions. I appreciate
25 it.

1 **MS. BRUCE:** Thank you so much. Thank you.

2 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Any further discussion? Can
3 I get a motion?

4 **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** I'll move Staff on Issues
5 1 and 2.

6 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** May I get a second?

7 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Second.

8 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** So moved and seconded to, on
9 Item Number 18, Issues 1 and 2. Any further discussion?
10 Seeing none, all in favor, say aye.

11 (Vote taken.)

12 Those opposed? By your action, you've
13 approved Item Number 18.

14 (Agenda item concluded.)

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1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
 2 COUNTY OF LEON) : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 4 I, LINDA BOLES, RPR, CRR, Official Commission
 5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding
 was heard at the time and place herein stated.

6 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically
 7 reported the said proceedings; that the same has been
 8 transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this
 transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of
 said proceedings.

9 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
 10 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
 11 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
 attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
 financially interested in the action.

12 DATED THIS 3rd day of December,
 13 2010.

14 Linda Boles
 15 LINDA BOLES, RPR, CRR
 16 FPSC Official Commission Reporter
 (850) 413-6734