

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In re: Application for increase in water/wastewater rates in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, and Washington Counties by Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc.

DOCKET NO. 100330-WS

DATED: October 6, 2011

COMMISSION CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony of

Blanca Rodriguez has been served by U.S. Mail this 6th day of October, 2011, to the following:

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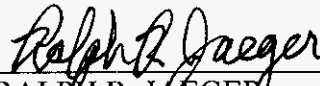
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DOCKET NO. 100330-WS - Application for increase in water/wastewater rates in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, and Washington Counties by Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc.

WITNESS: Direct Testimony of Blanca Rodriguez
Appearing on Behalf of the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission.

DATE FILED: October 6, 2011

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BLANCA RODRIGUEZ

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. Blanca R. Rodriguez, Engineer Specialist IV, 7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite B-200, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Q. Please provide a brief description of your educational background and experience.

A. I have a Bachelor in Chemical Engineering and 27 years experience as an engineer with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in the Drinking Water Program. My experience includes permitting, compliance and enforcement activities within the program. I have 12 more years of experience in the private sector as a chemical engineer mainly in the chemical industries.

Q. What are your general responsibilities at the Department of Environmental Protection?

A. I am the Compliance Team Leader in my office and also the County Inspector for the water systems in Alachua and Hamilton Counties. My responsibilities include inspection of the water systems, and requesting and reviewing compliance data (bacteria and chemical data) from the facilities for compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations under Chapter 62, Florida Administrative Code. My duties include conducting any necessary enforcement actions to bring the water systems into compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations.

Q. Are you familiar with the AUF water systems in Alachua County, particularly the Arredondo Systems?

A. Yes. I am familiar with Arredondo Farms Water System – PWS ID: 2010042, and Arredondo Estates Water System – PWS ID: 2010041 located in Alachua County.

Q. Are these systems in compliance with all applicable construction permits?

A. Yes, as far as I know.

Q. Have any of these AUF systems been the subject of any FDEP compliance enforcement action within the past three years?

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1 A. No.

2 Q. Other than any violations discussed above, is AUF in compliance with all FDEP
3 requirements for their water systems in Alachua?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is the overall operation and maintenance of these water treatment plants and
6 distribution facilities satisfactory?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

9 A. The two systems have had precautionary boil water notices (PBWNs) on various
10 occasions since 2009. I am not completely sure if they have notified the customers in a timely
11 manner in each occasion. Sometimes we have been notified various days after the
12 interruption of service by the utility. Complaints about the interruption of service due to water
13 main breaks or other problems (power failure, repairs) have been received by the local Health
14 Department, and they have forwarded the complaints to us. I investigated some of the
15 complaints. Lately, the utility has been responding better to PBWN issues and notification to
16 the customers.

17 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

18 A. Yes.

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