

Eric Fryson

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Eric Fryson
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 120084

FPSC, CLK CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 02725-12		
DISTRIBUTION:		

Customer correspondence
-----Original Message-----
From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 3:33 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 120084

Copy on file, see 1064650C. DH

-----Original Message-----
From: consumerComplaint@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:consumerComplaint@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 2:58 PM
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: E-Form Other Complaint TRACKING NUMBER: 31517

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Name: Hans Groeger
Telephone: 4077389625
Email: hgroeger41@hotmail.com
Address: 11301 via mari cae ct Clermont FL 34711

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Business Account Name: Hans Groeger
Account Number:
Address: 11301 via mari cae ct Clermont Florida 34711

Water County Selected: LAKE

COMPLAINT INFORMATION

Complaint: Other Complaint against Lake Utility Services, Inc.
Details:

We moved in to our home seven years ago and had a water bill for around 45.00\$-60.00\$ per two months billing period. 300.00\$ per year.

Utilities inc. began to increase the water rate since 2007 on a twice he year rate increase without any public hearing. now they are again increasing the rate for the rest of the year agin without any public hearing. my water bill is now, as of last month 160.00 \$, our monthley water usage is less then in the year 2006,2007,2008,2009,2010. There is no reason for this company to increase our water rate like that. Tierd to getting ripped of and taking to the cleaners. Now we pay 600.00\$ in five months. we are angry and upset over the automatic increase of the water usage bill with out Public hearing. They are the only water company we are able to use. They are using there water Monopoly to the Disservice of the Public and gouching us for whatever money we got. I, belive a Class action Law suite should be filed against this company and who ever approved the very undemocratic method to ripe of the Citizen of Florida and Clermont. Docket NO. 110005-WS , Order NO. PSC-011-0115-PAA-WS . Utilities inc. got sold and bought from a diffrent company a few months ago . They should not have the right to charge us for this take over

sincerly
Hans Groeger

120084-WS

12 MAY 15 11 08 27

May 9, 2012

Commission Clerk
Office of the Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oaks Blvd.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC
12 MAY 16 AM 8:47
COMMISSION
CLERK

RE: acct # 4010-2684370056-000

or acct # 4050110000

WERNER GATUS

102 Edyllwilde Dr.

Sonford, Fl. 32771-3635

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this letter to inform you that my husband and I are in objection to the said application transfer. We are sorry that this situation happened. We will abide with the association agreement from this point on.

Hoping for your kind understanding and will consider our request to remain under the Utilities Fu. of Florida for our utility services.

Sincerely,
Luisa Gatus

FPSC, CLK CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 02725-12		
DISTRIBUTION:		

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER
OF MAJORITY ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on April 23, 2012, pursuant to Section 367.071, Florida Statutes, of the Application for Transfer of Majority Organizational Control of Utilities, Inc., to Corix Utilities (Illinois) LLC. THIS APPLICATION IS NOT A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE RATES OF ANY OF THE BELOW LISTED SUBSIDIARIES. The following are the wholly owned subsidiaries of Utilities, Inc., which are certificated by the Florida Public Service Commission and their counties of operation:

Cypress Lakes Utilities, Inc. Polk
Labrador Utilities, Inc. Pasco
Lake Placid Utilities, Inc Highlands
Lake Utility Services, Inc. Lake
Mid-County Services, Inc. Pinellas
Sanlando Utilities Corporation..... Seminole
Tierra Verde Utilities, Inc. Pinellas
Utilities, Inc. of Eagle Ridge Lee
Utilities, Inc. of Florida Seminole, Orange, Pasco, Marion and Pinellas
Utilities, Inc. of Longwood Seminole
Utilities, Inc. of Pennbrooke Lake

Any objection to the said application must be made in writing and filed within thirty (30) days from this date to the Commission Clerk, Office of the Commission Clerk, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oaks Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850. A copy of said objection may be mailed to Sundstrom, Friedman & Fumero, LLP, 766 North Sun Drive, Suite, 4030, Lake Mary, Florida, 32746.

UTILITIES, INC.
2335 Sanders Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-6196



12 MAY 14 AM 10:25

COMMISSION CLERK

12 MAY 14 AM 10:25

RECEIVED-FPSC

May 9, 2012

120084-WS

Commission Clerk
Florida Public Services Commission
2540 Shumard Oaks Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

FPSC, CLERK CORRESPONDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative <input type="checkbox"/> Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT ID. 02725-12
DISTRIB. NO.

RE: Application for Transfer of Majority Organizational Control of Utilities, Inc.

Dear Commissioners,

In a letter to all Legends Residents dated April 23rd, 2012 and received in our mail boxes April 26th, 2012, we were notified of the above referenced application for transfer of control.

On behalf of the 843 residences of Legends in Lake County, we respectfully object to said application. Our objection is based upon numerous unanswered questions concerning the intent of the new company's subordinates.

Our reclaimed water is provided by Acme Water who severely cut back the Conditional Use Permit and recently increased their prices. To our knowledge, the Conditional Use Permit issued to Acme expires in August 2012. Acme is not addressed, nor is the August permit expiration.

Hopefully you can empathize with our reluctance without assurances that we will not have further cuts in our supply or increases in our rates. We therefore oppose this transfer.

Respectfully submitted,


James A Laria, President
Legends Country Club Community association

April 29, 2012

12 2011 - 0 11 8 27

547 Timber Ridge Drive
Longwood, Florida 32779-2646

→ Florida Public Service Commission
Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oaks Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

FPSC, CLK CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 02725-12		
DISTRIBUTION:		

RECEIVED-FPSC
 MAY - 3 AM 9:52
 COMMISSION CLERK

Subject: Notice Of Application for Transfer of Control/Sanlando Utilities Corporation, Seminole County, Florida

Dear Florida Public Service Commission Members:

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding the attached "Notice of Application for Transfer of Majority Organizational Control" sent to water and sewer customers of Utilities, Inc. of Northbrook IL. While on its face the document appears innocuous, declaring that "IT IS NOT A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE RATES OF ANY OF THE BELOW LISTED SUBSIDIARIES", its implications are quite ominous.

1. As a long-term Florida resident I have often wondered why it is that our drinking water, one of the State's increasingly scarce and valuable resources, is being delivered by a corporate entity in Illinois. In my experience, the larger and more remote the management of such commercial enterprises...the lower the quality, responsiveness, cost-effectiveness and customer service provided.

2. Research on the proposed recipient of control, Corix Utilities (Illinois), LLC, indicates that Corix is in fact a large Canadian conglomerate, with a focus on water products, water processing and water profitability through rate increases across North America. The attached letter to Heritage Pointe (HP) Residents is merely one of several "Regulatory" notices posted on the Corix website, with double-digit rate increases proposed throughout their customer base. As you may have heard, television's "Dr. Phil" says: "The best predictor of future behavior is...past behavior."

3. I am left wondering whether a "Transfer of Control" benefits Central Florida utility customers or the proposed sellers and new controllers. I am concerned that residents will be subjected to even higher-skilled and more experienced Canadian corporate rate-increase-justifiers. I also wonder whether this proposed transfer will

impact the role, responsibilities and effectiveness of the Florida Public Service Commission.

As the head of a 950-family homeowner association here in Central Florida I can tell you that my neighbors are very concerned about water quality, availability, conservation and increasing costs. Please consider our interests as you evaluate this transfer application from Utilities, Inc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne J. Hunicke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne J. Hunicke

Office: 407-774-3234

Email: whunicke@iag.net

cc:

Seminole County Commissioner Dick Van Der Weide
Seminole County Services Building
1101 East First Street
Sanford, FL 32771

Sundstrom, Friedman & Fumero, LLP
766 North Sun Drive, Suite 4030
Lake Mary, Florida 32746

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER
OF MAJORITY ORGANIZATIONAL CONTROL
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given on April 23, 2012, pursuant to Section 367.071, Florida Statutes, of the Application for Transfer of Majority Organizational Control of Utilities, Inc., to Corix Utilities (Illinois) LLC. THIS APPLICATION IS NOT A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE RATES OF ANY OF THE BELOW LISTED SUBSIDIARIES. The following are the wholly owned subsidiaries of Utilities, Inc., which are certificated by the Florida Public Service Commission and their counties of operation:

- Cypress Lakes Utilities, Inc. Polk
- Labrador Utilities, Inc. Pasco
- Lake Placid Utilities, Inc Highlands
- Lake Utility Services, Inc. Lake
- Mid-County Services, Inc. Pinellas
- Sanlando Utilities Corporation..... Seminole
- Tierra Verde Utilities, Inc. Pinellas
- Utilities, Inc. of Eagle Ridge Lee
- Utilities, Inc. of Florida Seminole, Orange, Pasco, Marion and Pinellas
- Utilities, Inc. of Longwood Seminole
- Utilities, Inc. of Pennbrooke Lake

Any objection to the said application must be made in writing and filed within thirty (30) days from this date to the Commission Clerk, Office of the Commission Clerk, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oaks Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850. A copy of said objection may be mailed to Sundstrom, Friedman & Fumero, LLP, 766 North Sun Drive, Suite, 4030, Lake Mary, Florida, 32746.

UTILITIES, INC.
2335 Sanders Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-6196

The Corix Water Rate Increase Application To Heritage Pointe (HP) Residents

By Greg Brown and Collin Marx, the HP committee responding to the AUC and Corix. June 5, 2009

This document is being circulated to all + 650 residences in Heritage Pointe (HP) that are currently being supplied water & sewer services by Corix. There is currently an application by Corix to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) for a significant increase (+23%) in the water rates for Heritage Pointe residents. There was a Corix open house, held on Jan 27, 2009 and Corix and the AUC gave presentations at that meeting. This rate application has still not been very effectively communicated since many people seem to be unaware of this application or the consequences, if it is approved. The AUC is planning on making their decision before the end of June 2009. For this reason it is imperative to state your opinion about this proposed increase and this must be done in the next few weeks; basically before June 22, 2009.

The following information has been prepared to make you aware of the issues, how they relate to you as a home owner and ask you to make your comments and opinion known to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). In May the AUC appointed Greg Brown and Collin Marx, residents of Heritage Pointe, as the HP committee and received this response on that basis. This committee has attempted to engage our Heritage Pointe Community Association and to date and to our knowledge, they have chosen to not be involved.

To be clear, the issue is not just about objecting to paying more for water. It is about the process and the data currently being used to justify the rate increase by Corix. It is, also, about the new fee structure that Corix is proposing which will increase the monthly fixed fee 25% and also change the water usage fee to an escalating three tier rate.

Included is a summary which highlights the main issues. This increase may negatively affect your real estate value and your pocketbook. Email your comments/opinion to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) at Shawn.Allen@auc.ab.ca and also copy your MD of Foothills Councilor Larry Spilak at lsplak@telus.net

All of the documents described below can be found at the following internet site, for your review.

<http://sites.google.com/site/heritagewater/>

1. Some samples of emails to the AUC from some of the residents that wish to share their concerns.
2. A response by the committee of Greg Brown and Collin Marx sent to the AUC on behalf of all of the Heritage Pointe residents; dated April 27, 2009. This response takes into account comments and discussion with the AUC, Corix (as facilitated by the AUC) and other residents.

In this response Corix was asked a number of relevant questions. On May 28th the AUC had informed us that they had received responses to these questions, although, the AUC stated that those responses will not be communicated. This lack of communication appears to be contrary to the AUC's own procedures as communicated to the HP residents at the Corix open house.

3. An industry newsletter article written by Corix in 2007 entitled "Corix Utilities Foothills Water and Wastewater Inc. A Look to Expansion".
4. The most recent application by Corix to the Alberta Utility Commission (AUC); revision 3 (updated April 2009). Corix web site: <http://www.corix.com/about/corix/regulatory.htm> . We have also included revision 3 of Corix's AUC application, down loaded from Corix's web site, for easy access.
5. AUC's presentation at the Heritage Pointe open house on Jan 27, 2009 (Slides 21 & 22) which detail the AUC's regulatory Process that will be followed.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUES

1. The *Plant and Equipment* values have NEVER BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A REGULATED RATE APPROVAL.

Therefore, what is decided now by the AUC will establish the basis for any future rates and the value of the utility for any subsequent purchaser could be doubled. (For example a purchase by the MD of Foothills or the Heritage Pointe community).

In the last 12 years this utility has changed ownership over 5 times. We are not privy to the reason for the transfers and sales between companies most of which are non-arms length transactions. The last sale to Corix in 2006 was an arms-length transaction and the sale value was \$1.9 million. Corix has used, in their rate application, an old 2005 book value of \$3.8 million. The AUC continues to stand firm, as recent as May 28th, on this issue and adamantly supports the use of the double book value. The AUC uses only examples of large utilities to justify their position. This one factor alone represents the justification for the rate increase aside from minor annual operating cost increases.

2. THE WATER RATES ARE EXCESSIVE before any increase compared to our neighbors.

Corix used the following annual consumption estimates for an average residential customer in their rate example.

First tier	268.0 cubic meters
2 nd tier	33.2 cubic meters
3 rd tier	<u>21.6 cubic meters</u>
Total	322.8 cubic meters

Using these consumption estimates the comparative results are:

Corix current rates for Heritage Pointe (up to February 1, 2009)

Service charge \$40.00 monthly
Usage single tier rate \$1.41 per cubic meter
Annual cost: \$935.15 (12 X \$40 + 322.8 X \$1.41)

Corix proposed rates for Heritage Pointe (after February 1, 2009)

Service charge \$50.00 monthly
Usage tier 1 rate \$1.60 first 40 cubic meters per month
Usage tier 2 rate \$2.40 from 40 to 65 cubic meters per month
Usage tier 3 rate \$3.20 more than 65 cubic meters per month
Annual cost: \$1,177.60 an increase of 25.8% from the current Corix rates

City of Calgary

Service charge \$11.50 monthly
Usage single tier rate \$1.2540 per cubic meter
Annual cost: \$542.79 only 58% of current Corix rates, or 46% of proposed rates

Okotoks

Service charge \$11.49 monthly
Usage tier 1 rate \$1.1087 first 22.73 cubic meters per month
Usage tier 2 rate \$1.3550 from 22.73 to 68.19 cubic meters per month

- Usage tier 3 rate \$1.5398 more than 68.19 cubic meters per month
Okotoks: Estimate \$600.00 only 64.1% of current Corix rates

Airdrie

Service charge \$27.55 bi-monthly (\$13.78 monthly)
Usage single tier rate \$0.7815 per cubic meter
Airdrie: \$417.57 only 44.6% of current Corix rates

Note: There are small differences in \$ amounts (+ - \$20) here in and the committees response.

- Corix's new rate structure has a specific purpose, as stated by Corix in their application it "... is designed as a strong price signal to discourage excess water use".**

Please refer to the above calculation that demonstrates Corix's three tier rate structure and an increased monthly fixed fee. Also see items 3 and 4 mentioned previously for details on Corix.

The committee's response proposes a low fixed fee and a higher usage rate:

Service charge \$20.00 monthly
Usage rate \$2.14 per cubic meter

The annual cost would be \$930.79, about the same as current rates but shifts the cost to usage away from the fixed charge as a responsible conservation approach. The AUC continues to stand firm, as recent as May 28th, on this issue and appears to support Corix's three tier structure and a higher monthly fixed fee (\$50 versus current fixed fee of \$40).

- The water supply issue has the potential to dramatically affect REAL ESTATE VALUES in Heritage Pointe.** Not only are the rates out of line with other communities, the water quality, reliability and assurance of adequate supply are of concern to many residents. See emails from concerned residents. We have also pointed out to the AUC that the HPs *architectural guidelines* have no provisions for low water landscaping alternatives which effectively results in large "thirsty" lawns.
- Corix is also planning an increase in WASTE WATER RATES.** The AUC has informed us that Corix is also planning to increase our waste water rates which are not regulated by the AUC. It would be deemed as fair and equitable if Corix were to immediately divulge their intentions before this water rate review can be considered. The AUC remains silent on this subject.
- The Corix rate increase is RETROACTIVE to Feb 1, 2009.** That means that if their application gets approved, as is, we will not only be paying +23% for all our water in the future we will also pay retroactive fees. Due to the timing of the open house, the arbitrary Jan 27, 2009 date (convenient for Corix) and the current extremely low level of customer awareness, it would be only appropriate that Corix does not have a right to a retroactive rate increase. After all, the capital spending that Corix used to calculate the rate increase is based on future 2009 spending of \$745,000, which has not occurred. They would then be entitled to a rate increase when/if it gets approved, and only then. The AUC continues to stand firm, as recent as May 28th, on this issue and supports Corix's right to a retroactive fee increase, regardless of the awareness level in your community.

From: Shawn Allen
To: Brenda Balog ; Shawn.Allen@aub.ab.ca
Cc: Chris McKay ; cbmarx@shaw.ca ; gj.brown@ymail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 5:39 PM
Subject: RE: Summary of Response to Corix rate application - Your response requested]

Brenda, thank you for the email. I will make use of all such emails in making a recommendation on this matter.

Regards,

Shawn Allen
Alberta Utilities Commission
780-427-9387

From: Brenda Balog [mailto:Brenda.Balog@cnrl.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2009 12:28 PM
To: Shawn.Allen@aub.ab.ca
Cc: Chris McKay; cbmarx@shaw.ca; gj.brown@ymail.com
Subject: RE: Summary of Response to Corix rate application - Your response requested]
Sensitivity: Confidential

Dear Sir,

My family and I reside in the Lake at Heritage Pointe community and will be directly affected by the rate increase put forward by Corix. Although I was aware that an application was being made (via the vague notice sent out by Corix and referenced in the below message), I was not aware of the substance of the application. After reviewing the information forwarded to me, I am surprised and dismayed by the manner in which Corix is rationalizing this increase. It seems somewhat ironic that residential homeowners - the very customer base for which Corix's infrastructure was originally constructed - will be penalized the most by the proposed changes.

Imposing this large of a rate increase under the veil of "encouraging conservation" by homeowners is somewhat disingenuous when one considers that Corix has made no effort to either educate its customers (both residential and commercial) on water conservation or otherwise to improve the efficiency of the utility's own operations. It is telling that Corix's submissions noted very little (if any) commitment to actually improve the infrastructure of their utility, either in the past or the future. On the other hand, Corix seems mainly focused on doing the bare minimum required to maintain minimum standards, while attempting to improve its attractiveness to potential purchasers through potentially large rate increases imposed on its largest customer base. This is unacceptable in my view.

I fully support the submissions of Messrs. Marx and Brown (see below) in response to the Corix rate increase application. Considering the spotty service, occasionally mouldy-tasting - and almost always heavily chlorinated tap water, significant boil water advisories and other service issues (including Corix's cumbersome BC-based customer service) which we have endured since purchasing our home in Heritage Pointe 3 years ago, it seems that we all would be better served if Corix started improving its operation and management practices and simply charged a reasonable price for its product. The rate increase proposed is well outside of what I would view as reasonable or fair.

Sincerely,
Brenda Balog

RECEIVED-FPSC

Vincent & Kathleen Sclafani
12728 Lake Ridge Circle
Clermont, FL 34711
352-243-3633
E-mail: KSclafani@cfl.rr.com

MAY -2 AM 9:29

COMMISSION
CLERK

12728 LAKE RIDGE CIRCLE
CLERMONT, FL 34711
352-243-3633

FPSC, CLK CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. <u>02725-12</u>		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

April 30, 2012

Members of the Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oaks Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to register a formal objection to the "Transfer of Majority Organizational Control of Utilities Inc. to Corix Utilities". Buyouts such as these have occurred in the past with our utility company and the customer has never benefited. Sellers make money. Buyers ask for rate increases and get them to make more money for themselves. Below is a sample of rate increases. We were unable to find actual rates before January 2010 but we do have records of our yearly water costs and our watering has been consistent through the years just to keep the lawn from dying.

From 2000 until 2008 our yearly cost averaged \$270. In 2009 with a big rate increase, it was \$672. An increase of 150%. Other rates increases since then are:

	<u>Jan. 2010</u>	<u>Jan. 2011</u>	<u>April 2011</u>	<u>Jan. 2012</u>
1st 5,000 gal.	\$1.69*	\$1.72*	\$2.24*	\$2.54*
2nd 5,000 gal.	\$2.12*	\$2.15*	\$2.81*	\$2.65*
10,000 gal.+	\$2.54*	\$2.58*	\$3.37*	\$3.98*

* cost per 1,000 gal.

How do you explain the need for these rate increases in a flat economy that are way beyond other commodities affected by inflation?

My neighbor owns another residence in Lake County served by Raintree Utilities Inc. His March 2012 bill was \$24.18 for 14,000 gallons. That is \$1.72 per 1,000 gal.

1. Which company better serves the public? Same water quality, same service and in the same county. The smaller independent company vs. the big company that gobbles up little companies... The notice lists eleven smaller utility companies that Utilities Inc. has bought up. Perhaps they learned this from how mortgage companies are bundled and sold.

2. Which of these companies, Utilities Inc, Corix Utilities or Raintree Utilities would you rather have as your water supplier.

This certainly seems like is a monopoly. We are at your mercy. **We certainly cannot go to "the other water utility company"!** The mail out notice states "THIS APPLICATION IS NOT A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE RATES ON ANY OF THE BELOW LISTED SUBSIDIARIES". That is true, but if this "Transfer" is accepted, a request for rate increase will no doubt follow.

As a Public Service Commission YOU are there to protect the consumer. We do not feel that you have done that in the past. My neighbor was actually told by an employee of the commission that one big rate increase was approved to discourage watering lawns. In other words 'punishment by pocketbook'.

We request that you put the consumers interest before the Companies interest and deny this "Transfer".

We also request a public hearing on this request in Lake County, Florida. We should be entitled to a REDUCTION in rates.

Sincerely,


Vincent Sciafani


Kathleen Sciafani

CONSUMER

April 28, 2012

To: Members of the Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oaks Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED-PPSC
APR 30 AM 9:06
COMMISSION
CLERK

This is to register an objection to the "Transfer of Majority Organizational Control of Utilities Inc. to Corix Utilities". Which I suspect is flowery language for stating a buyout of a smaller company by a bigger company. This has happened in the past with our utility company and never has the customer benefited from it. Sellers make money and buyers ask for rate increases and get them to make more money for themselves and stockholders if there are stockholders. Below is a history of this customers experience. I was unable to find actual rates before January 2010 but I do have records of my yearly water costs and our watering has been consistent through the years just to keep a lawn from dying.

From 2000 until 2008 our yearly cost averaged \$270. In 2009 with a big rate increase it was \$672. An increase of 150%. Other rate increases since then are:

	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	April 2011	Jan 2012
1 st 5,000 gal	1.69*	1.72*	2.24*	2.54*
2 nd 5,000 gal	2.12*	2.15*	2.81*	2.65*
Beyond 10,000 gal	2.54*	2.58*	3.37*	3.98*

* cost per 1000 gal

How do you explain the need for these rate increases in a flat economy that are way beyond other commodities that are affected by inflation.

I own another residence in Lake County served by Raintree Utilities Inc. My March 2012 bill was \$24.18 for 14,000 gallons. That is \$1.72 per 1,000 gal. Two questions for you:

1. Which company better serves the public? Same water quality, same service and in the same county. The smaller independent company or the big company that gobbles up little companies? The notice lists eleven smaller utility companies that Utilities Inc. has bought up. Perhaps they learned this from how mortgage companies are bundled and sold.
2. Which of these companies, Utilities Inc, Corix Utilities or Raintree Utilities would you rather have as your water supplier?

12 APR 30 11:08:29

DOCUMENT NO. DATE

02725-12 4/30/12
FPSC - COMMISSION CLERK

The mail out notice states "THIS APPLICATION IS NOT A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE RATES ON ANY OF THE BELOW LISTED SUBSIDIARIES". That is true, but if this "Transfer" is accepted I guarantee you a request for rate increase will follow.

You as a Public Service Commission are there to protect the consumer. I don't feel that you have done that in the past (I was actually told by an employee of the commission that one big rate increase was approved to discourage watering lawns. In other words 'punishment by pocketbook').

I call on you now to put the consumers interest before the Companies interest and deny this "Transfer".

I also hereby request a public hearing in Lake County on this application.

We should be entitled to a REDUCTION in rates.

Sincerely, 

Edwin Scott
11915 Overlook Drive
Clermont, FL 34711
elsorlfl@aol.com
352-243-4585

CC to Sundstrum, Friedman & Fumero LLP
CC to Lake Section of Orlando Sentinel

Edwin Scott
11915 Overlook Dr
Clermont, FL 34711-8561



ORLANDO FL 327

26 APR 2012 PM 4 L

12:00:07:14

COMMISSION CLERK
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION CLERK
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2540 SHUMARD OAKS BLVD
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0850

9299990850

