

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: February 9, 2015
TO: Carlotta S. Stauffer, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk
FROM: Kelley F. Corbari, Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel *KFC*
RE: **Docket No. 140219-WU** – Application for staff-assisted rate case in Polk County by Alturas Utilities, LLC.
Docket No. 140220-WU – Application for staff-assisted rate case in Polk County by Sunrise Utilities, LLC.

Attached please find correspondence between staff and the owner of the above-referenced Utilities. Please file the attached correspondence in the above-referenced docket files.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

KFC

From: [Kelley Corbari](#)
To: "[L SZABO](#)"
Cc: [Adam Teitzman](#)
Subject: RE: Thursday conference call
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 3:29:18 PM

Mr. Szabo,

Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts and concerns. I will make sure to communicate your comments to Staff working on the Utilities' rate cases. I can assure you that our Staff will do whatever is possible within the applicable rules to assist both Sunrise and Alturas with their rate cases. Staff from various divisions should be contacting this week in order to begin working with you and the Utilities on the individual matters that were discussed during the conference call last Thursday.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Kelley

Kelley F. Corbari,
Senior Attorney – Regulatory Analysis Section
Office of the General Counsel
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: L SZABO [<mailto:l.szabo@rogers.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Kelley Corbari
Cc: l.szabo@rogers.com
Subject: Thursday conference call

Good Morning Ms Kelley Corbari,

I do not wish to add to your workload, but I did not know who to turn too after being exposed Thursday of all the indifferences and without any concern how we will be able to manage to overcome our present financial difficulties and the negative of our equal right to be at the rate other companies benefit currently.

We also can not afford to jeopardize the outcome of our rate case application, therefore I have felt the necessity to write a letter to you and sending it as attachment.

Yours truly

Leslie Szabo

From: [L.SZABO](#)
To: [Kelley Corbari](#)
Cc: L.szabo@rogers.com
Subject: Thursday conference call
Date: Monday, February 09, 2015 8:21:10 AM
Attachments: [Ms Corbari took me a few days.doc](#)

Good Morning Ms Kelley Corbari,

I do not wish to add to your workload, but I did not know who to turn too after being exposed Thursday of all the indifferences and without any concern how we will be able to manage to overcome our present financial difficulties and the negative of our equal right to be at the rate other companies benefit currently.

We also can not afford to jeopardize the outcome of our rate case application, therefore I have felt the necessity to write a letter to you and sending it as attachment.

Yours truly

Leslie Szabo

February 7, 2015

Hello Ms. Corbari,

I took me a couple days to compose myself and to analyze the conversation we all had at the Conference Call on February 5.

Mr. Tom Berenger informed me that the outstanding Legal fees and the amount of judgment in favor of Blount Utilities and the \$ 13,000 unpaid RAF including interest for the previous years will not be allowed to recover in our new rate.

After that, a simple question was put to me do we really wish to proceed with the SARC or the \$ 1,000 checks will be returned and we must continue to operate with the current rates we have.

Being dramatic it is like being in the Sahara totally dehydrated and panicky would I accept a glass of water at any price?

Of course, - they called survival instinct, and the opportunity to be able to survive.

I am not expecting from the Public Service Commission to reverse their decision but I owe it to myself and to make it clear give what caused to have all those outstanding liabilities in the first place?

The answer is simple 2012 being a test year and we did not have enough revenue to pay Blount for those extra expenses. All my efforts to come to term failed, and we ended up in court and with the additional lawyer fees the original amount owed doubled.

They must be paid within the year 2015 and with our current revenue will be difficult, but it is a must.

The past due RAF amount is also doubled than the original amount was with the added late fees and interest charges imposed on us by the Public Service Commission.

Our commitment of the \$ 250.00 monthly payments we can manage and it will take for ever, - but being at the age I am - it will become the obligation of my successor therefore it is not my main priority.

I will not be there to apologize for him or to her that we had to spend the allocated funds to pay other expenses necessary to keep the operation running.

Within our conference call I was also informed quite bluntly - that we should not expect to be granted the same revenues as the very similar type of operation have at present, as each Water Utilities rates are judged individually.

It sounds fair, but in reality don't we have the very same expenses and should not be penalized because we were able to stay alive – so far - on a string budget.

What happened to the equal opportunity theory ? or it is does not apply to us ?

It is not our concern what shapes or condition of the other water utility company system are, but ours needs a lot of improvements.

Is anybody out there really cares or would accept some responsibilities how we will be able to manage to live up to our obligation and to stay in business without a solid foundation?

Now is the opportunity for the Public Service Commission to make things right and give to a life essential service provider the tools enable to operate and not only looking after their own department interest without any concern to the customer's safety or the operator needs.

We must bring those aging systems in a better general condition, - besides complying with the standing orders from the Polk Count Health Department – to avoid the many reoccurring break dawns we had in the past.

All we are asking to have a fair and realistic new rate, otherwise our future will be doomed from the start.

I do not wish to sound like a person who has changed his mind and looking for a refund for the license fees.

We are all aware that in today market any business to have a captive audience for their product is a rare opportunity.

Being positive, and to have some ideas for the cost involved we will start to shop around as of next week on the various projects we must do.

Based on our previous correspondences I feel this letter will not fall in deaf ears by sending it to you and you will relay our message to the people involved in our SARC application.

Yours truly,

Leslie Szabo