

STATE OF FLORIDA



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DIVISION OF ENGINEERING
TOM BALLINGER
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6910

Public Service Commission

February 27, 2020

Ms. Holly Burge
Aquarina Utilities, Inc.
P.O. Box 1114
Fellsmere, FL 32948
aquarinautilities@bellsouth.net

VIA EMAIL & US MAIL

Re: Docket No. 20190080-WS – Application for limited proceeding rate increase in Brevard County, by Aquarina Utilities, Inc.

Dear Ms. Burge:

This letter will confirm that Commission staff will hold a customer meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. If at all possible, we ask that a knowledgeable representative of the Utility attend the meeting in order to answer customer questions. The location of the general meeting will be as follows:

6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 26, 2020
Aquarina Community Center Conference Room
450 Aquarina Blvd.
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

As required by Rule 25-30.446(6), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the utility must provide, in writing, a customer meeting notice to all customers within its service area, and any other required persons, no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the date of a customer meeting. A draft customer meeting notice is enclosed. Please note the date has been left blank so you can fill in the date that the notice is sent to the customers. Please furnish me with a copy of the notice that is distributed to your customers, together with a cover letter indicating the exact date(s) the notice was mailed or otherwise delivered to the customers.

In addition, please ensure that a copy of the Utility's petition, minimum filing requirements, and the customer meeting notice are available for review, pursuant to Rule 25-30.446(5), F.A.C., by all interested persons at the following location:

Aquarina Utilities, Inc.
235 Aquarina Blvd.
Melbourne Beach, FL, 32951

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For your convenience, I also have enclosed a copy of Rule 25-30.446, F.A.C. Should you have any questions about the matters contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 413-6127.

Sincerely,



Jefferson Doehling
Engineering Specialist

JD/jp

Enclosures

cc: Office of Commission Clerk (Docket No. 20190080-WS)
Mr. Martin S. Friedman (mfriedman@deanmead.com)

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETING
TO THE CUSTOMERS OF
AQUARINA UTILITIES, INC.
AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

RE: DOCKET NO. 20190080-WS
APPLICATION FOR LIMITED PROCEEDING RATE INCREASE IN BREVARD COUNTY,
BY AQUARINA UTILITIES, INC.

DATED: _____

NOTICE is hereby given that the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a customer meeting to discuss the Application for an Increase in Rates of Aquarina Utilities, Inc. (Aquarina or Utility). The meeting will be held at the following time and place:

6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 26, 2020
Aquarina Community Center Conference Room
450 Aquarina Blvd.
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

All persons who wish to comment are urged to be present at the beginning of the meeting, since the meeting may be adjourned early if no customers are present. One or more of the Commissioners may attend and participate in this meeting. The meeting will begin as scheduled and will continue until all of the customers have been heard.

Any person requiring some accommodation at the customer meeting because of a physical impairment should call the Office of Commission Clerk at (850) 413-6770 at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting. Any person who is hearing or speech impaired should contact the Commission by using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

EMERGENCY CANCELLATION OF CUSTOMER MEETING

If a named storm or other disaster requires cancellation of the meeting, Commission staff will attempt to give timely direct notice to the parties. Notice of cancellation of the meeting will also be provided on the Commission's website (<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/>) under the Hot Topics link found on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Office of the General Counsel at 850-413-6199.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting is to give customers and other interested persons an opportunity to offer comments regarding the proposed rate increase and to ask questions and comment on other issues. Commission staff will be available to address and coordinate customers' comments and to assist members of the public. A representative from the utility may also be in attendance. At the beginning of the meeting, procedures will be established for the order of comments. The Commission staff will have sign-up sheets and customers will be called in the order that they sign up to speak.

HOW TO CONTACT THE COMMISSION

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to staff may do so at the meeting, either orally or in writing. Other written comments regarding the utility and the proposed rates, or requests to be placed on the mailing list for this case, may be directed to this address:

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Or by e-mail to Clerk@psc.state.fl.us

All correspondence should refer to "Docket No. 20190080-WS, Aquarina Utilities, Inc." Your letter will be placed in the correspondence file of this docket. You may also submit comments through the Public Service Commission's toll-free facsimile line at 1-800-511-0809 or the Commission's website available at:

<http://floridapsc.com/ConsumerAssistance/ComplaintForm>

If you wish to contact the Commission regarding complaints about service, you may call the Commission's Division of Consumer Assistance and Outreach at the following toll-free number 1-800-342-3552.

BACKGROUND

Aquarina is a Class B utility providing water and wastewater services in Brevard County to approximately 301 water, 120 non-potable, and 339 wastewater customers. The Utility's rates for potable water and wastewater were last set in a staff-assisted rate case in 2016. In its 2018 annual report, the Aquarina reported operating revenues in the amount of \$500,491 for water and \$188,087 for wastewater service.

On April 1, 2019, Aquarina filed an application for a limited proceeding rate increase. The minimum filing requirements were met and the official filing date was established as July 31, 2019. In its application, Aquarina is seeking to recover the revenue it will lose as a result of the loss of Aquarina Golf, Inc. as an irrigation customer. In addition, the Utility is seeking recognition of capital improvements that have taken place since the last rate case. Copies of the utility's petition for a limited alternative rate increase and minimum filing requirements are available for inspection by members of the public at the following location:

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Aquarina Utilities, Inc.
235 Aquarina Blvd.
Melbourne Beach, FL, 32951

CURRENT AND PROPOSED RATES

The current and proposed rates are listed below. These rates are subject to change based on information gathered at the customer meeting, further Commission staff review, and the final decision by the Commissioners.

AQUARINA UTILITIES, INC.	CURRENT	PROPOSED
MONTHLY WATER RATES	RATES	RATES
<u>Residential and General Service</u>		
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size		
5/8" x 3/4"	\$19.80	\$29.97
3/4"	\$29.70	\$44.95
1"	\$49.50	\$74.92
1-1/2"	\$99.00	\$149.84
2"	\$158.40	\$239.74
3"	\$316.80	\$479.49
4"	\$495.00	\$749.20
6"	\$990.00	\$1,498.40
Charge per 1,000 gallons	\$7.18	\$10.87
<u>Irrigation Service</u>		
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size		
5/8" x 3/4"	\$14.24	\$11.07
3/4"	\$21.36	\$16.61
1"	\$35.60	\$27.68
1-1/2"	\$71.20	\$55.35
2"	\$113.92	\$88.56
3"	\$227.84	\$193.73
4"	\$356.00	\$332.10
6"	\$712.00	\$691.88
8"	\$1139.20	\$996.30
Charge per 1,000 gallons	\$1.42	\$0.89

AQUARINA UTILITIES, INC.	CURRENT	PROPOSED
MONTHLY WASTEWATER RATES	RATES	RATES
<u>Residential Service</u>		
Base Facility Charge All Meter Sizes	\$24.75	\$24.75
Charge per 1,000 gallons	\$5.35	\$5.35
Flat Rate Service	\$38.79	\$38.79
<u>General Service</u>		
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size		
5/8" x 3/4"	\$24.75	\$24.75
3/4"	\$37.13	\$37.13
1"	\$61.88	\$61.88
1-1/2"	\$123.75	\$123.75
2"	\$198.00	\$198.00
3"	\$396.00	\$396.00
4"	\$618.15	\$618.15
6"	\$1237.50	\$1,237.50
Charge per 1,000 gallons	\$6.44	\$6.44

PROCEDURES AFTER CUSTOMER MEETING

After the customer meeting, Commission staff will prepare a recommendation which is scheduled to be submitted to the Commission on April 23, 2020. The Commission will then vote on staff's recommendation at its May 5, 2020, Commission Conference. The Commission will thereafter issue a proposed agency action (PAA) order containing rates which may be different from those contained in staff's final recommendation. Substantially affected persons have 21 days from the date that the PAA order is issued to protest the Commission's PAA order. Customers are able to obtain a copy of staff's recommendation and all documents filed in this docket under the Clerk's Office tab on the Commission's website (<http://www.floridapsc.com>).

This notice was prepared by the utility and approved by Commission Staff for distribution by the utility to its customers.

25-30.446 Notice of and Public Information for Application for Limited Proceeding Rate Increase.

(1) This rule applies to all requests for limited proceeding rate increases made by a water or wastewater utility.

(2) Upon filing a petition for limited proceeding rate increase, the utility shall mail a copy of the petition to the chief executive officer of the governing body of each municipality and county within the service areas included in the rate request. Each copy of the petition shall be accompanied by a statement that a copy of the minimum filing requirements (MFRs) set forth in Rule 25-30.445, F.A.C., when accepted by the Commission can be obtained from the petitioner upon request.

(3) Within 30 days after the official date of the filing established by the Commission, the utility shall place a copy of the petition and the MFRs at its official headquarters and at all business offices it has in the service areas included in the rate request. Such copies shall be available for public inspection during the utility's regular business hours. If the utility does not have a business office in a service area included in its rate request, the utility shall place a copy of the petition and the MFRs at the main county library, the local community center or other appropriate location which is within or most convenient to the service area and which is willing to accept and provide public access to the copies. If the Commission determines that these locations will not provide adequate access, the Commission will require that copies of the petition and MFRs be placed at other specified locations.

(4) Upon filing a petition and MFRs for a limited proceeding, the utility shall publish a notice of application in a newspaper of general circulation in the service areas included in the petition.

(5)(a) Within 50 days after the official date of filing established by the Commission, the utility shall provide, in writing, an initial customer notice to all customers within the service areas included in the rate request and to all persons in the same service areas who have filed a written request for service or who have been provided a written estimate for service within the 12 calendar months prior to the month the petition is filed.

(b) The initial customer notice must be approved by Commission staff prior to distribution and shall include the following:

1. The date the notice is to be issued;
2. A statement that the utility has filed a rate request with the Commission and a statement of the general reasons for the request;
3. A statement of the locations where copies of the MFRs and petition are available for public inspection and the hours and days when inspection may be made;
4. A comparison of current rates and charges and the proposed new rates and charges;
5. The utility's address, telephone number, and business hours;
6. A statement that written comments regarding utility service or the proposed rates and charges should be addressed to the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, and that such comments should identify the docket number assigned to the proceeding;
7. A statement that complaints regarding service may be made to the Commission's Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach at the following toll-free number: 1(800) 342-3552; and
8. The docket number assigned by the Commission's Office of Commission Clerk.

(c) The initial customer notice shall be mailed to the out-of-town address of all customers who have provided the utility with an out-of-town address.

(6) No less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the date of a customer meeting conducted by the Commission staff, the utility shall provide written notice of the date, time, location, and purpose of the customer meeting to all customers within the service areas designated by the Commission staff. The notice must be approved by Commission staff prior to distribution. The notice shall be mailed to the out-of-town address of all customers who have provided the utility with an out-of-town address.

(7) If a proposed agency action order issued in the case is protested and any hearings are subsequently held, the utility shall give notice no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the date of each hearing held in or near a utility service area included in the rate request. The utility shall also have published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which such hearing is to be held a display advertisement stating the date, time, location, and purpose of the hearing. The notice must be approved by Commission staff prior to publication.

(8) After the Commission issues an order granting or denying a rate change, the utility shall notify its customers of the order and any revised rates. The customer notification must be first approved by Commission staff and shall be distributed no later than with the first bill containing any revised rates.