CORRESPONDENCE 4/1/2024 DOCUMENT NO. 01437-2024

### **Charlie Smith**

From:	Veronica Washington
Sent:	Monday, April 1, 2024 4:09 PM
То:	Commissioner Correspondence
Subject:	FW: Urgent: County Commissioner Emily Bonilla Concerns Regarding Pluris Wedgefield,
	LLC Rate Case Docket No. 20230083-WS
Attachments:	Docket No. 20230083-WS Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in
	Orange County by Pluris Wedgefield, LLCpdf

#### Please place the attached in Docket No. 20230083

#### Thanks

From: Albino, Alexis N <Alexis.Albino@ocfl.net>
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2024 3:59 PM
To: Gary Clark <gclark@psc.state.fl.us>; Hannah Barker <hbarker@psc.state.fl.us>; Veronica Washington
<VWashing@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Betty Leland <BLELAND@psc.state.fl.us>; Angelena McCoy <AMCCOY@psc.state.fl.us>; cflaton@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Fw: Urgent: County Commissioner Emily Bonilla Concerns Regarding Pluris Wedgefield, LLC Rate Case Docket No. 20230083-WS

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders. Good afternoon,

My name is Alexis Albino and I am Commissioner Emily Bonilla's aide. Please see the below email from Commissioner Bonilla regarding tomorrow's Pluris Wedgefield, LLC Rate Case Docket No. 20230083-WS.

Thank you, and let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

With gratitude,

Alexis Albino

20230083-WS

From: Bonilla, Emily (Commissioner) <<u>Emily.Bonilla@ocfl.net</u>>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 3:06 PM
To: <u>Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us</u> <<u>Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; <u>Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us</u>
<<u>Commissioner.Graham@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; <u>Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us</u>
<<u>Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; <u>Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; <u>Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; <u>Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us</u>>; <u>Commissione</u>

Dear FPSC Commissioners,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention the urgent concerns of residents in Wedgefield regarding the rates and services provided by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC. Tomorrow you are scheduled to discuss and listen to the concerns of residents regarding the rates imposed by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow morning, but attached to this email, you will find a letter outlining some challenges faced by Wedgefield residents and the proactive measures being taken to address these issues. The letter highlights the disparities in rates between Pluris Wedgefield, LLC and Orange County Utilities, as well as concerns about the condition of the infrastructure and maintenance practices of Pluris Wedgefield, LLC. As commissioners overseeing utility regulation, your attention and action on this matter are crucial to ensuring fair and reasonable rates for residents while maintaining high-quality service standards.

I urge you to review the attached letter and consider the plight of Wedgefield residents during your discussions tomorrow.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you need any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your Commissioner, Emily Bonilla

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Emily Bonilla Orange County Commissioner Orange County – District 5 201 S. Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, FL 32802 Office: 407-836-7350

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Emily Bonilla District 5 Commissioner Orange County Government 201 South Rosalind Ave. Orlando, FL 32801 407-836-7350 district5@emilybonilla.com

April 1, 2024

Florida Public Service Commissioners Andrew Giles Fay, Art Graham, Mike La Rosa, Gary F Clark, and Gabriella Passidomo 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399 850-413-6100 contact@psc.state.fl.us

# Docket No. 20230083-WS Application for increase in water and wastewater rates in Orange County by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC.

Dear Florida Public Service Commissioners,

I am writing to urgently bring to your attention the ongoing concerns of residents in Wedgefield, Orange County, regarding the rates and services provided by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC, the water and wastewater company. Tomorrow, April 2nd, you are scheduled to discuss and listen to the residents' concerns, and I urge you to carefully reconsider the charges for the service they provide.

As the Orange County Commissioner representing Wedgefield, I have been actively engaged in addressing the persistent challenges faced by our residents. These challenges include issues related to water quality and the high rates imposed by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC. Many residents



have expressed their difficulties in affording the steep rates, which currently amount to \$166.62 per 5,000 gallons, compared to Orange County Utilities' rate of \$68.07 for the same service.

In addition to the rate disparities, there are concerns about the condition of Pluris Wedgefield's infrastructure, including reports of rusting pipes and deferred maintenance. Orange County Utilities has identified these issues during its assessment of the system, raising further concerns about the justification for the rate increases imposed previously and currently by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, I have continued to support the residents' interest in acquiring Pluris Wedgefield by Orange County. This acquisition project is currently progressing through Phase III, which involves assessing the value and condition of the system through an appraisal process. However, in the interim, it is crucial that immediate steps are taken to address the residents' concerns about the high rates and service quality.

I urge you to carefully consider the plight of Wedgefield residents and take proactive measures to revise the charges imposed by Pluris Wedgefield, LLC. Lowering the water and wastewater monthly rates would provide much-needed relief to our residents who are already facing challenges due to increases in the cost of living.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your swift action in addressing the concerns raised by Wedgefield residents regarding Pluris Wedgefield, LLC.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Emily Bonilla

COMMISSIONER EMILY BONILLA, DISTRICT 5 201 South Rosalind Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Orlando, Florida 32801 407-836-7304 | emilybonilla.com