

ORIGINAL

LAW OFFICES
MESSER, CAPARELLO & SELF
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

215 SOUTH MONROE STREET, SUITE 701
POST OFFICE BOX 1876
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32302-1876
TELEPHONE: (850) 222-0720
TELECOPIER: (850) 224-4359
INTERNET: www.lawfla.com

RECEIVED-FPSC
00 DEC 19 PM 3:17

RECORDS AND REPORTING

December 19, 2000

Ms. Blanca Bayó, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Room 110, Easley Building
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

BY HAND DELIVERY

001806-1NU

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Florida Public Utilities Company are the following documents:

1. An original and fifteen copies of Florida Public Utilities Company's Petition to Increase its Rates;
2. An original and fifteen copies of the Exhibits A through O to the Petition;
3. Florida Public Utilities Company's check no. 140672 in the amount of \$2,250.00 for the filing fee;
4. An original and fifteen copies of the Affidavit of George M. Bachman; and
5. An original and fifteen copies of the revised Tariff Sheets Nos. 19, 20, 22 and 23.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the extra copy of this letter "filed" and returning the same to me.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

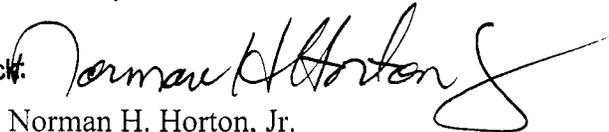
... and
forwarded to Fiscal for deposit.
Fiscal to forward a copy of check
to RAR with proof of deposit.

Sincerely,

Initials of person who forwarded check:

NHH

Norman H. Horton, Jr.



NHH/amb
Enclosures
cc: Mr. George Bachman

RECEIVED & FILED

FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

Petition
DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

16167 DEC 198

FPSC-RECORDS REPORTING



**Florida
Public
Utilities
Company**

P.O. Box 3395
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3395

SUNTRUST BANK, MID FLORIDA, N.A.
WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

63-115
631

Check No.

140672

VENDOR NO.	DATE
2171	12/14/2000

PAY TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS

\$ *****2,250.00

(VOID IF NOT CASHED IN 90 DAYS)

TO THE
ORDER
OF

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE FL 32399-0850

Cheryl Martin

Authorized Signature

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS A FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES LOGO PRINTED IN WHITE INK IN MULTIPLE POSITIONS • HOLD AT AN ANGLE TO VIEW • VOID IF NOT PRESENT

⑈0140672⑈ ⑈063101153⑈ 6990607009148⑈

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition of Florida Public Utilities)	
Company, Fernandina Beach — Water)	Docket No.:
division, for a limited proceeding to)	Filed: December 19, 2000
increase it rates)	
_____)	

**FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY'S
PETITION TO INCREASE ITS RATES**

Florida Public Utilities Company, a Florida Corporation (hereinafter "Petitioner" or "Company"), being a Class "A" water utility, hereby presents the following Petition pursuant to Section 367.0822 (Limited Proceedings) and Section 367.081, Florida Statutes, to increase it rates for water service, and in support thereof, states:

1. The exact name and address of the principal business office of the Petitioner is:

Florida Public Utilities Company
 401 South Dixie Highway
 West Palm Beach, FL 33401

2. The names and addresses of the persons authorized to receive notices and communications in respect to this Petition are as follows:

George M. Bachman
 Assistant Treasurer and Controller
 Florida Public Utilities Company
 401 South Dixie Highway
 West Palm Beach, FL 33401
 (561) 838-1731 (Telephone)

Norman H. Horton, Jr., Esquire
 Messer, Caparello & Self, P.A.
 P.O. Box 1876
 Tallahassee, FL 32302-1876
 (850) 222-0720 (Telephone)

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

16167 DEC 19 2000

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

3. Petitioner was incorporated by letters patent by the State of Florida on March 6, 1924 under the name of Palm Beach Gas Company. By subsequent amendment the name was changed to Florida Public Utilities Company on October 24, 1927. On April 25, 1929 the company was incorporated under the 1925 Florida Corporate Law and is continuing its corporate existence pursuant to the Florida Business Corporation Act.

4. Petitioner's present water rates have been in effect since March 1, 2000, when Petitioner received a \$380,652 revenue increase through a full rate adjustment proceeding, (Docket No. 990535-WU, Order No. PSC-00-248-PAA-WU, issued February 7, 2000). The previous increase by means of a full rate adjustment proceeding was Commission Docket No. 860662-WU, Order No. 17441, issued April 20, 1987, and revenues were increased \$306,977.

5. Petitioner through its Fernandina Beach - Water Division is engaged in business as a Class "A" water utility pumping, distributing, and selling water to approximately 7,000 customers in the City of Fernandina Beach and surrounding areas in the County of Nassau, State of Florida.

6. A copy of the application is available for customer inspection from Patrick Foster, Fernandina Beach Division Manager, at the following address:

Florida Public Utilities Company
911 South 8th Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

7. Petitioner requests that the Commission process this application for rate increase using provisions of Section 367.0822 (Limited Proceedings) and Section 367.081(8) (Proposed Agency Action), Florida Statutes.

8. Significant system improvements are underway and are material in nature that will cause the company to earn a projected proforma return on its investment of approximately 6.49% as of December 31, 2001 (year-end rate base). These improvements involve significant capital improvements to our #3 Waterworks Plant along with some additional related plant improvements and associated direct expenditures not recovered in Petitioner's recent rate proceeding, Docket No. 990535-WU. All of these items contribute to the projected inadequate rate of return.

9. The Petitioner requests permission to use the year-end plant and related annualized expenses associated with the specific items presented in the Limited Proceedings Exhibits to determine the basis for increasing its rates. No change in the authorized Rate of Return is requested from our recent rate proceeding.

10. Petitioner requests approval to increase its rates by the amount of \$240,558 per annum, which will provide for a continued fair rate of return not to exceed the maximum allowable return of 9.52% as authorized in the recent rate case, Docket No. 990535-WU.

11. In support of the increases in rates, Petitioner attaches the following items and makes them part of this Petition:

- a. Filing Fee of \$2,250.00.
- b. Limited Proceeding Exhibits, as of March 31, 2001.
- c. Proposed Tariff sheets for each service classification in which any change is proposed.
- d. Affidavit signed by an officer of the utility.

WHEREFORE, Florida Public Utilities Company respectfully requests that on the basis of this Petition and the information herein that the Commission utilize the limited proceeding and Proposed Agency Action process permitted by Sections 367.0822 and Section 367.081, Florida Statutes, respectively, and approve the Petitioner's request for permanent increase in its water rates in Nassau County by an amount of approximately \$240,558 per annum.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of December 2000.

MESSER, CAPARELLO & SELF, P.A.
215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 701
Post Office Box 1876
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1876
(850) 222-0720


NORMAN H. HORTON, JR., ESQ.
FLOYD R. SELF, ESQ.

Attorneys for Florida Public Utilities Company

Before the Florida Public Service Commission

In Re: Application of Florida Public Utilities Company
Fernandina Beach Water Division for Increased
Water rates in Nassau County

Limited Proceeding
Filed December 19, 2000

Affidavit

State of Florida

Nassau County

Before me, the undersigned authority, duly authorized by law to administer oaths and to take acknowledgments, on this day personally appeared George M. Bachman, who, after being duly sworn on oath, disposes and says:

1. That he is the Assistant Treasurer of Florida Public Utilities Company.
2. That Florida Public Utilities Company submits this Limited Proceedings filing in conformance with Section 367.0822, Florida Statutes.
3. That, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the figures and calculations upon which the change in rates is based are accurate and that the change will not cause FERNANDINA BEACH WATER OPERATIONS to exceed the maximum authorized rate of return, which is 9.52%.

FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY


George M. Bachman
Assistant Treasurer and Controller

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of December 2000, by George M. Bachman who is personally known to me.

(SEAL)


Dina Bellechases
State of Florida



RATE SCHEDULES NO. 1-FW
RESIDENTIAL SERVICE (RS)

Availability

Availability within the territory served by the Company on Amelia Island in Nassau County, Florida.

Applicability

Metered water service applicable for all purposes in private residences and individually metered apartment units.

Monthly Rate

Base facility charge (per meter):

5/8" meter	\$ 9.42
1" meter	\$ 23.55
2" meter	\$ 75.35
3" meter	\$141.29
4" meter	\$235.48

Commodity Charge: (Charge per CCF)

0 – 10 CCFs	\$.96
10 – 25 CCFs	\$ 1.20
Over 25 CCFs	\$ 1.44

Minimum Bill

The monthly bill shall be the above base facility charge.

Terms of Payment

Bills are due and payable when rendered and become delinquent if not paid within twenty (20) days. After five (5) working days' written notice is mailed to the customer separate and apart from any other bill, service may then be disconnected.

Terms of Conditions

Service under this rate schedule is subject to the Company's Rules and Regulations applicable to water service and the General Rules and Regulations of the Commission.

Type of Filing

Water Limited Proceeding

Effective Date

For services rendered on or after June 1, 2001.

RATE SCHEDULES NO. 2-FW
GENERAL SERVICE (GS)

Availability

Availability within the territory served by the Company on Amelia Island in Nassau County, Florida.

Applicability

Metered water service applicable for all purposes to any customer for which no other schedule applies.

Monthly Rate

Base facility charge (per meter):

5/8" meter	\$ 9.42
1" meter	\$ 23.55
2" meter	\$ 75.35
3" meter	\$ 164.84
4" meter	\$ 282.57
6" meter	\$ 588.69
8" meter	\$ 847.71
10" meter	\$1365.76

Commodity Charge: (Charge per CCF)

General Service (Commercial, Industrial, Multiple Family Dwellings, & Public Authority) All CCF's used	\$ 1.14
--	---------

Minimum Bill

The monthly bill shall be the above base facility charge.

Terms of Payment

Bills are due and payable when rendered and become delinquent if not paid within twenty (20) days. After five (5) working days' written notice is mailed to the customer separate and apart from any other bill, service may then be disconnected.

Terms of Conditions

Service under this rate schedule is subject to the Company's Rules and Regulations applicable to water service and the General Rules and Regulations of the Commission.

Type of Filing

Water Limited Proceeding.

Effective Date

For services rendered on or after June 1, 2001.

RATE SCHEDULE NO. 4-FW
FIRE HYDRANT SERVICE

Availability

Availability within the territory served by the Company on Amelia Island in Nassau County, Florida.

Applicability

Applicable to unmetered private fire hydrant service.

Character of Service

Private fire hydrant service using Company-owned facilities.

Monthly Rate

Per each fire hydrant installed and in service:

4" hydrant	\$ 89.45
5" hydrant	\$ 136.31
6" hydrant	\$ 184.61

Minimum Bill

Same as monthly rate.

Terms of Payment

Bills are due and payable when rendered and become delinquent if not paid within twenty (20) days. After five (5) working days' written notice is mailed to the customer separate and apart from any other bill, service may then be disconnected.

Terms of Conditions

Service under this rate schedule is subject to the Company's Rules and Regulations applicable to water service and the General Rules and Regulations of the Commission.

Type of Filing

Water Limited Proceeding.

Effective Date

For services rendered on or after June 1, 2001.

RATE SCHEDULE NO. 5-FW
AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM SERVICE

Availability

Availability within the territory served by the Company on Amelia Island in Nassau County, Florida.

Applicability

Applicable to unmetered private automatic sprinkler system service.

Character of Service

Unmetered water service to customer-owned automatic sprinkler systems.

Monthly Rate

For each Sprinkler system connection in service:

2" fire line	\$ 6.28
4" fire line	\$ 23.55
6" fire line	\$ 49.06
8" fire line	\$ 70.65
10" fire line	\$ 113.81

Minimum Bill

Same as monthly rate.

Terms of Payment

Bills are due and payable when rendered and become delinquent if not paid within twenty (20) days. After five (5) working days' written notice is mailed to the customer separate and apart from any other bill, service may then be discontinued.

Terms of Conditions

Service under this rate schedule is subject to the Company's Rules and Regulations applicable to water service and the General Rules and Regulations of the Commission. For each connection, the Company will tap the main, install a shut-off valve and extend the line to the Customer's property line.

Type of Filing

Water Limited Proceeding.

Effective Date

For services rendered on or after June 1, 2001.