

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: APRIL 11, 2002

TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION CLERK & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (BAYO)

FROM: DIVISION OF ECONOMIC REGULATION (BIGGINS, RENDELL) ⁴¹³
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL (GERVASI) ² *PS May* *JOS* *19*

RE: DOCKET NO. 020248-WU - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO INCREASE METER INSTALLATION FEES TO CONFORM TO THE CURRENT COST IN MARION COUNTY BY WINDSTREAM UTILITIES COMPANY.
COUNTY: MARION

AGENDA: APRIL 23, 2002 - REGULAR AGENDA - TARIFF FILING - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE

CRITICAL DATES: 60-DAY SUSPENSION DATE: MAY 17, 2002

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE

FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\ECR\WP\020248.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

Windstream Utilities Company (Windstream or utility) is a Class B utility which provides water service to approximately 742 customers in three separate service areas in Marion County. These areas include the Windstream-Carriage Hills system, the Majestic Oaks-Pigeon Park system, and the Paddock Downs-Sun Country Estates system. All systems have separate water treatment plants and distribution systems. The wastewater service to these areas is provided by septic tanks. The utility's 2000 annual report shows an annual operating revenue of \$291,144 and a net operating income of \$23,497.

On March 14, 2002, the utility filed an application to increase meter installation fees. This recommendation addresses the suspension of the utility's proposed tariff sheets. The Commission has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 367.091, Florida Statutes.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should Windstream's proposed tariff sheets to increase meter installation fees to conform to the current cost be suspended?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes, Windstream's proposed tariff sheets to increase its meter installation fees to conform to the current cost should be suspended pending further investigation by staff. This docket should remain open pending the completion of staff's investigation. (BIGGINS, GERVASI)

STAFF ANALYSIS: Pursuant to Section 367.091(6), Florida Statutes, the tariff sheets proposed by the utility shall become effective within sixty (60) days after filing, unless the Commission votes to withhold consent of the request. Further, the Commission may withhold consent to operation of any or all portions of new rate schedules by a vote to that effect within 60 days, giving a reason or statement of good cause for withholding that consent.

Staff has reviewed the filing and has considered the utility's proposed charge, and information filed in support of the application. We believe it is necessary to require further explanation of this data. Our review of the application will include further examination. Therefore, staff recommends that the proposed tariff sheets to increase meter installation fees to conform to the current cost should be suspended pending further investigation by staff. This docket should remain open pending the completion of staff's investigation.