

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for a tariff modification by Broadview Park Water Company regarding miscellaneous service charges in Broward County.

DOCKET NO. 971021-WU  
ORDER NO. PSC-98-0066-FOF-WU  
ISSUED: January 9, 1998

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIA L. JOHNSON, Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
DIANE K. KIESLING  
JOE GARCIA

ORDER APPROVING MISCELLANEOUS  
SERVICE CHARGES

BY THE COMMISSION:

BACKGROUND

Broadview Park Water Company (Broadview or utility) is a Class B utility that provides water service to approximately 1,800 water customers. In its 1996 annual report, the utility reported water revenues in the amount of \$631,902. The utility serves an area that has been designated by the South Florida Water Management District as a water use caution area.

On July 24, 1997, Broadview submitted an application to modify its tariff. The utility seeks to update its charges for the "after hours" premise visit and the delinquent "turn off" charge. On September 12, 1997, our staff informed the utility that the Staff Advisory Bulletin No. 13, 2nd revised, had been rescinded. After further discussion, by letter dated September 15, 1997, the utility withdrew its original application and refiled revised miscellaneous service charges based on specific cost justification.

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE

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PROD. BY THE COMMISSION

By facsimile dated October 9, 1997, the utility provided cost justification for the proposed charges. On October 16, 1997, the utility filed with the Commission proposed revised tariffs along with a cost justification for the miscellaneous service charges.

REQUESTED MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE CHARGES

Section 367.081, Florida Statutes, provides authority for the Commission to approve the fixing and the changing of rates charged by utilities under its jurisdiction. More specific to this docket, Rule 25-30.345, Florida Administrative Code, addresses service charges for utilities. Pursuant to this rule, a utility may charge a reasonable fee to defray the cost of installing and removing facilities and materials. In addition, the utility may have other customer service charges in accordance with its approved tariff.

In keeping with the four broad categories of miscellaneous service charges as set forth in Rule 25-30.460, Florida Administrative Code, and as set forth in the utility's tariff, the utility is proposing an "After Hours Premises Visit" charge and a change to the existing other charges. Further, the utility has provided cost justification as required by our rules. A comparison of the various charges is shown below.

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>SAB 13 (Rescinded)</u>	<u>Utility's Current</u>	<u>Utility's Proposed</u>
Initial Connection	\$ 15.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
Normal Reconnection	\$ 15.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
Violation Reconnection	\$ 15.00	\$15.00	\$50.00
Premises Visit	\$ 10.00	\$ 7.50	\$10.00
After Hours Premises Visit			\$25.00

The utility's current miscellaneous service charges were effective on April 2, 1987. The charges have not been updated since 1987/1988. However, the underlying costs for any function that one could envision being required to provide the service (customer service representative taking order, data processing inputting information, field personnel reading meters, etc.) has

increased since 1988. As demonstrated by the price index increase option provided to a jurisdictional utility, the Commission recognizes that general operating costs increase from year to year.

Broadview has implemented a price index at least 5 times since its miscellaneous service charges were set in 1987. While Broadview's rates have increased, its miscellaneous service charges have remained the same. Yet, both service rates and miscellaneous service charges share similar costs regarding operation and maintenance expenses.

We believe that the current miscellaneous service charges should be updated to reflect the costs associated with the service provided. Our staff has verified with the utility the costs associated with each of these proposed charges. We believe that the costs are prudent and reasonable. The utility provided an extensive analysis of each charge and the related costs. The utility included costs associated with the labor expense (meter reader and clerical) and with the transportation/vehicle expense. In consideration of the foregoing, the proposed tariff sheets filed October 16, 1997 are approved as filed. The revised miscellaneous service charges shall be implemented after the stamped approval date of the tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(2), Florida Administrative Code.

If a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of this Order, this tariff shall remain in effect with any increase held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. In the event of such protest, we will address the appropriate security at that time, and this docket shall remain open. If no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed.

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore,

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the proposed tariff sheets filed October 16, 1997 by Broadview Park Water Company requesting increased miscellaneous service charges are approved as filed. It is further

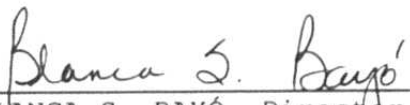
ORDER NO. PSC-98-0066-FOF-WU  
DOCKET NO. 971021-WU  
PAGE 4

ORDERED that the revised miscellaneous service charges shall be implemented after the stamped approval date of the tariff sheets pursuant to Rule 25-30.475(2), Florida Administrative Code. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any increase held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 9th day of January, 1998.

  
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BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

ORDER NO. PSC-98-0066-FOF-WU  
DOCKET NO. 971021-WU  
PAGE 5

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on January 30, 1998.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date this Order becomes final, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.