

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: June 18, 2025

TO: Adam J. Teitzman, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Terence Bethea, Public Utility Analyst III, Division of Economics

RE: Docket No. 20250013-WS - Application for staff-assisted rate case in Highlands County by LP Waterworks, Inc.

Please file the attached Customer Meeting Letter, Customer Meeting Notice, and Staff Report in the docket mentioned above.

TB

RECEIVED- FPSC
2025 JUN 18 PM 4: 12
COMMISSION
CLERK

COMMISSIONERS:
MIKE LA ROSA, CHAIRMAN
ART GRAHAM
GARY F. CLARK
ANDREW GILES FAY
GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

STATE OF FLORIDA



DIVISION OF ECONOMICS
ELISABETH J. DRAPER
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6410

Public Service Commission

June 18, 2025

Mr. Troy Rendell
LP Waterworks, Inc.
4939 Cross Bayou Blvd.
New Port Richey, FL. 34652
trendell@uswatercorp.net

Re: Re: Docket No. 20250013-WS - Application for staff-assisted rate case in Highlands County by LP Waterworks, Inc.

Dear Mr. Rendell:

This letter is to confirm that Commission staff will hold a **virtual** customer meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. We ask that, if at all possible, you or another knowledgeable representative of the utility attend the meeting by phone in order to make a brief statement regarding your rate increase request. Attached is the customer meeting agenda.

As required by Rule 25-22.0407(9)(b), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the utility must provide, in writing, a customer meeting notice to all customers within its service area no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the date of a customer meeting. Please find enclosed a draft Notice of Customer Meeting. The date has been left blank so you can fill in the date that the notice is sent to the customers. Please provide me with a copy of the notice that is distributed to your customers, along with a cover letter indicating the exact date on which the notice was mailed or otherwise delivered to the customers.

Should you have any questions about the matters contained herein, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (850) 413-6435 or email at tbethea@psc.state.fl.us.

Respectfully,

/s/ Terence Bethea

Terence Bethea
Public Utilities Analyst III

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF CUSTOMER MEETING

TO THE CUSTOMERS OF LP WATERWORKS, INC.

AND

ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

DOCKET NO. 20250013-WS

APPLICATION OF LP WATERWORKS, INC.

FOR A STAFF-ASSISTED RATE CASE IN

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Date Issued: _____

NOTICE is hereby given that the staff of the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a customer meeting to discuss LP Waterworks' (LP or utility) application for a staff-assisted rate case (SARC) in Highlands County. The meeting will be held virtually on the following date and time:

Monday, July 9, 2022, at 3:00 P.M.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate at this meeting should contact the Office of Commission Clerk no later than five days prior to the meeting at 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 or (850) 413-6770 (Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8770 Voice or 1-800-955-8771 TDD).

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE

The purpose of this meeting is to give customers and other interested persons an opportunity to offer comments to Commission staff regarding the quality of service the utility provides and on the preliminary rates included in this notice. Customers and other interested persons may be asked follow-up questions. These comments will be taken into consideration by the Commission in its decision regarding the proposed rate increase.

This customer meeting will be conducted virtually. Customers must register to speak at the virtual customer meeting in one of the following ways: (1) register using the FPSC's online registration form, which will be available at www.FloridaPSC.com, under the "Hot Topics" heading, (2) call the FPSC at (850) 413-7080 or (3) email speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us. Online registration for the virtual customer meeting will open on June 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., and close at noon two business days prior to the customer meeting.

Please note that the order in which customers will speak is based on the order in which they register. If you have questions about the sign-up process, please call (850) 413-7080. All customers who register to present comments at the meeting are urged to call-in promptly at the scheduled meeting time, because 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 the customers have been heard.

One day prior to the customer meeting, customers who signed up to speak will be emailed further instructions on how to participate.

To watch the meeting live, visit www.floridapsc.com and look for the “Watch Live Broadcast” icon on the left side of the webpage. If you do not have access to the internet, you may call (850) 413-7999 to listen to the 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 the cancellation of the meeting will also be provided on the Commission’s website under the Hot Topics link found on the home page. Cancellation can also be confirmed by calling the Commission’s Office of the General Counsel at (850) 413-6199.

BACKGROUND

LP Waterworks, Inc. (LP or utility) is a Class C water and wastewater Utility located in Highlands County. The utility is currently providing water service to approximately 418 residential, 22 general service, and 2 private fire protection customers. For its wastewater service, the utility provides service to approximately 360 residential customers and 17 general service customers. The utility is located in the water use caution area of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). According to LP’s 2024 Annual Report, total gross water revenue was \$172,922, total gross wastewater revenue was \$128,512, total water operating expense was \$169,841, and total wastewater operating expense was \$136,679.

On March 13, 2014, the Commission approved the transfer of L.P. Utilities Corporation’s water and wastewater systems and Certificate Nos. 620-W and 533-S to LP Waterworks, Inc.¹ The Commission last established LP’s water rates in a staff-assisted rate case (SARC) in 2023,² and its wastewater rates in 2017.³ Subsequently, the utility was approved for a 2023 price index increase.

On January 7, 2025, the utility filed an application for a SARC requesting an increase for its water and wastewater rates. The utility requested the test year ending October 31, 2024. The official filing date was established as March 6, 2025. LP’s request for a SARC is due to the

¹Order No. PSC-2014-0130-PAA-WS, issued March 17, 2014, in Docket No. 20130055, *In re: Application for approval of transfer of LP Utilities Corporation’s water and wastewater systems and Certificate Nos. 620-W and 533-S, to LP Waterworks, Inc., in Highlands County.*

²Order No. PSC-2023-0101-PAA-WS, issued February 28, 2023, in Docket No. 20220099-WS, *In re: Application for staff-assisted rate case in Highlands County by LP Waterworks, Inc.*

³ Order No. PSC-2017-0334-PAA-WS, issued August 23, 2017, in Docket No. 20160222-WS, *In re: Application for staff-assisted rate case in Highlands County by LP Waterworks, Inc.*

capital improvements and the request of additional pro forma expense to the water and wastewater systems.

All of the information on file at the Commission is open to the public and is available for review at the Commission offices in Tallahassee. A copy of the petition and Minimum Filing Requirements (MFRs) can be accessed on the Commission's website: <http://www.psc.state.fl.us/>

CURRENT AND PRELIMINARY RATES

Staff has compiled the following recommended rates for discussion at the customer meeting. These rates are preliminary and subject to change based on information gathered at the customer meeting, further staff review, and the final decision by the Commission. The Utility's current and staff's recommended preliminary rates are as follows:

MONTHLY WATER SERVICE

	UTILITY CURRENT RATES	STAFF RECOMMENDED RATES
<u>Residential and General Service</u>		
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size		
5/8"X3/4"	\$15.65	\$17.55
3/4"	\$23.48	\$26.33
1"	\$39.13	\$43.88
1-1/2"	\$78.25	\$87.75
2"	\$125.20	\$140.40
3"	\$250.40	\$280.80
4"	\$391.25	\$438.75
6"	\$782.50	\$877.50
Charge per 1,000 gallons - Residential		
0 - 3,000 gallons	\$9.24	\$10.36
Over 3,000 gallons	\$13.86	\$15.54
Charge per 1,000 gallons - General Service	\$2.45	\$2.75
<u>Private Fire Protection</u>		
5/8"X3/4"	\$1.30	\$1.46
3/4"	\$1.96	\$2.19
1"	\$3.26	\$3.66
1-1/2"	\$6.52	\$7.31
2"	\$10.43	\$11.70
3"	\$20.87	\$23.40
4"	\$32.60	\$36.56
6"	\$65.21	\$73.13

MONTHLY WASTEWATER SERVICE

	UTILITY CURRENT RATES	STAFF RECOMMENDED RATES
<u>General Service</u>		
Base Facility Charge by Meter Size		
5/8"X3/4"	\$19.34	\$20.72
3/4"	\$29.01	\$31.08
1"	\$48.35	\$51.80
1-1/2"	\$96.70	\$103.60
2"	\$154.72	\$165.76
3"	\$309.44	\$331.52
4"	\$483.50	\$518.00
6"	\$967.00	\$1,036.00
Charge per 1,000 gallons - General Service	\$12.00	\$12.86
<u>Residential Service</u>		
All Meter Sizes	\$19.34	\$20.72
Charge per 1,000 gallons - Residential Service	\$9.99	\$10.70
6,000 Gallonage Cap		

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE COMMISSION

If you would like to share your comments with the Commission you may:

- Speak at the customer meeting on July 9, 2025
- Email your comments to the Commission at clerk@psc.state.fl.us
- Fill out and return, by US Mail or fax, the "Comment Card" attached to this Notice.
- Submit written comments to the Commission Clerk at the address below.

Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

All correspondence should refer to:

"Docket No. 20250013-WU, LP Waterworks, Inc."

- Address the Commissioners by phone during the Commission's Conference, currently scheduled for September 4, 2025. You may address the Commissioners by phone even if

you also provide written comments through any of the other methods. If you would like to provide comments by phone at the Commission Conference, please contact Daniel Dose at (850) 413-6846 or ddose@psc.state.fl.us.

Please note that written comments are given the same consideration as if they were provided by phone during the Commission’s Conference.

PROCEDURES AFTER THE CUSTOMER MEETING

Commission staff will prepare a recommendation which is tentatively scheduled to be submitted to the Commission on August 22, 2025. The Commission will then vote on staff’s recommendation at its September 4, 2025, Commission Conference. As noted above, customers may address the Commission directly at this Conference. Customers may also watch the Commission Conference live from the PSC website at www.floridapsc.com. Look for the “Watch Live Broadcast” icon on the left side of the webpage.

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 at the Commission’s website (<http://www.floridapsc.com/>).

CONTACTING THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL (OPC)

At any time during this process, you may contact the Office of Public Counsel (OPC). The OPC was established by the Florida Legislature to represent you and the other utility customers before the Commission. The OPC is independent from the Commission and can be reached at 1-800-342-0222 or www.floridaopc.gov.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact information for staff is provided below. You may also find additional information in the Rate Case Overview, which can be viewed at <http://www.floridapsc.com/Publications/RateCaseOverviews>.

For technical questions contact:	Terence Bethea at (850) 413-6435 or tbethea@psc.state.fl.us
For legal questions contact:	Daniel Dose at (850) 413-6846 or ddose@psc.state.fl.us

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.

