

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request to increase )  
the meter installation charge )  
in Citrus County by ROLLING )  
OAKS UTILITIES, INC. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )  
)

DOCKET NO. 911204-WS  
ORDER NO. PSC-92-0340-FOF-WS  
ISSUED: 05/13/92

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD, Chairman  
SUSAN F. CLARK  
J. TERRY DEASON  
BETTY EASLEY  
LUIS J. LAUREDO

ORDER DENYING TARIFF PROPOSING NEW METER INSTALLATION  
CHARGE AS FILED BUT GRANTING STAFF AUTHORITY  
TO ADMINISTRATIVELY APPROVE REVISED TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc. (Rolling Oaks or the utility) is a Class B utility providing service to approximately 5,249 water and 3,876 wastewater customers in Citrus County. The utility reported operating revenues of \$792.00, with a net loss of \$169.00 for water, and operating revenues of \$860.00, with a net loss of \$41.00 for wastewater operations.

On December 10, 1991, the utility filed a proposed tariff to increase its meter installation charge from \$72.00 to \$355.00. The utility asserts that the proposed increase is needed in order to recover costs associated with the new metering system called the "Touchwand". The utility states that the Touchwand system computerizes meter reading and billing procedures, reduces errors, and will eventually reduce the cost of the billing process.

The tariff proposes one meter installation charge of \$340.00, which would be applied to all meter installations, regardless of the type of meter installed. Also, the utility has informed us that it does not actually desire a charge of \$355.00. This is because the utility erroneously requested \$14.67 more than was necessary because it was charging twice for the same component. The charge for the installation of the Touchwand system that the utility intended to request is \$340.00 per meter.

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The utility has been installing the Touchwand meters since December 1991. To date the utility has been charging the currently approved charge in its tariff of \$72.00. The following is a breakdown of the actual cost incurred when installing the Touchwand meter, as submitted by the utility:

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TOUCHWAND METER</u> <u>5/8" BY 3/4"</u>
5/8 x 3/4 Touchrad Pit Lid SRG Meter *	\$119.45
Plastic Meter Box **	80.95
3/4" Corp. Stop (Corporation Stop) ***	14.67
Saddle (size depends on main line size)	43.48
3/4" Poly Tubing (20' average)	5.60
1" Poly Tubing (20' average)	6.40
Brass Wye Connection	17.39
Washer	.60
Miscellaneous (elbows, couplings, adaptors, glue, etc.)	+ 2.50
	\$291.04
	+ tax 17.46
	\$308.50
Labor: Laborers, 2 @ \$6 hour x 3 hours	36.00
Supervisor, 1 @ \$10 hour x 1 hour	+ 10.00
	\$354.50

\* Backflow Preventer built into meter

\*\* Utility states that the costs of the plastic meter box includes the curb stop, master shut off valve, meter connections, meter spuds, meter box, metal plates on top of meter box, and other miscellaneous items. All modifications are made at the factory.

\*\*\* Included in the cost for new meter box.

The utility has stated that there will be no annual revenue impact from this new charge. Meter installation fees are

contributions-in-aid-of-construction (CIAC) and are directly offset by increased costs. The anticipated 50 annual connections will result in gross CIAC of \$17,000.

The utility also submitted documentation which shows that the actual costs for installation of the Sensus meters total \$203.00. The following is a breakdown of those costs:

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SENSUS METER</u> <u>5/8" by 3/4"</u>
Meter	\$44.95
Plastic Meter Box	13.52
3/4" Corp. Stop	14.67
Saddle (size depends on main line size)	43.48
3/4" Poly Tubing (20' average)	5.60
1" Poly Tubing (20' average)	6.40
Washer	.60
Miscellaneous (elbows, couplings, adaptors, glue, etc.)	2.50
Backflow preventer built into meter	+ <u>16.50</u>
	\$148.22
	tax 8.89
Labor: Laborers, 2 @ \$6 hour x 3 hours	36.00
Supervisor, 1 @ \$10 x 1 hour	+ <u>10.00</u>
	\$203.00

It is clear from the above that the actual costs of installation of the Sensus meters is less than that for the Touchwand meters. In addition, there is no provision for customers requesting meter change-outs. Upon review, we find the utility's proposed tariff unacceptable as filed. This is because there are no separate tariff provisions dealing with those customers requesting meter change-outs or for installations of other than the Touchwand meters. Therefore, we hereby deny the utility's proposed tariff as filed.

Based on discussions our staff has had with the utility, Rolling Oaks agrees that it should file a tariff reflecting separate and distinct charges for customer requested meter change-outs and for meter installations which will not involve the Touchwand system. The utility also agrees that it should charge such customers the actual cost of the change-outs or the actual cost of the Sensus meter installation.

We have reviewed the costs for accuracy, and we believe that the costs appear to be legitimate and reasonable for both types of meters. Therefore, we find it appropriate to give our staff authority to review and administratively approve revised tariff sheets if and when they are filed by the utility which establish the rates of \$340.00 for the Touchwand meter installations, and actual costs for the meter installations involving Sensus meters and customer requested change-outs.

If no substantially affected person files a petition for a formal proceeding within 21 days of the date of issuance of this Order, this Order will become final, and the docket shall be closed.

Based upon the foregoing, it is, therefore,

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc.'s proposed tariff filing requesting a meter installation charge increase is hereby denied. It is further

ORDERED that Rolling Oaks Utilities, Inc. is hereby encouraged to submit revised tariff sheets which incorporate the rates of \$340.00 for the installation of the Touchwand meter, and the actual costs for meter installations for the Sensus meters and for customer requested change-outs. It is further

ORDERED that the revised tariff sheets shall be reviewed and administratively approved by our Staff. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall be closed unless a substantially affected person files a petition for a formal proceeding within 21 days of the issuance of this Order. If no such petition is filed, this Order shall become final, and the docket shall be closed.

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BY ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 13th  
day of May, 1992.



STEVE TRIBBIE, 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 120.59(4), 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.

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 at his office at 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on June 3, 1992.

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

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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 sewer 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.