

DOCKET NO.: 010503-WU - Application for increase in water rates for Seven Springs System in Pasco County by Aloha Utilities, Inc.

WITNESS: Direct Testimony of Gerald Foster, of the Department of Environmental Protection, Appearing on Behalf of Staff

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DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GERALD FOSTER

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. Gerald B. Foster, 3804 Coconut Palm Drive, Tampa, Florida 33619.

Q. Please give a brief description of your educational background and experience.

A. I have a B.A. in biology from the University of South Florida, and also have 16 years of experience in the environmental health/protection field.

Q. By whom are you presently employed?

A. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Q. How long have you been employed by DEP and in what capacity.

A. I have 12-plus years with DEP in the Drinking Water Section.

Q. What are your general responsibilities at DEP?

A. Insuring that water systems comply with applicable rules and regulations outlined in the Florida Statutes.

Q. Are you familiar with the Aloha Water system in Pasco County?

A. Yes.

Q. Are the utility's treatment facilities and distribution system for this division sufficient to serve its present customers?

A. Yes.

Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure throughout their distribution system?

A. Yes.

Q. Does the utility have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event of a power outage?

A. Yes.

1 Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with applicable DEP
2 regulations?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Chapter 62-602,
5 Florida Administrative Code?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
8 accordance with Chapter 62-550.360, Florida Administrative Code?
9 A. The utility has a cross connection control plan and the plan was reviewed
10 and accepted by DEP for rule compliance on August 18, 2000.
11 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the utility's treatment plant and
12 distribution system satisfactory?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. Does the finished water produced by the utility meet the State and Federal
15 maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. Does this include the lead and copper rule?
18 A. Yes.
19 Q. Has Aloha's compliance with the lead and copper rule resulted in a
20 lessening of the monitoring requirements?
21 A. Yes
22 Q. Does the utility monitor for the organic contaminants listed in Chapter 62-
23 550, Florida Administrative Code?
24 A. Yes.
25 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to DEP

1 | regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment?

2 | A. No.

3 | Q. Does the utility maintain the required chlorine residual or its equivalent

4 | throughout the distribution system?

5 | A. Yes.

6 | Q. Are the plant and distribution systems in compliance with all other

7 | provisions of Title 62, Florida Administrative Code, not previously mentioned?

8 | A. Yes.

9 | Q. Has this utility been the subject of any DEP enforcement action within the

10 | past two years?

11 | A. No, not to my knowledge.

12 | Q. Has the black substance in what is known as "black water" experienced by

13 | some Aloha customers been analyzed?

14 | A. Yes.

15 | Q. If so, what is it?

16 | A. Copper sulfate.

17 | Q. Is it possible to create copper sulfate without a source of copper?

18 | A. No.

19 | Q. Does the "black water" being formed in the customers' pipes appear to be

20 | occurring after the water flows through the meter?

21 | A. Yes.

22 | Q. If the water at the meter meets all drinking standards, does this formation

23 | of "black water" occurring after the water flows through the meter constitute

24 | a violation of federal or state drinking water standards?

25 | A. No.

1 Q. Please explain how this "black water" is formed.

2 A. Naturally occurring hydrogen sulfide in the raw water reacts with copper
3 pipes in home plumbing. Copper sulfide is created. It is the copper sulfide
4 that gives the water a black appearance.

5 Q. What steps has Aloha Utilities taken to alleviate the "black water"
6 problem?

7 A. The utility was permitted on December 12, 1995 to use a polyphosphate
8 corrosion inhibitor.

9 Q. Do any of the home treatment units at some homes on the Aloha water system
10 cause the corrosion inhibitor to be less effective?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Please explain how.

13 A. Home treatment units tend to remove minerals (calcium, iron, magnesium,
14 etc.) causing the water to become corrosive. The pH is lowered.

15 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

16 A. No, I do not.

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