

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for approval of amendment to connection/transfer sheets, increase in returned check charge, amendment to miscellaneous service charges, increase in meter installation charges, and imposition of new tap-in fee, in Marion County, by East Marion Sanitary Systems Inc.

DOCKET NO. 080562-WU
ORDER NO. PSC-10-0570-PCO-WU
ISSUED: September 15, 2010

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION

On August 19, 2008, East Marion Sanitary Systems, Inc. (East Marion or Utility) petitioned the Commission for changes in its tariff. While considering East Marion's request at its April 7, 2009, Agenda Conference, the Commission heard from a customer who represented that several customers had requested irrigation meters prior to the tariff change and that East Marion had refused to connect the customer's irrigation meter at the old tariff rate.

By Order No. PSC-09-0263-TRF-WU (tariff order), issued April 27, 2009, East Marion was permitted to change its tariffs to increase certain rates but was required to connect certain customers at the prior tariffed rate. East Marion protested that portion of the tariff order relating to the connection of customers at the prior tariffed rate. Pursuant to a request by the Utility and the intervenors in this docket, the hearing and procedural schedule has been abated pending settlement discussions.

Petition for Intervention

On April 19, 2010, Mr. Joseph M. Singel (Petitioner), filed a Petition for intervention pursuant to Florida Public Service Commission, Rule 25-22.039, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). According to his petition, Mr. Singel is a customer of East Marion.

Petitioner states that while East Marion eventually accepted his payment of the \$70.00 charge, the Utility failed to provide a properly installed irrigation meter at his residence. Mr. Singel claims that the less expensive, improperly installed meter currently at his residence exposes the Petitioner to the added cost of maintaining the water line on the inlet side of the irrigation meter, as well as the potential inaccuracy of calculating net gallons used for irrigation purposes.

Petitioner asserts that this is the proper proceeding to permit him to present evidence of East Marion's failure to abide by its previously established tariff charge for the proper installation of irrigation meters, and to seek relief from the Utility's failure to properly install his irrigation meter.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Standards of Intervention

Pursuant to Rule 25-22.039, F.A.C., persons, other than the original parties to a pending proceeding, who have a substantial interest in the proceeding, and who desire to become parties may petition for leave to intervene. Petitions for leave to intervene must be filed at least five days before the evidentiary hearing, must conform with Rule 28-106.201(2), F.A.C., and must include allegations sufficient to demonstrate that the intervenor is entitled to participate in the proceeding as a matter of constitutional or statutory right or pursuant to Commission rule, or that the substantial interests of the intervenor are subject to determination or will be affected by the proceeding. Intervenors take the case as they find it.

To have standing, the intervenor must meet the two-prong standing test in Agrico Chemical Company v. Department of Environmental Regulation, 406 So. 2d 478, 482 (Fla. 2d DCA 1981). The intervenor must show (1) that he will suffer injury in fact which is of sufficient immediacy to entitle him to a Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, hearing, and (2) that this substantial injury is of a type or nature which the proceeding is designed to protect. The first aspect of the test deals with the degree of injury. The second deals with the nature of the injury. The "injury in fact" must be both real and immediate and not speculative or conjectural. International Jai-Alai Players Assn. v. Florida Pari-Mutuel Commission, 561 So. 2d 1224, 1225-26 (Fla. 3d DCA 1990). See also, Village Park Mobile Home Assn., Inc. v. State Dept. of Business Regulation, 506 So. 2d 426, 434 (Fla. 1st DCA 1987), rev. den., 513 So. 2d 1063 (Fla. 1987) (speculation on the possible occurrence of injurious events is too remote).

Analysis & Ruling

It appears that Mr. Singel meets the two-prong standing test in Agrico, in that he is a residential customer taking service from East Marion whose interests may be substantially affected by this proceeding. Accordingly, Mr. Singel's Petition to Intervene is granted. Pursuant to Rule 25-22.039, F.A.C., Mr. Singel takes the case as he finds it. As an intervenor in this proceeding, Mr. Singel is expected to comply with the same standards, rules, statutes, and procedures as all other parties to this proceeding, and shall be required to stay within the scope of this proceeding as it has been established through the issues, rules, and governing statutes.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, that the Petition to Intervene is granted with respect to Joseph M. Singel as set forth herein. It is further

ORDERED that all parties to this proceeding shall furnish copies of all testimony, exhibits, pleadings and other documents which may hereinafter be filed in this proceeding, to:

Mr. Joseph M. Singel
1215 NE 130th Terrace
Silver Springs, FL 34488-3556

By ORDER of Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, this 15th day of September, 2010.


LISA POLAK EDGAR
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

(S E A L)

LCB/klj

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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.