

**Easterling, Deborah**

267679

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**From:** Easterling, Deborah  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 22, 2016 11:56 AM  
**To:** 'Glen Rice'  
**Subject:** 2016-29-WS - Letter of Protest

Dear Mr. Rice:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments has been placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

Docket No. 2016-29-WS - Application of Harbor Island Utilities, Incorporated for Approval of a New Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Sewer Service on Harbor Island, Beaufort County.

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling  
Executive Assistant  
803-896-5133



**Save as PDF file and  
Email to  
contact@psc.sc.gov**

Letter of Protest

\* Required Fields

Date: November 21, 2016

in Docket 2016 – 29 - WS

Protestant Information:

Name: Glen Rice/Administrator – The Anderson Group – \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: Leesville

State: SC

ZIP: 29070

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

SC PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION  
2016 NOV 22  
RECEIVED

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? \* For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I serve as the administrator of a fractional ownership group for The Anderson Group at Cedar Reef Unit D-215, located on Harbor Island, SC, that is served by Harbor Island Utilities, Inc.

Our Account Number is \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. \* (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

Pursuant to a letter dated September 12, 2016 received from Robert G. Gross, President of Harbor Island Utilities, Inc., we were advised of a significant and pending rate increase for water and sewer services, and in our collective opinion, it is unjustified and beyond reasonable. The claimant cites that this will, if approved, amount to the first rate increase in ten years.

While we do not dispute the ten year period, reasonable and customary business planning would have suggested applying for periodic increases to provide capital reserves needed for replacement pumps, motors, filters, unforeseen EPA environmental demands, and system maintenance. While we were not provided benefit of the claimant's stated earnings or profits realized from their operations over the last ten years, the apparent lack of Harbor Island Utilities' business acumen should not be borne on the shoulders of their customers with an 80% base fee and 55% usage increase.

This concern is further evidenced and validated by published wholesale increases from their supplier, Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority which, for the last two years have been limited to 2.3%.

**As the unfortunate damages caused by Hurricane Matthew to our unit and many other homeowners on Harbor Island, will potentially keep us from enjoying our property for at least 8 to 10 months, and perhaps longer, I will assume the base charges for water and sewer will continue to be due and payable each month, in spite of no use or water consumption. While we would never assign blame or responsibility for this disaster to Harbor Island Utilities, their rate increase proposal truly adds insult to injury.**

**We do in fact appreciate the services and quality product rendered by Harbor Island Utilities, Inc., but must register our protest of their proposed rate and fee increases, and ask the South Carolina Public Service Commission to deny their application.**

**3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding , if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony? \***

**I will not be available on December 6, 2016 due to other obligations, but would welcome the opportunity to express our concerns in written form or orally at another time or date.**