

Adams, Hope

267693

From: Adams, Hope
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 10:07 AM
To: 'Laura P. Valtorta'
Subject: RE: 2016-29-WS comment

Dear Ms. Valtorta,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at 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.

Hope H. Adams
Administrative Coordinator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
(803) 896-5122
hope.adams@psc.sc.gov

From: Laura P. Valtorta [mailto:lvaltorta@psc.sc.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 25, 2016 10:59 AM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Cc: _____
Subject: 2016-29-WS comment

Attached please find my comment on this water case.

Laura P. Valtorta
Attorney at Law/ Filmmaker

Columbia, SC 29201



* Required Fields

Letter of Protest
in Docket 2016 - 29 - WS

Date: * 11/25/2016

Protestant Information:

Name * Laura P. Valtorta

Mailing Address _____

City* Chapin

State* SC

Zip * 29036

Phone * _____

E-mail _____

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.)

My husband and I own a condo on Harbor Island. We are customers of Harbor Island Utilities.

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

The proposed increase in water rates from \$4.62 to \$7.17 per 1,000 gallons is unjustified by the expenses outlined by Harbor Island Utilities in the application. An increase of half that much would cover the needs of the utility.

Additionally, I am concerned about the source of the \$300,000 loan listed as an "administrative loan" on page 30 of the proposal. Why is the interest rate 8%? Is this a private loan? Where is the money coming from and who profits from the 8% interest which is being charged to the customer? We can see that the utility has previously borrowed from Palmetto State Bank -- possibly at a lower interest rate. If the utility needs to borrow \$300,000, they should borrow from a commercial bank.

Conflict of interest: Attorney J. Mikell, who represents the utility, also does legal work for Cedar Reef Villas, a

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

I cannot be on the island on December 1, 2016.