



Interoffice Memorandum

October 30, 2017

TO: Mayor Teresa Jacobs
and Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Raymond E. Hanson, P. E., Director
Utilities Department

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**SUBJECT: BCC AGENDA ITEM – Work Session
November 14, 2017 BCC Meeting
Wedgefield Water
Contact Person: Todd P. Swingle, P. E., Deputy Director
Utilities Department
407-254-4903**

The Wedgefield subdivision, located in east Orange County, was originally developed in 1962. Portions of the subdivision are served by well and septic, while additional properties (approximately 1,800) are served by centralized water and sewer infrastructure. Since inception, these centralized systems have been owned and operated by private utility companies. Currently, Pluris Wedgefield, Inc. owns and operates these systems. Regulation of these operations falls under the purview of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for water quality and the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) for rates.

Throughout the history of these systems, Wedgefield residents have voiced concerns regarding water quality, rates/pricing, and customer service levels. Over the last two years, these concerns have been discussed on several occasions during Board work sessions and open discussion items. Most recently, as part of an open discussion item on September 19, 2017, the Mayor requested that staff schedule a work session with four elements:

- Invite FDEP to provide comment regarding their regulation and the compliance status of the Pluris Wedgefield utility system;
- Invite Pluris representatives to present their perspective regarding the Pluris Wedgefield utility system;
- Provide a review by County staff of PSC jurisdiction and the process involved if Orange County were to consider assuming the responsibility of the utility;
- Provide a review by County staff of the status and process to further consider acquisition of the utility.

Due to the extent of these discussions, these topics will be covered in two separate work sessions. The first, scheduled for November 14, 2017, will cover the first three topics. The final topic will be covered in a separate work session, tentatively scheduled for November 28, 2017.

Staff is seeking board direction on the PSC jurisdiction issue.