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September 17, 1997

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Ms. Blanca S. Bayó  
Director, Records & Reporting  
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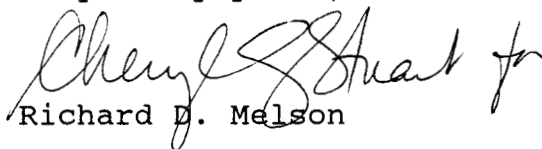
Re: Lake Utility Services, Inc.  
Docket No. 960444-WU

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Lake Utility Services, Inc. in the above referenced docket are the original and 15 copies of LUSI's Offer of Settlement and Motion for Continuance.

Copies have been provided to the parties on the attached service list.

Very truly yours,

  
Richard D. Melson

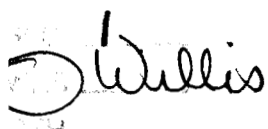
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Enclosures

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

09486 SEP 17 97

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING



BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for rate  
increase and for increase in  
service availability charges in  
Lake County by Lake Utility  
Services, Inc. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

) Docket No. 960444-WU  
)  
) Filed: September 17, 1997  
)  
)

LAKE UTILITY SERVICES, INC.'S  
MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE

Lake Utility Services, Inc. (LUSI) hereby moves for a continuance of this proceeding. As grounds therefor, LUSI states:

1. LUSI has today filed with the Commission an Offer of Settlement which, if accepted by the Commission, would dispose of this case without the necessity for further proceedings. LUSI believes that the proposed Offer of Settlement is acceptable to the Commission staff.

2. LUSI has previously communicated the substance of its Offer of Settlement to the Office of Public Counsel, which has intervened in this case on behalf of the Citizens of Florida. As of this date, the Office of Public Counsel has not indicated whether it is willing to accept the Offer of Settlement. OPC has advised counsel for LUSI that it requires additional time to evaluate the Offer of Settlement and to communicate with its clients.

3. LUSI has requested that its Offer of Settlement be presented to the Commission at the next scheduled agenda conference at which it can be considered on a non-emergency basis. LUSI is willing to accept a further short delay in

consideration by the Commission if OPC requires additional time to formulate a position on the Offer of Settlement.

4. LUSI is currently scheduled to file rebuttal testimony on September 23, 1997. Other scheduled activities include an informal prehearing conference on September 24, 1997, the prehearing conference on September 30, 1997, and final hearing on October 16-17, 1997.

5. LUSI requests a continuance of the hearings, and a suspension of further activity in this docket, pending the Commission's action on its proposed Offer of Settlement.

6. The Offer of Settlement has been filed to avoid the time and expense of further litigation. Unless a continuance is granted, LUSI will be forced to incur additional expenses, including legal and consultants fees, in filing rebuttal testimony, participating in prehearing activities, and preparing for a hearing which will not be required if the Offer of Settlement is accepted.


7. In the event that the Offer of Settlement is not accepted by the Commission, LUSI proposes to file its rebuttal testimony two weeks after the date of the Commission's vote on the Offer of Settlement. LUSI is willing to waive the applicable statutory time frames in order to accommodate the revised hearing schedule that may result from this request for continuance.

8. Since the Offer of Settlement involves an increase in revenue requirement above the interim revenues currently in effect, there is no harm to ratepayers resulting from the requested continuance.

WHEREFORE, LUSI requests that the Commission continue this hearing pending action on LUSI's Offer of Settlement as more fully set forth above.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 17th day of September, 1997.

HOPPING GREEN SAMS & SMITH, P.A.

By:   
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Attorneys for Lake Utility  
Services, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing was furnished to the following by hand delivery this 17th day of September, 1997.

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