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Commissioners: Gary F. Clark, Chairman Art Graham Andrew Giles Fay Mike La Rosa Gabriella Passidomo STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING TOM BALLINGER DIRECTOR (850) 413-6910

## **Public Service Commission**

September 27, 2021

Susan Clark, Esq. Radley Thomas Yong & Clark, P.A. 301 South Bronough Street, Suite 200 Tallahassee, FL 32301 sclark@radleylaw.com

## STAFF'S FIRST DATA REQUEST VIA EMAIL

Re: Docket No. 20210133-SU - Application for transfer of facilities of North Peninsula Utilities Corporation and wastewater Certificate No. 249-S to CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC in Volusia County.

Dear Ms. Clark:

Please provide the information requested below regarding CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC (CSWR or Utility) to the Office of Commission Clerk by **October 15, 2021**.

- 1. Rule 25-30.0371, Florida Administrative Code, states that any entity that believes a full or partial positive acquisition adjustment should be made has the burden to prove the existence of extraordinary circumstances. In determining whether extraordinary circumstances have been demonstrated pursuant to a request for a positive acquisition adjustment, the Commission shall consider, among other things, evidence provided to the Commission such as anticipated improvements in the utility's compliance with regulatory mandates and anticipated improvements in quality of service.
  - a. With respect to anticipated improvements in regulatory compliance, the Utility listed in its application the steps it plans to take to achieve improvements in compliance with regulatory mandates. However, aside from a preliminary assessment of the current condition of the wastewater system, the Utility did not provide information regarding the Seller's record of compliance with regulatory mandates. Please provide the specific regulatory compliance issues the previous owner had, and state how CSWR anticipates improving the Utility's compliance with regulatory mandates.
  - b. With respect to anticipated improvements in quality of service, the Utility listed in its application the steps it plans to take to achieve improvements in quality of service. Please provide specific information regarding the Seller's history of quality of service.

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- 2. In its application, the Utility stated that through the consolidation of many small systems, CSWR will reduce overall operating expenses of the acquired systems. The following items relate to this assertion.
  - a. In order to demonstrate cost savings, please estimate and provide a breakdown of projected operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses that reflect CSWR assuming operation of the Utility. In your response, please include all basis, assumptions, documentation, and calculations which supports CSWR's estimated/projected O&M expenses.
  - b. Using the O&M expenses from the Utility's 2020 Annual Report, please compare and identify projected cost savings to operating expenses that will be achieved through CSWR's acquisition of North Peninsula Utilities Corporation's (North Peninsula) systems.
- 3. In its application, the Utility stated that the quality of service would be improved by access to managerial and operational resources not available to a system the size of North Peninsula. Please elaborate and quantify cost savings previously realized in other jurisdictions.
- 4. In its application, the Utility stated the purchase price for the North Peninsula systems includes funds to pay off long-term debt obligations. If the existing rates were designed to recover capital cost in the rate structure, please explain why the cost of capital should also be recovered within the acquisition adjustment.

Please file all responses electronically at the Commission's website at <u>www.floridapsc.com</u>, by selecting the Clerk's Office and Electronic Filing Web Form. Please contact me by phone at (850) 413-6682 or email <u>Kdaramola@psc.state.fl.us</u>, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

|s| Kaitlyn Daramola

Kaitlyn Daramola Engineering Specialist

KD: jp

cc: Thomas Crabb, Esq. (tcrabb@radleylaw.com) Office of the Commission Clerk (Docket No. 20210133-SU)