

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request for Exemption) DOCKET NO. 921121-WS  
From Commission Regulation ) ORDER NO. PSC-93-0097-FOF-WS  
for Provision of Water and ) ISSUED: 01/19/93  
Wastewater Service in St. )  
Lucie County, Fl., by Harbor )  
Branch Oceanographic )  
Institution - Post Doctoral )  
Apartments - West System. )

ORDER INDICATING NONJURISDICTIONAL STATUS  
OF HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION - POST  
DOCTORAL APARTMENTS - WEST SYSTEM AND CLOSING DOCKET

BY THE COMMISSION:

On November 2, 1992, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution - Post Doctoral Apartments - West System (Harbor Branch) filed an application with this Commission for recognition of its nonjurisdictional status, pursuant to Section 367.021(12), Florida Statutes. Harbor Branch is an apartment complex provided by the Institution for its employees. The complex has a well and a wastewater treatment plant located at 5600 Old Dixie Highway in Ft. Pierce, Florida. Dr. Tsen C. Wang, Director, filed the application on behalf of Harbor Branch.

Section 367.021(12), Florida Statutes, states that a "utility means a water or wastewater utility and except as provided in Section 367.022, includes every person, lessee, trustee, or receiver owning, operating, managing or controlling a system, or proposing construction of a system, who is providing or proposes to provide water or wastewater service to the public for compensation."

Upon request and sufficient proof, the Commission will issue an order indicating the nonjurisdictional or exempt status of water or wastewater systems if they qualify under the appropriate provision of Chapter 367, Florida Statutes. Originally, Harbor Branch filed the application seeking exempt status as a public lodging establishment, pursuant to Section 367.022(4), Florida Statutes. However, after reviewing the application and discussions with Dr. Wang, it was determined that Harbor Branch qualifies for nonjurisdictional status in accordance with Section 367.021(12), Florida Statutes, and Rules 25-30.060(1)(2) and (3)(j), Florida Administrative Code. According to the application, water and wastewater service is provided only to the Apartments, there is no charge for providing the service, and all costs of providing service are treated or recovered as operational expenses.

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In addition, the application form states that pursuant to Section 837.06, Florida Statutes, anyone knowingly making a false statement in writing with the intent to mislead is guilty of a misdemeanor. By signing the application, Harbor Branch acknowledged that he is aware of Section 837.06, Florida Statutes, and the penalties for making false statements in the application.

Based on the facts as represented, we find that Harbor Branch is not a utility pursuant to the provisions of Section 367.021(12), Florida Statutes. However, should there be any change in circumstances or method of operation, the owner of Harbor Branch or any successors in interest, must inform the Commission within 30 days of such change so that we may review the matter to determine whether nonjurisdictional status is still appropriate.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that, based upon the facts as represented, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Post Doctoral Apartments - West System, 5600 Old Dixie Highway, Ft. Pierce, Florida 34946, is not a water and wastewater utility subject to this Commission's jurisdiction, pursuant to the provisions of Section 367.021(12), Florida Statutes. It is further

ORDERED that should there be any change in circumstances or method of operation, the owner of Harbor Branch or any successors in interest, shall inform this Commission within 30 days of such a change so that we may re-evaluate Harbor Branch's nonjurisdictional status. It is further

ORDERED that Docket No. 921121-WS is hereby closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 19th day of January, 1993.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or sewer utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900 (a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.