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May 15, 1997

960867-111

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Via FAX Transmittal - 904/656-4029

F. Marshall Deterding, Esquire
ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP
2548 Blairstone Pines Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: Marion County vs. Windstream Utilities Co.
Motion to Strike

Dear Mr. Deterding:

I got your letter as I was headed out the door today, Thursday, May 15, 1997, to Georgia. I immediately called Wilbur Brewton, my partner in our Tallahassee office who has been practicing law for over 30-years. Wilbur told me that your copy of the Motion was put in the U.S. mail on the date indicated on the certificate of service.

Therefore, it was mailed. If you have a hard time believing this, your are free to call Wilbur directly with your accusations.

ACK
AFA
APP
CAF
CMU
CTR
EAG
LEG
LIN
OPC
RCH
SL
WAS
7TH

While I agree that this is the second time you all have complained, we have each time duly served the pleadings that we have certified to. I note, however, that there have been numerous pleadings and letters filed and sent to the FPSC and other agencies (including Marion County) on this matter in which we have not been copied by your firm. You might do well to take your own advice in assuring that documents get to the appropriate parties.

Marshall, in order to make sure that you get a copy of this document I have asked that a copy of the Motion be hand delivered to you today, and by the time you receive this letter you should have already received it from our Tallahassee office. I do think, however, the tenor of your letter is unprofessional and inappropriate. I understand from Wilbur, and from personal experience, that the mails in Tallahassee

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

04990 MAY 1997

TALLAHASSEE

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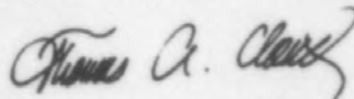
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are notoriously slow. Apparently, letters mailed in Tallahassee are somehow routed through Jacksonville before they go back through Tallahassee. Nobody is trying to prevent you from getting documents or denying your clients due process rights.

We have accorded you and your firm every courtesy in this matter, and would expect the same from you. Since the incident in December when your firm claimed that they had not received process of a pleading we have gone out of our way to either hand deliver (if filed by our Tallahassee office) or send to you overnight delivery of almost every pleading that we have filed in this case, with very few exceptions. The only reason the Motion was not had delivered to you on Monday was because our courier in the Tallahassee office had to go home sick early Monday. That is the only reason your copy was put in the mail rather than hand delivered. I really can't believe given our extraordinary effort in the past to assure your firm delivery of all our pleadings that you would make the accusations that you did in your correspondence today. If there is something you really need, all you have to do is ask me in a gentleman manner. You could have mentioned to me during our conversation this morning that you had not received the Motion. Mailing out incendiary letters is not going to accomplish anything. If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas A. Cloud, Esquire

GRAY, HARRIS & ROBINSON, P.A.

cc: Donna Cyrus-Williams, Esquire via FAX transmittal - 904/413-6250
Blanca Bayo, Director of Records and Reporting
Gordon B. Johnston, County Attorney