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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

January 30, 1998

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RE: Docket No. 971663-WS
Petition of Florida Cities Water Company for limited
proceeding to recover environmental litigation costs for
North and South Ft. Myers Division in Lee County and
Barefoot Bay Divisions in Brevard County.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

We are in receipt of the CASR that you issued in this docket
on January 22, 1998.

We do not believe that Florida Cities Water Company is being
allowed sufficient time to prepare its rebuttal testimony. The
direct testimony of staff is not required to be filed until June
19, 1998. Our rebuttal testimony then is due on July 3, 1998.
This allows only fourteen calendar days and only 10 business days
for the preparation of the rebuttal testimony. This is not
sufficient time to allow for the preparation of the rebuttal
testimony. We have 7 witnesses presenting direct testimony. Only
3 of those are employees of the company. If we need to call these
witness in rebuttal it is simply impossible to prepare their
testimony in the time allowed in the CASR.

ACK _____
AFA 1
APP _____
CAF _____
CMU _____
CTR _____
EAG _____
LEG 1
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OPC _____
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SEC 1
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DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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Ms. Blanca S. Bayo
January 30, 1998
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We request that you modify the CASR so that Florida Cities Water Company will have at least 3 weeks to prepare and file its rebuttal testimony.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Kenneth Gatlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

B. Kenneth Gatlin

BKG/pav

cc: Charles H. Hill