

ORIGINAL

STATE OF FLORIDA

Commissioners:
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CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER
2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0850

Public Service Commission

December 24, 1998

Richard S. Taylor, Jr., Esquire
City of Longwood
P.O. Box 1117
Longwood, Florida 32752-1117

RE: Docket No. 971638-SU - Application for amendment of Certificates No. 226-S to add territory in Seminole County by Florida Water Services Corporation.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Pursuant to Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, state agencies have been charged with the responsibility of promoting mediation of administrative disputes consistent with the provisions of Section 120.573, Florida Statutes. Mediation is an informal dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party, the mediator, helps the disputing parties reach an agreement upon the disputed matter. The mediator has no power to impose a decision on the parties. Mediation is a desirable alternative to an administrative hearing in that it can be less expensive, less time-consuming, and allows the parties themselves to negotiate settlement of disputed issues.

Additionally, the Public Service Commission has been selected to participate in a mediation pilot program led by the Conflict Resolution Consortium and the Governor's office. Our staff will contact you regarding a meeting to discuss whether this case can be handled through mediation. We encourage you to attend this meeting and raise any questions or concerns you may have in this regard.

If the parties agree to proceed to mediation, staff would draft and submit for your approval an agreement to mediate. The agreement would include provisions for mediator selection, the allocation of any costs and fees associated with the mediation, and the mediating parties' understanding regarding the confidentiality of discussions and documents introduced during mediation, as well as the participation by staff in the mediation process. The mediation would conclude within 60 days of the agreement unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties. If mediation results in settlement of the administrative dispute, staff will present the settlement to the Commission for consideration and will recommend appropriate action consistent with the agreement to mediate. If mediation terminates without settlement of the dispute, the

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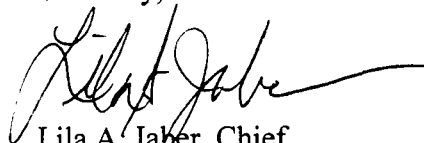
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Commission would notify the parties in writing that the administrative hearing process under Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, would resume.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (850) 413-6199. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lila A. Jaber", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lila A. Jaber, Chief
Bureau of Water and Wastewater
Division of Legal Services

LAJ/lw/dr

cc: Division of Water and Wastewater (Crouch, Redemann)
Division of Legal Services (Brubaker)
Division of Records and Reporting
Jonathan Davidson, Conflict Resolution Consortium

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