



Public Service Commission
-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: July 15, 2002
TO: Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services
FROM: Office of the General Counsel (Holley)
RE: Docket No. 020554-WS - Petition by Florida Water Services Corporation (FWSC) for determination of exclusive jurisdiction over FWSC's water and wastewater land and facilities in Hernando County, and application for certificate of authorization for existing utility currently charging for service.

Please file the attached letter dated July 7, 2002, with the customer objections previously received, in the above-referenced docket.

LAH/dm

cc: Division of Economic Regulation (Rieger, Jones, Walden)
Office of the General Counsel (Harris)

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DOCUMENT NO.
07283-02
7-15-02

Doris J. Bedell, Ed.D. (ABD)
5196 Hope Lane
Spring Hill, FL. 34606-1230
352-688-8141

July 7th, 2002

Mr. E. Leon Jacobs, Jr., Chairman
Florida Public Service Commission
Division of Records and Reporting
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Fl. 32399-0850

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Florida Public Service Commission
CHAIRMAN JABER

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

This letter is being written as an objection to the application filed by Florida Water Services, Inc. which was legally noticed to its clients on June 25th, 2002. The application reads as follows:

"Notice is hereby given on June 25, 2002, pursuant to Section 367.045, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-30.030, Florida Administrative Code, of the Application of Florida Water Services Corporation for an original certificate of authorization for an existing utility currently charging for service from the Florida Public Service Commission for the provision of water and wastewater services in the following described territory in Hernando and Pasco Counties, Florida, pursuant to Section 367.17(7), Florida Statutes, as follows:"

I shall not replicate the three page listing, which you obviously have in your possession. I would note however, that that claim by FWSC is based upon the listing of one small section of service in Pasco County, encompassing "Township 24 South, Range 17 East, Pasco County, Section 6, that portion of the North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 6 lying east of U.S.19 (S.R. 55). Since this is the only portion of service in Pasco County, I shall urge our County Commission, which currently holds the certificate of authorization to negotiate with a Pasco water service company to provide service within its county -- which seems appropriate, under the circumstances.

I have lived in Hernando County long enough to have been served by the predecessor company, SSU, and well remember the legal battle which resulted in the county taking control. I recall that the rates after the transfer were less, that we received a rebate from SSU, and that since then stability in all facets of management have occurred. I see no reason to resume the previous, unsatisfactory management, and believe this is a ploy in the current pursuit of the four county group to purchase FWSC at a reasonable price.

The County has had the results of independent assessment of the value of the Hernando part of FWSC and, because of the aging infrastructure, among other reasons, this assessment has come in at far less than the \$48 million the four county group purchase is predicated on. I believe it was at the lower end of the \$30 million range.

As a resident, I am satisfied with the current arrangement. As a consumer, I resent being held hostage in a battle that I thought the Public Service Commission had settled in my favor several years ago. In these times of corporate greed, when mid- and lower-level employees are hurt, investors' holdings been decimated, and consumers ignored, it is hardly time for the public to have to again be the victims of fancy footwork (such as the one small parcel in Pasco County.)

I urge you, as the Public Service Commission, to rule in favor of the public and deny the application you have received.

Very truly yours,



Doris J. Bedell

copy to:

FWSC

Hernando County Commissioners