State of Florida



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

DATE: September 20, 2002

TO:

Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services

FROM: Office of the General Counsel (Holley)

RE: Docket No. 020403-SU - Application for transfer of wastewater facilities of Country Run

Wastewater Utility Company in Orange County to Orange County Utilities, and request

for cancellation of Certificate No. 490-S.

Please file the attached letter dated September 18, 2002, in the docket file for the abovereferenced docket.

LAH/dm

cc:

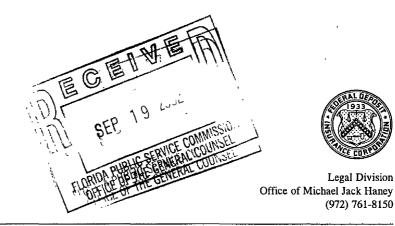
Division of Economic Regulation (Brady, Brinkley)

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DOCUMENT NUMBER TATE FPSC-COMMISSION CLFRK

FDIC

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation 1910 Pacific Avenue, 13th Floor Dallas, Texas 75201 Dallas Field Operations Branch



September 18, 2002

Lorena A. Holley, Esq. Senior Attorney State of Florida Public Service Commission Capital Circle Office Center 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt No. 7001 1940 0005 7034 7905.

Re: Country Run Wastewater Utility Company, Orange County, FL, Certificate No. 490-S.

Dear Ms. Holley:

By your letter dated July 3, 2002, together with the enclosures therewith, you have advised the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC"), as Receiver for Numerica Savings Bank FSB, Manchester, NH (the "Receiver"), that the Receiver violated Fla. Stat. Ann. § 367.071(1) (West 2002) by selling the former ORE asset known as "Country Run, Phase 3" (comprised of approximately 15 acres of land evidently improved with a sewer treatment plant, located in Orange County, Florida) without first obtaining the approval of the Public Service Commission of the State of Florida (the "PSC").

Specifically, said Section 367.071(1) provides in part that "[n]o utility shall <u>sell</u>, assign, or transfer its certificate of authorization [which it appears the Receiver made no attempt to do], <u>facilities</u> [the Receiver did sell the Country Run, Phase 3 real property and any improvements thereto, which evidently include a sanitary sewer treatment plant] or any portion thereof . . . without determination and approval of the commission that the proposed sale, assignment, or transfer is in the public interest and that the buyer, assignee, or transferee will fulfill the commitments, obligations, and representations of the utility [emphasis added]."

In response to your aforesaid letter of July 3rd, requesting that the Receiver provide the PSC with an explanation of the Receiver's apparent failure to comply with Section 367.071(1) of the Florida statutes, the Receiver has caused its files on this asset to be retrieved and examined for documentation evidencing and information surrounding the sale of that asset by the Receiver to Mr. James E. Guildi on or about August 10, 1998.

Lorena A. Holley, Esq. September 18, 2002 Page 2

I have personally examined such files, both my own general files from the 1998 "Florida Auction" marketing event out of which this asset was sold (which files reflect that I prepared the FDIC forms of sales contracts and deeds to be used by the FDIC's local Florida counsel in closing the asset-specific sales that ultimately occurred, thus my name was on the form of special warranty deed used in the Country Run, Phase 3 sale), and the historic asset-specific files of the Division of Receiverships and Resolutions ("DRR") of the FDIC (the business client) in the Dallas Regional Office (who conducted the 1998 Florida Auction). Unfortunately that examination has revealed nothing helpful to me in providing the PSC with the requested explanation of the circumstances surrounding the sale of the subject asset to Mr. Guildi, with regard to the Receiver's apparent failure to seek or obtain the PSC's approval of such sale.

In addition, and as I advised you I had done in my letter to you of August 9, 2002, I made a written request of Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith & Cutler (specifically, Mr. Edgel C. Lester, Jr., the partner in the firm's Tampa, FL, office that oversaw this project), the Florida law firm engaged by the FDIC to provide it with local counsel in the sales that arose out of the 1998 Florida Auction, that they provide me with a copy of the firm's asset-specific file on the sale of Country Run, Phase 3, to Mr. Guildi, along with any recollection he or his staff may have as to the circumstances surrounding such sale that might enable me to more appropriately respond to the PSC's request, including whether the firm made the Receiver aware of the requirements of said Section 367.071(1). As I also advised you in said letter of August 9, having made that request of Mr. Lester, it was and is not the intent of the Receiver to lay this matter at his firm's feet, but rather to simply try to find out what happened. Regrettably, Mr. Lester's review of the pertinent files in the possession of his firm caused him to respond that "we have not found any information that would be helpful in this inquiry." He went on to say that "[n]either I nor my legal assistant recall any discussions regarding the operation of a utility on this particular parcel."

Lastly, at my request the DRR business client in the Dallas Regional Office retrieved and reviewed twelve banker's boxes of files related to the 1998 Florida Auction, with, to our regret, the same unsuccessful result.

I am left with only one possible explanation to offer the PSC in this matter, i.e., that in the Receiver's sale of the Country Run, Phase 3 asset to Mr. Guildi, it (the Receiver) inadvertently failed to comply with Section 367.071(1) of the Florida statutes, as to the sanitary sewer treatment plant located thereon.

I might add that the review of my files did produce, among other things, a list of the assets sold in the 1998 Florida Auction and the respective sales prices for those assets. Country Run, Phase 3, was sold for \$35,000.00, and the Receiver had to remit all of the net proceeds of that sale to a judgment lien holder of the failed bank out of which this asset arose, just to clear title to the real property and facilitate the sale. The former borrower/developer of the Country Run subdivision defaulted on, among other things, a \$2.8 million loan made by the failed bank, which monies were of course never recovered. The recoveries from these sorts of assets are meager. That is not to say that the FDIC believes that it should not be required, or that it does not attempt in every instance, to

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comply with the laws of the situs of the real property assets acquired by its respective failed financial institution receiverships (e.g., the hiring of local counsel). It is a statement that the FDIC isn't blowing into town and making fast, big bucks and then disappearing, while running roughshod over local laws. We regret the present oversight.

Enclosed herewith is the Receiver's check in the amount of \$1,271.94, together with a copy of the PSC's Invoice No. SU710-94-S-P dated September 10, 2002, in that amount, representing the Receiver's payment of the penalties and interest deemed by the PSC to be payable for late-filed regulatory assessment fees owed by the Country Run Wastewater Utility Company for the years 1994, 1995, and 1996.

It is my understanding that with the payment of the above Invoice, the Receiver has satisfied any obligations it may have had to the PSC arising out of the Country Run Wastewater Utility Company. If indeed that is not the case, please notify the undersigned immediately. Thank you for your patience and professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely.

Michael Jack Haney

Senior Attorney

cc: Patricia Brady
Victor M. Robert
John M. Urquhart
Jerry D. Bumbalough
Frederic A. Ortiz

THIS IS A WATERMARKED PAPER-PRINTED WITH BLUE INK-DO NOT ACCEPT WITHOUT VERIFYING WATERMARK-HOLD TO LIGHT TO VERIFY DERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Field Finance Center PO Box 130476

Dallas, Texas 75313

Bank One - 0710

Chicago, IL Payable Through First USA Bank, NA

62-28/311

09-24720

SEPTEMBER 13,2002

CHECK NO. 450001625

PAY *******1,271 DOLLARS AND 94 CENTS

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 2540 SHUMARD OAK BLVD FLORIDA

UNITED STATES

323990850

*********\$1,271.94

VOID SIX MONTHS FROM DATE OF ISSUE

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Field Finance Center PO Box 130476

Dallas, Texas 75313

CHECK NO. 450001625

RECORD OF PAYMENT TO VENDOR

LOC

BANK

CK DATE

VENDOR #

450

R01

09/13/02

INVOICE#

GROSS

DISCOUNT

INTEREST

PENALTY

NET

SU71094SP INV DESC ==> COUNTRY RUN PHASE 3: PENALTIES/INTEREST OWED BY

1,271.94

0.00

1,271.94

ATTACHMENT

*******1,271.94

NOT NEGOTIABLE DO NOT CASH

PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PAYMENT TO: (972) 761-8098