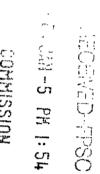
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215 SOUTH MONROE STREET SUITE 815 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301

(850) 412-2000 FAX: (850) 412-2020 KATHRYN.COWDERY@RUDEN.COM

January 5, 2004

Via Hand Delivery



Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Betty Easley Building, Room 110
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Ruden McClosky

> Re: Docket No. 980876-WS Application for Certificate to Operate a Water and Wastewater Utility in Marion County by Ocala Springs Utilities Inc.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

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Enclosed for filing at Staff's request are an original and fifteen copies of the Waiver of the 30 day requirement of Ocala Springs Utilities Inc., as requested by Staff.

Please acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by stamping the enclosed extra copy of this ______letter and returning same to my attention.

Sincerely,

RUDEN, McCLOSKY, SMITH, SCHUSTER & RUSSELL, P.A. Kathryn G.W. Cowdery Attornev

KGC Enclosures cc: Katherine Fleming (w/enc.)

TAL:46172:1

RUDEN, McCLOSKY, SMITH, SCHUSTER & RUSSELL, P.A.

CARACAS = FT, LAUDERDALE = MIAMI = NAPLES = PORT ST. LUCIE = SARASOTA = ST. PETERSBURG = TALLAHASSEE = TAMPA = WEST PALM BEACH

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215 SOUTH MONROE STREET **SUITE 815** TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301

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January 5, 2004

Via Hand Delivery

Katherine Fleming Office of General Counsel Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

> Docket No. 980876-WS Re: Application for Certificate to Operate a Water and Wastewater Utility in Marion County by Ocala Springs Utilities Inc. ("OSUI")

Dear Ms. Fleming:

This letter responds to Staff's request for a waiver of the 30 day time period within which Staff is to respond to the Second Motion for Extension of Time of Ocala Springs Utilities Inc. ("Motion for Extension of Time"). Staff has suggested, and OSUI agrees, that it would be appropriate for Staff to wait to make its response until after a decision is made as to whether the Ocala Springs property will be sold to the Department of Environmental Regulation under the Florida Forever Program. OSUI hereby waives the 30 day Staff response time to its Motion for Extension of Time. OSUI will keep Staff informed of the status and time frame involved in the purchase negotiations.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

RUDEN, McCLOSKY, SMITH, SCHUSTER & RUSSELL, P.A.

Cowderv

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