VOTE SHEET

JANUARY 20, 2004

RE: Docket No. 040005-WS - Annual reestablishment of price increase or decrease index of major categories of operating costs incurred by water and wastewater utilities pursuant to Section 367.081(4)(a), F.S.

<u>ISSUE 1</u>: Which index should be used to determine price level adjustments? <u>RECOMMENDATION</u>: The Gross Domestic Product Implicit Price Deflator Index is recommended for use in calculating price level adjustments. Staff recommends calculating the 2004 price index by using a fiscal year, four-quarter comparison of the Implicit Price Deflator Index ending with the third quarter 2004.

APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: Full Commission

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES MAJORITY DISSENTING MULLIS MAJORITY DISSENTING MAJORITY MAJORITY MAJORITY DISSENTING

REMARKS/DISSENTING-COMMENTS:

Commissioner Jaber participated in the conference by telephone. She agreed with dissented from the majority vote and will sign the vote sheet upon return to the office.

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VOTE SHEET

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Docket No. 040005-WS - Annual reestablishment of price increase or decrease index of major categories of operating costs incurred by water and wastewater utilities pursuant to Section 367.081(4)(a), F.S.

(Continued from previous page)

<u>ISSUE 2</u>: What percentage should be used by water and wastewater utilities for the 2004 Price Index? <u>RECOMMENDATION</u>: The 2004 Price Index for water and wastewater utilities should be 1.60%.

APPROVED

<u>ISSUE 3</u>: How should the utilities be informed of the indexing requirements?

RECOMMENDATION: Pursuant to Rule 25-30.420(1), Florida Administrative Code, the Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, after the expiration of the PAA protest period, should mail each regulated water and wastewater utility a copy of the PAA order establishing the index which will contain the information presented in Form PSC/WAW 15 (4/99) and Appendix A (Attachment 1 of staff's January 8, 2004 memorandum). A cover letter from the Director of the Division of Economic Regulation should be included with the mailing of the order (Attachment 2 of staff's memorandum). If a protest is filed and a hearing is held, the Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services should mail each regulated water and wastewater utility a copy of the final order establishing the index which will contain the information presented in Form PSC/WAW 15 (4/99) and Appendix A (Attachment 1). A cover letter from the Director of the Division of Economic Regulation should be included with the mailing of the order (Attachment 2).

APPROVED

ISSUE 4: Should this docket be closed?

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>: Yes. This docket should be closed upon the issuance of the Consummating Order if no substantially affected person files a timely protest within the 14-day protest period after issuance of the PAA Order. Any party filing a protest should be required to prefile testimony with the protest.

APPROVED