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January 30, 1997

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FILE COPY

Ms. Blanca Bayo, Director
Division of Record and Reporting
Room 110- Easley Building
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

HAND DELIVERY

Re: Docket No. **970003-GU**; West Florida Natural Gas Company

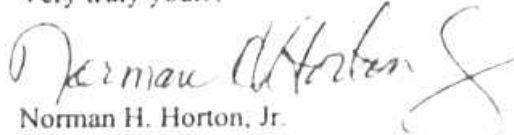
Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of West Florida Natural Gas Company in connection with the hearings scheduled to begin February 19, 1997 in this docket are an original and 15 copies of the Prehearing Statement. Also enclosed is a diskette with the document on it in WordPerfect 6.1 format.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the enclosed extra copy of this letter.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,


Norman H. Horton, Jr.

ACK _____

AFA 1

APP _____

CAF _____

CMU _____

CTR _____ NHH/amb

EAG _____ Enclosures

LEG 1 cc: Parties of Record

LIN 3 Mr. Tom Goodwin

Mr. Jeff Householder

OPC _____

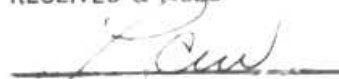
RCI _____

SEC 1

WAS _____

GTH _____

RECEIVED & FILED


FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE

01155 JAN 30 5

FPSC RECORDS REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Purchased Gas Cost Recovery)
_____)

Docket No. 970003-GU

Filed: January 30, 1997

**PREHEARING STATEMENT OF
WEST FLORIDA NATURAL GAS COMPANY**

West Florida Natural Gas Company, through undersigned counsel, respectfully submits this prehearing statement.

A. APPEARANCES

Norman H. Horton, Jr., Esq.
Messer, Caparello & Self, P. A.
Post Office Box 1876
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1876

On behalf of West Florida Natural Gas Company

B. WITNESSES

<u>Witness</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Issues</u>
Goodwin	Purchased Gas Cost Recovery Projections, True-ups, and Estimate of Therm Sales	1 - 5

C. EXHIBITS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Witness</u>	<u>Description</u>
_____ TG-1 (composite)	Goodwin	Schedules A-1, A-1 Supporting Detail, A-1R, A-1F, A-1F/R, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6 and A-7
_____	Goodwin	Schedules E-1, E-1/R, E-2, E-3, E-4 and E-5

DOCUMENT RECORDED
01155 JAN 30 5
FPSC RECORDS/REPORTING

D. STATEMENT OF BASIC POSITION

West Florida Natural Gas Company has properly calculated its true-up amounts and projected gas costs. Its costs and projections are reasonable and its purchased gas cost recovery factor should be approved.

E. STATEMENT OF ISSUES AND POSITIONS

ISSUE 1: What is the appropriate final purchased gas true-up amount for April, 1995 through March, 1996?

WENG'S Position: \$183,415 underrecovery.

ISSUE 2: What is the estimated purchased gas true-up amount for April, 1996 through March, 1997?

WENG'S Position: \$438,185 underrecovery.

ISSUE 3: What are the total purchased gas adjustment true-up amounts to be collected during the period April, 1997 through March, 1998?

WENG'S Position: \$621,600 underrecovery.

ISSUE 4: What is the appropriate levelized purchased gas cost recovery (cap) factor for the period April, 1997 through March, 1998?

WENG'S Position: 53.340 cents per therm.


ISSUE 5: What should be the effective date of the new purchased gas adjustment charge for billing purposes?

WENG'S Position: Agrees with Staff.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

MESSER, CAPARELLO & SELF, P. A.
Post Office Box 1876
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(904) 222-0720



NORMAN H. HORTON, JR., ESQ.
FLOYD R. SELF, ESQ.

Attorneys for West Florida Natural Gas Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that true and correct copies of West Florida Natural Gas Company's Prehearing Statement in Docket No. 970003-GU have been served by hand delivery (*) and/or U. S. Mail this 30th day of January, 1997 upon the following:

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