Terra Mar Village Utilities, Inc. 4383 South U.S. Hwy. 1 Edgewater, Florida 32141 (904) 345-3662

DEPOSIT

DATE

December 29, 1997

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JAN 05 1998

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Paulette Dewberry Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Pkwy. Tallahasse, Florida 32399-0873

Florida Public Service Commission Division of Water and Wastewate-

Re: Application for Limited Proceedings

950035-WS

Dear Ms. Dewberry:

Terra Mar Village Utilities provides water and wastewater treatment for Terra Mar Village, a trailer park in Edgewater, Florida. The park consists of 250 residences, all of which receive wastewater treatment services from the Utility.

There are presently 3 wastewater customers who use strictly well water from the property; they are not connected to the Utility's water system. This situation is even more unique in that there are 43 wastewater customers who are connected to the Utility's water system but who also use well water from their property.

There are, then, three different types of billing situations which the Unity feed? with:

1) Customers who use only that water which is provided by the dtility.

2) Customers who use very little of the water provided by the Utility

Customers who never use water provided by the Utility.

Since every customer who uses water provided by the Utility has a water meter, measuring water consumption can be easily ascertained and enables the Utility to accurately bill customers for all water consumed. Wastewater services are also billed, in part, based on the amount of water consumed by the customer. Because

TERRA MAR VILLAGE UTILITIES INC. 1787

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There are presently 3 wastewater customers who use strictly well water from their property; they are not connected to the Utility's water system. This situation is even more unique in that there are 43 wastewater customers who are connected to the Utility's water system but who also use well water from their property.

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Since every customer who uses water provided by the Utility has a water meter, measuring water consumption can be easily ascertained and enables the Utility to accurately bill customers for all water consumed. Wastewater services are also billed, in part, based on the amount of water consumed by the customer. Because of the unique situations where certain customers are either not using water provided by the Utility or are using their own well water along with Utility-provided water, the Utility is forced to provide full wastewater services to these particular customers at fees that are significantly less than the fees billed to those customers who use only Utility-provided water.

The average monthly water consumption for someone in the park who uses only that water which is provided by the Utility, is approximately 3,500 gallons. Based on current rates for the base facility charge and gallonage charge, this average gallonage usage for water would result in a \$25.20 monthly wastewater bill. A customer who does not use the Utility's water would receive a monthly wastewater bill of only \$16.46; a difference, on the average, of approximately \$8.74 per month. There are presently 3 customers in this particular situation which would result in a shortfall for the Utility each year of approximately \$315.00.

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Even more of a concern to the Utility are the wastewater billings for the customers who use very little of the water provided by the Utility. These customers consume approximately 398 gallons of Utility-provided water each month (see the enclosed schedule we prepared that reflects this average monthly water consumption). There are 43 such customers who are being billed approximately \$11.95, on the average, each month for wastewater services; a shortfall each year for the Utility of approximately \$6,837.00. These individuals are actually paying less than the customers who never use Utility-provided water. It makes absolutely no sense, whatsoever, for a customer who uses our water to pay less for wastewater services than a customer who never uses our water.

These "underbillings" result in a loss of approximately \$7,150.00 in wastewater billings each year. This is a very significant loss of money for Terra Mar Village Utilities to withstand. Annual profit and loss statements continue to reflect significant net losses which are due, in large part, to this wastewater billing shortfall.

In essence, the Utility is subsidizing the many residences who are not completely paying for their use of the Utility's wastewater services.

Unfortunately, the current "Tariff Sheets" do not provide for this unique situation at Terra Mar Village. Consequently, the Utility would like the Public Service Commission (PSC) to accept this letter as its application for the PSC to perform a limited proceeding which would provide the Utility with a more appropriate means of billing its customers for wastewater services.

The Utility would like to offer two wastewater billing alternatives for the PSC to consider:

- Customers using well water would be billed a basic charge and a surcharge each month for wastewater services based on a monthly average of the total water consumption by customers who use only water provided by the Utility.
- The Utility would charge all residences for wastewater services based on the total wastewater flow from the main lift station.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$500 for the related fee. Please let us know what the next step is in performing the limited proceedings. Your immediate attention to this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

TERRA MAR VILLAGE UTILITIES, INC.

Joe Uddo Director

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