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OF COUNSEL THOMAS F. WOODS

March 26, 1998

HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Docket No. 980057-WU Petition by Gulf Utility Company for interim and permanent increase in water rates, pursuant to Sections 367.0817, 367.082, and 367.0822, F.S., in Lee.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing, on behalf of Gulf Utility Company are an original and fifteen copies of the Affidavit of Steve Messner, Operations Manager, in reference to the above docket.

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

Very truly yours,

B. Kenneth Gatlin

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MAR 26 1998

Office of B. KENNETH GATLIN

AFFIDAVIT

Gulf Utility Company finished water flows at the Corkscrew Water Treatment Plant are now approaching 1.0 MGD on a daily basis. Based on system growth, seasonal increases in demand, and equalization of plant utilization, this facility will permanently exceed 1.0 MGD in production in the next two months. Staffing will necessarily correspond to this production level as is required by regulation. This means that the required staffing is 16 hours a day, 7 days a week for this facility.

Steve Messner, Operations Manager

Dated: March 23, 1998

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF LEE

Before me this 23rd day of March, 1998, appeared Steve Messner, who is personally known to me as the person who affixed his signature above.

KATHLEEN M. BABCOCK
MY COMMISSION # CC 384274
EUPPRES: August 13, 1998
Bonded Thru Hotsey Public Lindonwriters

Notary Public, State of Florida

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FPSC-RETGRUS/REPORTING