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MAIL ROOM

July 19, 2000

Patty Christensen, Esq.
Florida Public Service Commission
Division of Legal Services
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 991437-WS, Application of Wedgefield Utilities, Inc. to Increase its Water Rates and Charges

Dear Ms. Christensen:

In the above referenced case, the Utility recently received by facsimile a ten-page document carrying the title "Petition for Relief". The document is unsigned, and there is no indication of the person, persons, or entities on whose behalf it has been sent. The carbon copy addressees indicate that it has been sent to the Chairman and to each member of the Florida Public Service Commission, to the Commission Clerk's office, and to numerous members of the Commission Staff, as well as to several political office holders and news entities.

The rules of procedure do not appear to provide for the filing of such a petition at this stage of the PAA proceeding, nor does it appear to be the proper form for a protest of a PAA order, even if received at the proper time. Therefore, the Utility is uncertain how to respond, if at all, in the current PAA procedure.

The concern has been raised previously by the Utility as to the propriety of assertions being made by one or more utility customers at a customer meeting, directly to the Commissioners who are going to rule on the Utility's rate petition, without the opportunity for the Utility to adequately respond, to cross-examine the persons making the statements to the Commissioners, and to adequately develop the record so as to separate factually accurate from inaccurate statements.

The Utility has already responded in writing to the comments of several customers who attended the customer meeting held at Wedgefield on May 31. Those customers spoke for themselves, not through some anonymous "petition". Also, I call your attention to the favorable statements regarding the Utility's quality of service made by the President of the Wedgefield Neighborhood Association at his meeting with the Commission Staff immediately prior to the customer meeting.

- APP _____
- CAF _____
- CMP _____
- COM _____
- CTR _____
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- LEG _____
- OPC _____
- PAI _____
- RGO _____
- SEC _____
- SER _____
- OTH _____

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FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Mr. Daniel M. Hoppe, Director
July 19, 2000
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Because this "petition" is unsigned and was filed anonymously, it is the Utility's belief that it does not even qualify to be placed on the correspondence side of the docket file and should not be considered at all in the Commission's deliberations. It appears intended to improperly influence the Commissioners in their vote on the PAA order.

As to the carbon copy addressees on the "petition", none of them appear to be parties to this proceeding, and therefore, copies of this letter have not been served upon them. However, a copy has been sent to the Commission Clerk's office for filing in the case file.

It is requested that the Commission advise the Utility, in writing, as to the disposition of this document titled "Petition for Relief". Because of the time limitations, your prompt response would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Ben E. Girtman

cc:

Ms. Blanca Bayo, Division of Records and Reporting
Mr. Carl Wenz
Mr. Frank Seidman