State of	Florida	ORIGINAL
		Hublic Service Commission -M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-MEUSEP 17 AM 9:41
COD W	ETRE	COMMISSION SLERK
TO: Div	otember 17, 2003 vision of Commissior n Merta (Professiona	Clerk and Administrative Services

RE: Docket No. 030106-SU

Attached are three letters. The first is a July 2, 2003 letter from Martin S. Friedman, Rose, Sundstrom & Bentley, LLP, to Marshall Willis, Division of Economic Regulation, commenting on the staff report in the Environmental Protection Systems of Pine Island, Inc. staff assisted rate case. The second is a July 18, 2003 letter from Martin S. Friedman to Sam Merta, Division of Economic Regulation, requesting recovery of telephone answering services. The third is an August 8, 2003 facsimile from Martin S. Friedman to Sam Merta amending the schedule of rate case expense. Please include these letters in the above docket file.

cc: Division of Economic Regulation (Rendell)

AUS CAF CMP COM CTR ECR GCL OPC MMS SEC OTH

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE 08814 SEP 178 EPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP

2548 Blairstone Pines Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32301

> (850) 877-6555 Fax (850) 656-4029 www.rsbattorneys.com

REPLY TO ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

July 18, 2003

<u>Central Florida Office</u> 600 S. North Lake Blvd., Suite 160, Altamonte Springs, Florda 32701 (407) 830-6331 Fax (407) 830-8522

MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN, P.A. VALERIE L. LORD, OF COUNSEL (LICENSED IN TEXAS ONLY)

Ms. Sam Merta Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Docket No. 030106-WS; Application for Staff-Assisted Rate Case by Environmental Protection Systems of Pine Island, Inc. <u>Our File No.: 31099.03</u>

Dear Sam:

I know that Kevin Cherry has previously mentioned to you that Environmental Protection Systems of Pine Island, Inc. (EPS) had contacted telephone answering services to handle the emergency and after hour calls. Enclosed is a rate sheet from a telephone answering service, and EPS is requesting that the Commission include \$70.00 per month for this service.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN For the Firm 03 JUL 21 JH0: 35

MSF/dmp Enclosure

cc: Mr. Kevin Cherry (w/o enclosure)

CHRIS H. BENTLEY, P.A. ROBERT C. BRANNAN DAVID F. CHESTER F. MARSHALL DETERDING JOHN R. JENKINS, P.A. STEVEN T. MINDLIN, P.A. DAREN L. SHIPPY WILLIAM E. SUNDSTROM, P.A. DIANE D. TREMOR, P.A. JOHN L. WHARTON

ROBERT M. C. ROSE, OF COUNSEL WAYNE L. SCHIEFELBEIN, OF COUNSEL

Dena's Secretarial Services

277-3800

2180 West First Street #501 Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Line American Rotan

Office: 239-22 239-277-5182 Fax;

Answering Service Rates

Live Operator Kates:	
Standard package base rate: Billed every 28 days. Receive the first 60 minutes free and pay 70 cents per minute thereafter.	\$70.00 base rate *First 60 minutes free *Then 70 cents per minute

To begin service a deposit of \$70.00 along with the first 28 day cycle base rate (to be pro-rated).

Additional Services Available

Call Patching When clients may require being directly connected to your office immediately	\$.25 per patch
Fax Messages (Unlimited)	\$12.00 per billing
E-Mail Messages (Unlimited) A list of all messages, delivered or not delivered can be scheduled to come to you via fax or e-mail	\$ 5.00 per billing (per address)
Voice Mail w/Live Operator Option Having voice mail initially answering your calls while giving the caller the option to press 0 for operator helps limit money spent on operator time. This can be detailed to your needs by asking caller to press 0 only for emergent calls or any specifications you would like. You can allow caller to leave a message in voice mail or just use it as an announcement.	\$.10 per minute
Voice Mail for Message Delivery only Another way to limit money spent on operator time is message retrieval via voice mail. You can elect to have operators download your messages to voice mail after speaking with your clients. Voice mail can also notify you via pager or phone of any messages.	\$10.00 per billing
E-Voicelink Another option for message retrieval. Operators can download your messages to voice mail which in turn will convert the message to a .way file and e-mail to you.	\$10.00 per billing (por address)
Holidays Service on the following 7 days though out the year will be at the additional cost of \$10 00 per holiday: New Year's Day, Easter Day, July 4 th , Thanksgiving Day & Day after, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. If you elect not to have holiday service, calls will be diverted to voice mail stating that office is closed on that day.	510-00 per holiday
Alpha Paging of Messages	FREE

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Rose, Sundstrom & Bentley, LLP

2548 Blairstone Pines Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32301

> (850) 877-6555 Fax (850) 656-4029 www.rsbattorneys.com

REPLY TO ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

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MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN, P.A. VALERIE L. LORD, OF COUNSEL (LICENSED IN TEXAS ONLY)

July 2, 2003

HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Marshall Willis, Bureau Chief Division of Economic Regulation Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Docket No. 030106-WS; Application for Staff-Assisted Rate Case by Environmental Protection Systems of Pine Island, Inc. <u>Our File No.: 31099.03</u>

Dear Marshall:

I have reviewed the June 16, 2003, Staff Report with the Utility, and I am compelled to address several erroneous statements and conclusions in that report. The most obvious mistake is Issue 5 which recommends the imputation of a gain on sale for property which was never owned by the Utility. The Staff Report correctly points out that the land was recorded on the books of Cherry Estates which leased the property to the Utility for \$10,000 a year. In connection with an Application for Amendment of its Certificate filed in Docket No. 910728-SU, the Commission acknowledged that the Utility did not own the land and approved the aforementioned Lease. Specifically, in connection with that Application, the Staff wrote the Utility's lawyer on July 9, 1991, citing deficiencies in the Application. That letter is Document 07003-91 filed in that docket on July 11, 1991. On July 19, 1991, the Utility filed its response (Document 07344-91) which included a copy of the 99-Year Lease Agreement for the plant site. The Commission subsequently issued Order No. 25083 on September 20, 1991, acknowledging that the Utility had complied with the requirements of Rule 25-30.036, Florida Administrative Code, with regard to its rights and the land upon which wastewater treatment plant was located. Unfortunately, a

CHRIS H. BENTLEY, P.A. ROBERT C. BRANNAN DAVID F. CHESTER F. MARSHALL DETERDING JOHN R. JENKINS, P.A. STEVEN T. MINDLIN, P.A. DAREN L. SHIPPY WILLIAM E. SUNDSTROM, P.A. DIANE D. TREMOR, P.A. JOHN L. WHARTON

ROBERT M. C. ROSE, OF COUNSEL WAYNE L. SCHIEFELBEIN, OF COUNSEL

Mr. Marshall Willis, Bureau Chief July 2, 2003 Page 2

reference in that Order erroneously refers to the Utility's ownership of the land but does tie that statement into the requirements of Rule 25-30.036, Florida Administrative Code, which sets forth alternatives to land ownership.

It is illogical that rates be set on an original cost basis and yet the customers believe they have an interest in the assets at their fair value.

The Staff has selectively relied upon a 1996 Southern States rate case and has ignored the large majority of decisions to the contrary. It is the shareholders that bear the risk of loss on their investments, not ratepayers. Order No. PSC-93-0301-FOF-WS. Shortly thereafter this Commission stated: "The property rights that rest in the ownership of the utility land and facilities are constitutionally protected. To deny this property interest would constitute an unconstitutional taking by this Commission." Order No. PSC-93-1821-FOF-WS. In that case, this Commission further stated:

"We find that a refund to the customers or off-set of connection fees is not appropriate because customers of utilities do not have any proprietary claim to utility assets. Although customers pay a return on utility investments through rates for service, they do not have any ownership rights to the assets, whether contributed or paid for by utility investment."

These statements by this Commission follow longstanding precedence established by the United States Supreme Court in <u>Board of Public Utility Commissioner v. New York</u> <u>Telephone Company</u>, 271 U.S. 23 (1926), that customers pay for service, not for the property used to render it. "By paying bills, they (customers) do not acquire any interest, legal or equitable, in the property used for their convenience or in the funds of the company."

The Staff places some reliance on the fact that the annual report included \$2,000 in the account titled "Land and Land Rights". That was obviously an error which has since been corrected. From my review of Order No. 8507, which was the last rate case for this Utility System (and prior to reorganization), it is unclear as to whether any land costs are included in rate base. Further, you will note that the Order does clearly show that the Utility plant was only 50% used and useful; and thus, even

Mr. Marshall Willis, Bureau Chief July 2, 2003 Page 3

if it were included in rate base, the Utility was only earning a return on 50% of it. Thus, even under the Staff's analysis, only one half of the gain should be credited to customers.

In Issue 9, the Staff reduces the President's salary as a result of reducing the hourly rate from 46.08 per hour to 22.43 per hour. The Staff based that amount by utilizing an average salary based upon a 1998 water utility compensation survey and then adjusted that amount for inflation. In doing so, the Staff has lost sight of the fact that the determination of the average obviously reflects salaries both higher and lower. If the Staff were to utilize the average on consistent basis, then ultimately the average will be both the high and the low end of the range. I believe that the salary of the Utility President, who spends approximately the same amount of time as the President did in Order PSC-99-2116-PAA-SU, in which the Commission determined a \$30.00 per hour fee to be reasonable, is reasonable. If you adjust that hourly rate by inflation, the result is a little over \$35.00 an hour which is a more reasonable rate for the President of EPS. I note from the Lee County government website that a superintendent for the Utility Department, with less responsibilities than Mr. Cherry, can make up to \$32.26 per hour.

The Staff Report does not include the rate case expense for this firm and I have enclosed a Schedule of Actual and Estimated Rate Case Expense. The current estimated amount is pretty consistent with that approved by the Commission in connection with the River Ranch Water Management, LLC, staff-assisted rate case, which was recently concluded.

Included in miscellaneous expenses are bank fees which the Auditor estimated at \$30.00 per month or \$360.00 annually. Attached is a copy of a letter from the Utility's bank, SunTrust, which estimates a bank fee of \$53.00 per month or \$636.00 annually.

As noted in the Staff Report, the Utility, in addition to paying the County's service availability charges for current customers, is required to pay 50% of the County's service availability charge for future customers. That plant is determined to be non used and useful and we believe that it is appropriate for the Commission to establish an AFPI charge pursuant to Rule 25-30.434, Florida Administrative Code.

Mr. Marshall Willis, Bureau Chief July 2, 2003 Page 4

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Should you or the Staff have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN For the Firm

MSF:dmp Enclosure

cc: Mr. Kevin J. Cherry (w/enclosure) Jennifer Brubaker, Esquire (w/enclosure) (via hand delivery) Ms. Sam Merta (w/enclosure) (via hand delivery)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS OF PINE ISLAND, INC. SCHEDULE OF ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED RATE CASE LEGAL EXPENSE ASSUMING RESOLUTION AT PAA DOCKET NO.: 030106-SU

ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP

ACTUAL BILLINGS

Month of Service	Invoice Date	<u>Ti</u>	<u>me Charges</u>	Ex	penses	<u>To</u>	tal
November 2002	12/18/02	\$	30.00	\$	0.00	\$	30.00
December 2002	01/24/03	\$	105.00	\$	2.25	\$	107.25
January 2003	02/19/03	\$	15.00	\$	0.00	\$	15.00
March 2003	04/11/03	\$	565.00	\$	6.50	\$	571.50
April 2003	05/19/03	\$	225.00	\$	24.00	\$	249.00
TOTAL ACTUAL BILLIN	IGS THROUGH 05/19/03	\$	940.00	\$	32.75	\$	972.75
May 2003	UNBILLED	\$	180.00	\$	3.75	\$	183.75

ESTIMATE TO COMPLETE THROUGH PAA

Review preliminary Staff Report and Notice of Customer Meeting and telephone conference with clients regarding same; Research and draft response to preliminary Staff Report; Travel to Lee County and confer with client and attend Customer Meeting; Respond to Staff request regarding rate case expense including telephone conferences with client; Review staff recommendation and conferences with client concerning same; Travel to Tallahassee and attend PSC Agenda Conference; Review PAA Order; draft revised Tariffs and miscellaneous post 32.0 hours PAA matters -Total Estimate to Complete \$ 4,800.00 \$ 450.00 \$ 5,250.00 \$ 5,920.00 TOTAL ACTUAL & ESTIMATED \$ 486.50 \$ 6,406.50 LEGAL EXPENSE

	Law offices		
	ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY,	LLP	-
	P. O. BOX 1567 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32302-1567 (850) 877-6555	PLEASE REFER TO INVOICE NU WHEN REMITTING	JMBER
FEL # 59-2783536 ENVIRONMENTAL C/O MR. KEVIN 3039 YORK RD ST JAMES CITY		INVOICE # 26075 DECEMBER 18, 2002 FILE # 31099-0	
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PLEASE REFER TO INVOICE # WHEN REMITTING

LAW OFFICES ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP

P. O. BOX 1567 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32302-1567

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TOTAL STATEMENT

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ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP

P. O. BOX 1567

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32302-1567

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(850) 877-6555

PLEASE REFER TO INVOICE NUMBER WHEN REMITTING

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C/O MR. KEVI 3039 YORK RI ST JAMES CIT) I Y. FL 33956 A	NVOICE # PRIL 11, ILE #		03
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•	ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLE	Y, LLP	
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SunTruet Bank Mail Code FL-Pine Island-0069 10292 Stringfellow Roed SL James City, Florida 33556 Tel 738-283-1054 Fax 239-283-4472	Belinde Marud Brench Manager ,
SunTrust	
June 30, 2003	
EPS	
Attn: Sue Hopper	
Dear Sue:	
Duci nom mereauer	account offers 250 items deposited and cashed at no charge for the r is .25 each. Based on 462 items being deposited and 10 checks being y maintenance fee will be \$53.00.
	purchased for \$59.00 and 300 deposit slips will cost 46.00.
I have attached a fee schedule	
Please feel free to call me as ?	39-283-1054 any time I can offer assistance.

Belinda Marud Branch Manager

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ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP

2548 Blairstone Pines Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32301

> (850) 877-6555 FAX (850) 656-4029 www.rsbattorneys.com

REPLY TO ALTAMONTE SPRINGS

CENTRAL FLORIDA OFFICE 600 S. NORTH LAKE BLVD., SUITE 160 Altamonte Springs, Florda 32701 (407) 830-6331 FAX (407) 830-8522

MARTIN S., FRIEDMAN, P.A. VALERIE L. LORD, OF COUNSEL (LICENSED IN TEXAS ONLY)

August 8, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

Ms. Sam Merta Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Docket No. 030106-WS; Application for Staff-Assisted Rate Case by Environmental Protection Systems of Pine Island, Inc. Our File No.; 31099.03

Dear Sam: -

In accordance with our telephone conference yesterday, enclosed is an Amended Schedule of Legal Rate Case Expense in the EPS SARC. You will note that a substantial amount of time is involved in attending the Agenda Conference, which I would generally divide among the clients for whom I am appearing. I anticipate a couple of issues in this SARC which will require attendance and argument at the Agenda Conference, and at this point, I do not appear to have any matters for any other clients on that Agenda.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN For the Firm

MSF/dmp Enclosure

cc: Mr. Kevin Cherry (w/enclosure)

CHRIS H. BENTLEY, P.A. ROBERT C. BRANNAN DAVID F. CHRSTER F. MARSHAH, DRIFERDING JOHN R. JERKINS, P.A. STEVEN T. MINDLIN, P.A. DAREN L. SUNDSTROM, P.A. DIANE D. TREMOR, P.A. JOHN L. WHARTON ROBERT M. C. ROSE, OF COUMSEL

ROBERT M. C. ROSE, OF COUNSEL WAYNE L. SCHIEFELBEIN, OF COUNSEL

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS OF PINE ISLAND, INC. AMENDED SCHEDULE OF ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED RATE CASE LEGAL EXPENSE ASSUMING RESOLUTION AT PAA DOCKET NO.: 030106-SU

ROSE, SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY, LLP

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ACTUAL BILLINGS

Month of Service	Invoice Date	Ti	me Charges	Ex	penses	To	tal
November 2002	12/18/02	\$	30.00	\$	0.00	\$	30.00
December 2002	01/24/03	\$	105.00	\$	2.25	\$	107.25
January 2003	02/19/03	\$	15.00	\$	0.00	\$	15.00
March 2003	04/11/03	\$	565.00	\$	6.50	\$	571.50
April 2003	05/19/03	\$	225.00	\$	24.00	\$	249.00
May 2003	06/27/03	\$	180.00	\$	3.75	\$	183.75
June 2003	07/17/03	\$	709.50	\$	0.00	\$	709.50
TOTAL ACTUAL BILLINGS	THROUGH 05/19/03	\$	940.00	\$	36.50	\$ 1	,866.00
July 2003	UNBILLED	\$	454.50	\$	44.48	\$	498.98

ESTIMATE TO COMPLETE THROUGH PAA

Review staff recommendation and conferences with client concerning same (1.0 hours); Travel to Tallaha and attend PSC Agenda Conference (11.0 hours); Review PAA Order and miscellaneous post PAA matters (1.5 hours) - 13.5 hours	issee		
Total Estimate to Complete	\$2,025.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 2,425.00
TOTAL ACTUAL & ESTIMATED LEGAL EXPENSE	\$4,309.00	\$ 480.98	\$ 4,789.98

AUG-08-2003	33 14:12	ROSE SUNDSTROM & BENTLEY	BENTLEY .		407 83	830 8522	P. 64
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ksf 07/17/03 0.5	0	REVIEN TELEPHONE ANSWERING AGREEMENT AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH MR. CHERRY . CONCERNING SAME; LETTER TO MS. MERTA AT	165,00	82.50	280.50	-	41 H0U 0
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NSF 07/25/03	0.50 TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH M REGARDING CUSTORER MEETING.	JELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH MR. CHERRY Regarding custoker meeting.	165.00	82 .50	462,00	ч¤	40 H000
TOTAL HOURS	2.80		TOTAL FEES		462.00		

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C/O MR. KEVIN	PROTECTION SYSTEMS CHERRY	•	
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MATTER	PSC RATE CASE		
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06/23/03	REVIEW STAFF NEMORANDUM A		
 . n¢/25/n3	MR. CHERRY CONCERNING SAM TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITE		
06/26/03	JOHN (ACCOUNTANT) REGARDI	ING STAFF	
	RECOMMENDATION; RESEARCH CASE EXPENSE EXHIBIT.	AND DRAFT RATE	
06/27/03	TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH	MR. ELLIOTT 0.30	•
05/20/02	WHO TELEPHONED. FINALIZE RATE CASE EXPENS	SE EXHIBIT: 1.00	
06/29/03	RESEARCH AND DRAFT RESPON		
. V.	PRELIMINARY STAFF REPORT.		·
06/30/03	TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH TELEPHONED TO DISCUSS STR	AFF REPORT;	• •
	REVISE PROPOSED LETTER IN	RESPONSE TO	
• • •	STAFF REPORT.	4.30	· .
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