

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF STAFF WORKSHOP

TO

WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL

AND

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

RE: UNDOCKETED WORKSHOP ON MEDIATION IN THE
WATER AND WASTEWATER INDUSTRY

ISSUED: August 7, 1998

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission will conduct a workshop, in the above-referenced matter, to which all persons are invited, at the following time and place:

August 31, 1998, 9:30 a.m.
Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 152
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

PURPOSE

The purpose of this workshop is to inform the water and wastewater industry and practitioners in this area of the requirements set forth in Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, regarding mediation and the Florida Public Service Commission's intent to implement Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, in water and wastewater dockets with the assistance of the Conflict Resolution Consortium and the Governor's Office.

Parties who wish to comment, but cannot attend the workshop, are encouraged to file comments with the Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0850, on or before September 18, 1998, specifically referencing "Workshop on Mediation in Water and Wastewater Industry."

A copy of the agenda for this workshop may be obtained by writing to the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, at the address previously noted.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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Any person requiring some accommodation at this workshop because of a physical impairment should call the Division of Records and Reporting at (850) 413-6770 at least 48 hours prior to the workshop. Any person who is hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Public Service Commission by using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1 (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Conflict Resolution Consortium (CRC) was formed by the Florida Legislature to assist in the reduction of public and private costs of litigation, in the resolution of public disputes, and the improvement of governmental communications, cooperation, and consensus-building. The CRC has most recently been charged with the responsibility of promoting mediation consistent with the provisions of Section 120.573, Florida Statutes. While the Legislature has encouraged mediation, many agencies have not quickly moved toward implementing that process. Therefore, the CRC has developed a pilot program, in coordination with the Governor's Office, to directly assist state agencies in utilizing mediation. Along with other agencies, the Florida Public Service Commission has been selected to participate in the mediation pilot program. The CRC hopes to use the pilot program to address problems and/or impediments to mediation. Although mediation may be beneficial in all industries, the water and wastewater industry has been selected for this pilot program.

The Commission's Division of Water and Wastewater will coordinate with the CRC on this pilot program. The project began July 1, 1998. All comments related to this workshop are welcomed. The general topics for discussion are:

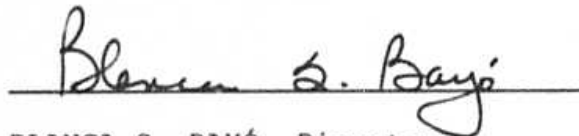
1. How can mediation be implemented in water and wastewater cases filed with the Public Service Commission?
2. What are the impediments, if any, to using mediation in water and wastewater cases?

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JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction is vested in this Commission pursuant to Chapters 120, 350 and 367, Florida Statutes. The workshop will be governed by the provisions of those Chapters, the Uniform Rules of Procedure, and Rules 25-22 and 25-30, Florida Administrative Code.

By DIRECTION of the Florida Public Service Commission this 7th day of August, 1998.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Blanca S. Bayó", is written over a horizontal line.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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