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DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES
 NOREEN S. DAVIS
 DIRECTOR
 (850) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

April 7, 1998

Ms. Alma Kaufman
 Post Office Box 1941
 Dunnellon, Florida 34430

Re: Docket No. 971621-WS - Application for amendment of Certificates Nos. 355-W and 311-S to include additional territory in Marion County by Rainbow Springs Utilities, L.C.

Dear Ms. Kaufman:

Thank you for your letter in which you protest the notice of application for extension of service area of Rainbow Springs Utilities, L.C. On December 16, 1997, this Commission received the application of the utility for amendment of Certificates Nos. 355-W and 311-S to include additional territory in Marion County. The application was reviewed and found to be deficient because it did not provide the affidavit for newspaper publication. Also, there was a problem with the legal description in the original notice. Therefore, the utility has published an Amended Notice of Application for Extension of Service Area, and staff has requested Rainbow Springs Utilities, L.C., to submit the affidavit for newspaper publication.

On January 13, 1998, the Commission received the protest letter and request for hearing filed on behalf of the Rainbow Springs Homeowners' Association. Based on these letters of protest, a hearing has been scheduled for August 6, 1998, with a prehearing conference scheduled for July 13, 1998.

The Rainbow Springs Homeowners' Association has hired an attorney and will participate as a party in this proceeding. However, at this time, we are not sure if you wish to participate as a party, and you have not been designated as a party in this proceeding. If you wish to participate as a party, please advise this office by April 20, 1998. Otherwise, the only recognized parties will be the Homeowners' Association and the utility.

Pursuant to Order No. PSC-96-1037-PCO-WS, issued January 30, 1998, all parties/intervenors were to prefile their direct testimony and exhibits on March 30, 1998. However, the utility has moved for an extension of time to prefile its testimony and, if granted, all parties/intervenors would get a similar extension. Also, prehearing statements must be filed on June 23, 1998. If the Homeowners' Association does not represent your interests, you may represent

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yourself at hearing. However, you may also wish to consider hiring an attorney to represent you. Also, you should be aware the utility has filed a restrictive amendment deleting the Woodlands and the Forests from the application for amendment of its certificate, if this will dispose of all protests.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (850) 413-6234.

Sincerely,



Ralph R. Jaeger
Senior Attorney

RRJ/lw

cc: F. Marshall Deterding, Esq.
Division of Water and Wastewater (Hill, Redemann, Williams, Messer, Crouch, Starling)
Division of Records and Reporting (Bayo)

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