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July 1, 1998

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Ms. Blanca S. Bayó Director, Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

> Re: Mid County Services, Inc. Application for Rate Increase -- Docket No. 971065-SU

Dear Ms. Bayó:

JAMES S. ALVES BRIAN H. BIBEAU

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Enclosed for filing on behalf of Mid-County Services, Inc. are the original and fifteen copies of its Consented Motion for Continuance of Hearing and Utility Waiver of Statutory Time Limits.

By copy of this letter, this document is being furnished to the parties on the attached service list.

RECEIVED & FILED

Very truly yours,

Richard D. Melson

DOCUMENT HUMBER-DATE

DA/OMAL

### BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for rate ) Docket No. 971065-SU increase in Pinellas County by ) Mid-County Services, Inc. ) Filed: July 1, 1998

# CONSENTED MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE OF HEARING AND UTILITY'S WAIVER OF STATUTORY TIME LIMITS

Mid-County Services, Inc. (Mid-County) hereby moves that the Commission continue the prehearing conference and hearings in this docket until after January 1, 1999. As grounds therefor, Mid-County states:

- 1. In early June, Mid-County initiated discussions with the staff concerning the possibility of making an Offer of Settlement that could resolve this case on a mutually acceptable basis. Mid-County requested and received a four week extension of time to file its direct testimony pending such settlement discussions.
- 2. The Office of Public Counsel subsequently intervened in this case and has become a necessary party to any further discussions.
- 3. Mid-County is attempting to schedule comprehensive settlement discussions with the Office of Public Counsel and the Commission staff and remains optimistic that this case may be resolved without the time and expense of a hearing.
- 4. Given the current schedule for this case, a further extension of testimony filing dates is not practicable without

continuing the prehearing conference and hearings to a later date.

- 5. In order to allow time for completion of the on-going settlement discussions, Mid-County requests that the prehearing and hearing be continued until after January 1, 1999.
- 6. Mid-County has been advised by staff that the earliest available hearing dates are June 21-22, 1999. In order to permit a continuance to these dates, Mid-County hereby waives the statutory time limit for final Commission action in this docket until September 30, 1999.
- 7. Mid-County requests that the Commission establish a schedule for prehearing activities which would accommodate a hearing as early as January, 1999, in the event that the case does not settle and that earlier hearing dates subsequently become available on the Commission's calendar.
- 8. Mid-County has consulted with the Office of Public Counsel and is authorized to represent that OPC supports this request.

WHEREFORE, Mid-County requests that the prehearing and hearing in this docket be continued until after January 1, 1999 and waives the statutory time limits for Commission action to permit a hearing as late as June, 1999.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 1st day of July, 1998.

HOPPING GREEN SAMS & SMITH, P.A.

By: PieD Ma

Richard D. Melson P.O. Box 6526 Tallahassee, FL 32314

Attorneys for Mid-County Services, Inc.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing was served by Hand Delivery this 1st day of July, 1998, on the following:

Jennifer Brubaker Division of Legal Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Steve Burgess Office of Public Counsel c/o The Florida Legislature 111 West Madison Street, Room 812 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

Tie O. Ma

Attorney