JAMES S. ALVES BRIAN H. BIBEAU RICHARD S. BRIGHTMAN KEVIN B. COVINGTON PETER C. CUNNINGHAM RALPH A. DEMEO RANDOLPH M. GIDDINGS WILLIAM H. GREEN WADE L. HOPPING GARY K. HUNTER, JR. JONATHAN T. JOHNSON ROBERT A. MANNING FRANK E. MATTHEWS RICHARD D. MELSON ANGELA R. MORRISON GABRIEL E. NIETO ERIC T. OLSEN

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Writer's Direct Dial No. (850) 425-2313

May 24, 1999

#### BY HAND DELIVERY

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

> Mid-County Services, Inc. - Docket No. 971065-SU Re:

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing, on behalf of Mid-County Services, Inc., are the original and fifteen copies of:

1) Mid-County's Prehearing Statement

- 2) Rebuttal Testimony of Carl J. Wenz Dices
- 3) Rebuttal Testimony of Frank Seidman

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please call.

Very truly yours,

Nies D. Mu

Richard D. Melson

<b>AF</b> A APP CAF	RDM/clp Enclosures			
CMU CTR EAG LEG MAS OPC		Ms. Brubaker Mr. Wenz Mr. Rasmussen Mr. Seidman		
RRR SEC VVAW OTH	103021.1	RECEIVED & FILED FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS		

ORIGINAL

GARY V. PERKO MICHAEL P. PETROVICH DAVID L. POWELL WILLIAM D. PRESTON CAROLYN S. RAEPPLE DOUGLAS S. ROBERTS GARY P. SAMS TIMOTHY G. SCHOENWALDER ROBERT P. SMITH DAN R. STENGLE CHERYL G. STUART W. STEVE SYKES T. KENT WETHERELL, II

OF COUNSEL ELIZABETH C. BOWMAN 44 <u>7</u> 1 - Y.

10 ECENED-FPSC MAY 24 PM 2:

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing was furnished to the following by hand delivery this 24th day of May, 1999.

Jennifer Brubaker Division of Legal Services Florida Public Service Commission Room 370 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Steve Burgess Office of Public Counsel 111 W. Madison Street Tallahassee, Fl 32399-1400

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Tie D. T

Attorney

# ORIGINAL

# BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In re: Application for rate increase in Pinellas County by Mid-County Services, Inc.

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Docket No. 971065-SU Filed: May 24, 1999

# MID-COUNTY SERVICES, INC.'s PREHEARING STATEMENT

Mid-County Services, Inc. (Mid-County), pursuant to Order No. PSC-98-0709-PCO-SU, hereby files its prehearing statement.

## APPEARANCES:

Wenz

Richard D. Melson Hopping Green Sams & Smith, P.A. P.O. Box 6526 Tallahassee, FL 32314

On behalf of Mid-County Services, Inc.

A. <u>Witnesses</u>. Mid-County intends to present the testimony of the following witnesses:

Carl J. Wenz	Direct/Rebuttal	Issues 4-8
Donald Rasmussen	Direct	
Frank Seidman	Direct/Rebuttal	Issues 1-3

B. <u>Exhibits</u>. Mid-County intends to introduce the following exhibits:

	Accounting MFRs
	Billing Data MFRs
CJW-1	Rate Base

-1-

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

MAY 24 8

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

	CJW-2	Statement of Wastewater Operations
	CJW-3	Wastewater Bi-Monthly Rates
	CJW-4	CWIP Final Balances
	CJW-5	Rate Case Expense Summary
Rasmussen		Engineering MFRs
		System Maps
Seidman	FS-1	Wastewater Treatment Plant Flows, Comparison of 1996 and 1994 Test Years
	FS-2	Wastewater Treatment Plant Used & Useful Calculation (Average Daily Flow Maximum Month)
	FS-3	Wastewater Treatment Plant Used & Useful Calculation (Average Daily Flow Three Maximum Months)

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Mid-County reserves the right to use additional exhibits for purposes of cross-examination.

C. <u>Basic Position</u>: Mid-County's current rates are insufficient to allow the utility to recover operating expenses and provide a fair return on investment. The Commission should set rates designed to produce revenues of \$1,224,059 based on the usage of the utility's services during the 1996 test year.

D. <u>Legal Issues</u>: Mid-County has identified the following legal issue:

-2-

- <u>Issue A</u>: What issues are considered to be "in dispute" for the purpose of Section 120.80(13)(b), Florida Statutes?
- <u>Company</u>: The only issues "in dispute" for purposes of Section 120.80(13)(b) are those issues raised by a timely protest of a PAA Order. All matters in a PAA Order which are not specifically protested are "deemed stipulated" and are not the proper subject of a hearing on the protest.

E-F. <u>Factual/Policy Issues</u>: The following issues were raised by Mid-County's timely protest to the PAA Order in this proceeding, are therefore remain for resolution by the Commission.

- <u>Issue 1</u>: What is the appropriate used and useful methodology for the wastewater treatment plant?
- <u>Company</u>: The appropriate used and useful methodology is to divide the permitted capacity of the wastewater treatment plant by either the maximum month average daily flow or the three maximum month average daily flow. In this case, either methodology results in 100% used and useful, after taking into account an appropriate margin reserve.
- <u>Issue 2</u>: What is the appropriate methodology for determining margin reserve for the wastewater treatment plant?
- <u>Company</u>: The appropriate margin reserve period is that sufficient to install the next economically feasible increment of plant capacity. For Mid-County, that period is five years and represents capacity equal to 13.6% of test year flows.
- <u>Issue 3</u>: Should CIAC be imputed with repect to margin reserve plant?
- Company: No.

. .

- <u>Issue 4</u>: What is the appropriate amount of plant to be included in rate base with respect to projects shown as CWIP in the MFRs?
- <u>Company</u>: The entire cost of the main relocation project should be included in rate base, as should the entire cost of the remaining projects shown as CWIP in the MFRs. There should not be a negative balance in the CWIP account after the inclusion of these projects in plant in service.
- <u>Issue 5</u>: What is the appropriate method to allocate common costs to Mid-County from Water Services Corporation?
- <u>Company</u>: The appropriate method is one based on customer equivalents as presented in the MFRs and in the company's testimony.
- <u>Issue 6</u>: What is the appropriate adjustment to operating expenses to exclude the cost of key-man life insurance?
- Company: The appropriate adjustment is \$1,876.

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- <u>Issue 7</u>: What is the appropriate amount of rate case expense?
- <u>Company</u>: The appropriate rate case expense is \$158,252, consisting of \$113,499 of current rate case expense and \$44,753 from the prior rate case.
- <u>Issue 8</u>: What are the appropriate depreciation, accumulated depreciation, amortization, accumulated amortization, revenue requirement and monthly rates?
- <u>Company</u>: The appropriate amounts are a fall-out of the resolution of the above issues, coupled with the rulings in the PAA Order that were not protested and therefore are deemed to be stipulated. These amounts are shown on the exhibits to Mr. Wenz' testimony.

G. <u>Stipulated Issues</u>: By operation of law, all portions of the PAA Order in this case which were not protested are deemed stipulated. Mid-County is not aware of any other stipulations. H. <u>Pending Motions</u>: Mid-County has no pending motions.

I. <u>Requirements of Order on Procedure</u>: Mid-County is not aware of any requirements of the Order on Procedure that cannot be complied with.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 24th day of May, 1999.

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HOPPING GREEN SAMS & SMITH, P.A.

By: Pres D [ Ley

Richard D. Melson P.O. Box 6526 Tallahassee, FL 32314 (850) 425-2313

Attorney for Mid-County Services, Inc.

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Nie D.

Attorney