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St. George Plantation Owners Association (09)

Robert W. McMillan

1712 Magnolia Rd.

St. George Island RT 32323

cms-party of record

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**FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK** 

## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for original certificate for a DOCKET NO. 090189-SU proposed wastewater system and request for ORDER NO. PSC-09-0429-PCO-SU bifurcation in Franklin County by Water ISSUED: June 19, 2009 Management Services, Inc.

## ORDER ABATING PROCEEDING

On April 15, 2009, pursuant to Sections 367.031 and 367.045, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-30.033, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Water Management Services, Inc. (WMSI) filed an application for an original certificate authorizing it to provide wastewater service in Franklin County, Florida (Application). The Commission received numerous letters from citizens regarding WMSI's Application, many of whom expressed concern that proceeding with the certification process would not allow sufficient time for fact-finding, receipt of public input, and discussion within the community about the best solution to Franklin County's centralized sewer treatment needs. Several persons and entities filed objections and formal petitions for hearing on the Application, including the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners (Board).

On June 4, 2009, WMSI received a letter from the Board requesting that WMSI hold its Application in abeyance for a period of six (6) months so that the Board could conduct its own investigation into the need for centralized wastewater service in Franklin County. The Board asserted that holding this proceeding in abeyance would permit it to gather the information it needs to make an informed decision whether to object to WMSI's Application. On June 5, 2009. WMSI filed a Motion to Hold Proceedings in Abeyance and Toll Deadlines (Motion).

In its Motion, WMSI requested that the Commission hold this proceeding in abeyance and toll all deadlines effective as of the date of its Motion through and including December 10, 2009. WMSI also stated that in accordance with Rule 28-106.204(3), F.A.C., it consulted with OPC regarding its Motion, and OPC advised WMSI that it does not oppose it. WMSI also submitted that as of the time of filing its Motion, it had conferred with the parties in this case, with the exception of the Apalachicola Bay and River Keeper, Inc. (River Keeper) and the St. George Plantation Owners Association (SGPOA), which WMSI was unable to reach. WMSI asserted that all of the parties contacted stated they had no objection to the Motion. Following the filing of its Motion, WMSI informed the Commission that it had conferred with the River Keeper and the SGPOA. According to WMSI, the River Keeper does not object to its Motion. and the SGPOA takes no position at this time. No objection to WMSI's Motion has been filed, and the time for doing so has expired.

Holding this proceeding in abeyance will permit further investigation and research, may avoid unnecessary administrative litigation, and will not prejudice the rights of any party. In fact, most parties who formally protested WMSI's Application noted that they hoped the Commission would allow more time for investigation before going forth with the Application. Accordingly, WMSI's Motion to Hold Proceedings in Abeyance and Toll Deadlines shall be

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

ORDER NO. PSC-09-0429-PC0-SU DOCKET NO. 090189-SU PAGE 2

granted until December 10, 2009, effective from the date WMSI's Motion was filed on June 5, 2009. If no resolution has been reached by this time, the matter shall be set for hearing.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, that Waste Management Services, Inc.'s Motion to Hold Proceedings in Abeyance and Toll Deadlines is granted as set forth in the body of this Order.

By ORDER of Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, this 19th day of June \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

ISA POLAK EDGAR

Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

(SEAL)

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