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T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

July 29, 2005

J. Richard Collier, General Counsel
The Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

RE: Wastewater Rules
Docket # 05-00105

Dear Mr. Collier:

Thank you for your request for comments. We would greatly appreciate if you would forward these comments to Chairman Jones and the Directors for us.

As a result of the wastewater forum, comments from the utilities addressed a number of concerns. It appears that the rules are not fully addressing the concerns brought out in the forum by the utility companies. Although we feel it is critical to give long term direction of the industry for protection of the consumer, it is also important not to overburden an industry with regulations that may in the end cost the consumer such as high bonding costs. In light of the comments submitted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control (WPC), it is evident that there needs to be a real description of the separation of responsibilities of the TRA and WPC i.e. financial annual report considerations, plans approvals, permits, etc. as there seems to be much overlapping. We fear that this overlapping will cause much delay in the approval of projects. Although we have time to put the rules together and work with each line item, at this time I suggest that concurrently we work with the new relationship with WPC.

Rules are made many times as a result of individuals taking unfair advantage of the people and as a requirement of policing a group that has been inappropriately behaving with regard to our society. At this time I feel it is safe to say that the industry is small and the individuals involved in the industry are the highest of integrity. That is not to say that this may change. Instead of appropriating highly restrictive rules that may get bogged down in a lot of regulatory red tape, it may be more appropriate to assure that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is issued to only reputable companies in a timely and efficient manner. With this said, we are proud to offer our input on ways to better streamline the approval process while protecting the future of the industry.

Thank you for this opportunity and we are sure you are already considering many of these issues.

Sincerely,

Jeffery W. Cox, Sr.
President