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MEMORANDUM RECEIVED

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FROM: Ernest G. Johnson  
Director  
*for* Utilities Division

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

MAR 11 2009

DATE: March 11, 2009

DOCKETED BY

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES OF LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY, DOCKET NO. SW-01428A-07-0602

**Introduction**

On October 18, 2007, the Commission opened the above referenced docket. This docket was to provide the vehicle for Staff to gather information on and monitor the operational practices of the Litchfield Park Service Company – Wastewater Division (“Company”).

On August 8, 2008, the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) issued a Procedural Order for Staff to file by August 15, 2008, an updated report indicating whether the docket should remain open or be administratively closed.

On August 14, 2008, Staff filed a memorandum indicating a recent site visit had been conducted and described on-going plant upgrades. Staff recommended that the docket remain open until the wastewater treatment plant construction upgrades had been completed and the necessary regulatory approvals had been issued. Staff concluded that it would update the docket once the upgrade conditions have been met.

On August 20, 2008, the ALJ issued a Procedural Order ordering that the docket remain open until the construction upgrades had been completed and approved after which Staff was to file a further update.

**Staff’s Filing Update**

*Construction Approval*

On January 27, 2009, the Company submitted all of the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department (“MCESD”) Certificates of Approval of Construction (“AOC”) for the eleven plant construction upgrades related to the Company’s Palm Valley Water Reclamation Facility (“PVWRF”). These eleven plant upgrades and the related AOC information are as follows:

Phases	Plant Upgrades	AOC Approval Dates
1	Odor control	August 28, 2008
2	Ultra-violet disinfection system	September 12, 2008 Revised January 15, 2009
3	Centrifuge system	August 22, 2008 Revised January 15, 2009
4	Influent screening	August 22, 2008
5	Tertiary treatment pump stations	August 22, 2008
6	Solids handling	August 22, 2008 Revised January 15, 2009
7	Conversion of digesters to sequencing batch reactors	December 31, 2008 Revised January 20, 2009
8	Headworks building	August 22, 2008
9	Solids handling building	August 22, 2008 Revised January 15, 2009
10	Equalization basin to headworks recycle line	August 22, 2008
11	Chemical systems additions	September 30, 2008

*Aquifer Protection Permit*

On September 30, 2008, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality issued an Aquifer Protection Permit (“APP”) Other Amendment for the Company to operate its PVWRF at 4.1 million gallons per day (“MGD”). With this approved APP Other Amendment, the Company can operate and maintain its PVWRF with the above eleven plant upgrades. The APP Other Amendment also permits the Company to construct its PVWRF up to 8.2 MGD.

*Field Inspection*

On February 5, 2009, Staff Engineer Marlin Scott, Jr., conducted a field visit to the Company’s wastewater treatment plant. During this visit, Staff confirmed that all the plant upgrades were completed and in operation. Staff also did not detect any odors outside of the plant facilities and within the fenceline.

*Treatment Capacity*

The current PVWRF plant capacity is 4.1 MGD. In its review, Staff noticed discrepancies in the Company’s Annual Reports related to the wastewater flow data. Staff has sent out a data request for additional information regarding these wastewater flows and additional treatment capacity. As of this date, the Company has not responded to Staff’s data request.

**Conclusion and Recommendation**

Staff has confirmed that all the plant upgrades are completed, approved, and in operation.

Staff recommends that this docket remain open until the Company submits a response to Staff's data request for additional information regarding the wastewater flows and additional treatment capacity. Staff will then update this docket once the data request responses are received and reviewed by Staff.

EGJ:MSJ:red

Originator: Marlin Scott, Jr.

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DOCKET NO. SW-01428A-07-0602

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