

## **ETHICS COMMISSIONERS**

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ARDYTH WALKER STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL February 13, 2007

Jack Langer Langer Energy Consulting, Inc. 2805 S.W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Miami, Fl 33133

RE: INQUIRY 07-19

Dear Mr. Langer:

I received your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether your firm may provide consulting services to a firm that has a contract with the Department of Water and Sewer (WASD). Your firm, Langer Energy Consulting, also has a contract with WASD. Due to your need for an expeditious reply, I am providing this draft opinion to you. The Ethics Commission will consider this matter at its February meeting.

In your letter, you advised me that Langer does natural gas consulting work for several local entities including Baptist Hospital, University of Miami and Joe's Stone Crab. Langer has provided consulting services to WASD for the past ten years. Among your duties is providing information to WASD regarding the bidding process to provide natural gas services at the Hialeah and Alexander Orr Water Treatment Centers.

The current consultant is Interconn Resources, Inc. Interconn was awarded a three-year contract in October, 2006 with an additional two year option to renew provision. Interconn wants to retain Langer as a consultant as it seeks additional work throughout the State of Florida.

The Conflict of Interest ordinance permits Langer to serve as a consultant to Interconn in seeking work throughout the State of Florida as long as Langer does not have management or oversight authority over Interconn in its county capacity while Langer serves as a consultant. You stated that Langer's work with WASD is on a work order basis and the scope of services does not currently include management responsibilities over the Interconn contract. Therefore, Langer does not have a conflict of interest in serving as a consultant to Interconn. Accordingly, Langer may serve as a consultant to Interconn.

Please contact the undersigned at (305) 350-0616 or Robert Meyers, Executive Director at (305) 579-2594 if you have any questions regarding this opinion.

Sincerely Yours,

ARDYTH WALKER Staff General Counsel