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March 28, 2003

Collin E. Edwards
Manager
Williams-Russell and Johnson
3900 N.W. 79th Avenue
Suite 520
Miami, Florida 33166

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 03-38

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on March 27, 2003 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your firm's ability to serve as Program Manager for the Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program.

In your request, you advised the Commission that the Department of Water and Sewer is seeking a program manager for the Comprehensive Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program. The Program Manager's responsibilities will include: managing the program and the 10 million dollar budget for inspection and repair of laterals; writing specifications for lateral repair, project tracking and scheduling; planning and preparing written progress reports and maintaining a database for the peak flow model.

The Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program is one phase of a Water and Sewer Department project to comply with two federal consent decrees between the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Water and Sewer. Other phases of the project included a pump station improvement program and Infiltration, Exfiltration and Inflow analysis.

The Notice to Professional Consultants for the Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program requires consultants to file notice of any potential conflicts and seek an advisory opinion. The addendum states that "Prime Consultants must identify whether they or any of their subconsultants, or members have participated in any Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's current and previous design and program management services for sanitary sewer systems. In identifying themselves or any such subconsultants, or members, the Prime Consultant must identify the specific work that they, the subconsultant, or member performed or work to be performed on any Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department's current and previous design and program management services for sanitary sewer systems as well as the work to be performed as part of this solicitation, Program Manager for Comprehensive Lateral Investigation and Replacement Program. Additionally, a statement is required as to how this work is sufficiently different so as not to pose a conflict of interest. Determinations by the Ethics Commission shall be deemed final. Any Prime Consultant, subconsultants, or members found to have a conflict of interest will render the Prime Consultant's submittal non-responsive.

In 1999, Williams-Russell and Johnson (WRJ) served as a subcontractor to Peer Consultants on the Infiltration/ Exfiltration/Inflow program. WRJ provided database coordination and video review services. WRJ also worked on

the pump station improvement program. WRJ provided document control and design review.

The Commission found that Williams-Russell and Johnson may serve on the Program Management team for the Lateral Investigation and Replacement program. WRJ'S prior work for WASD does not overlap with the scope of work under the Lateral Investigation and Replacement program. However, WRJ may not work with any affiliated firm or any firm for which it serves as a subcontractor on any portion of the Lateral Investigation and Repair program.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding the opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2954 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 350-0616.

Sincerely Yours,



ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director