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West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility
Port Allen, Louisiana
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL
November 30, 1998 and 1997

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date JUN 9 1999

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CALVIN L. ROBBINS, JR.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
(A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION)

Independent Auditor's Report

West Baton Rouge Parish Council
Port Allen, Louisiana

I have audited the financial statements of the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility, a component unit of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council, for the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997, listed in the foregoing table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Public Utility. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Technical Bulletin 98-1, Disclosures about Year 2000 Issues, requires disclosures of certain matters regarding the year 2000 issue. West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility has included such disclosures in Note 19. Because of the unprecedented nature of the year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Accordingly, insufficient audit evidence exists to support West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility's disclosures with respect to the year 2000 issue made in Note 19. Further, I do not provide assurance that West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility is or will be year 2000 ready, that West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility year 2000 remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with which West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility does business will be year 2000 ready.

West Baton Rouge Parish Council

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility and are not intended to present fairly the financial position of West Baton Rouge Parish and the results of its operations and cash flows of its proprietary fund types and nonexpendable trust funds in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

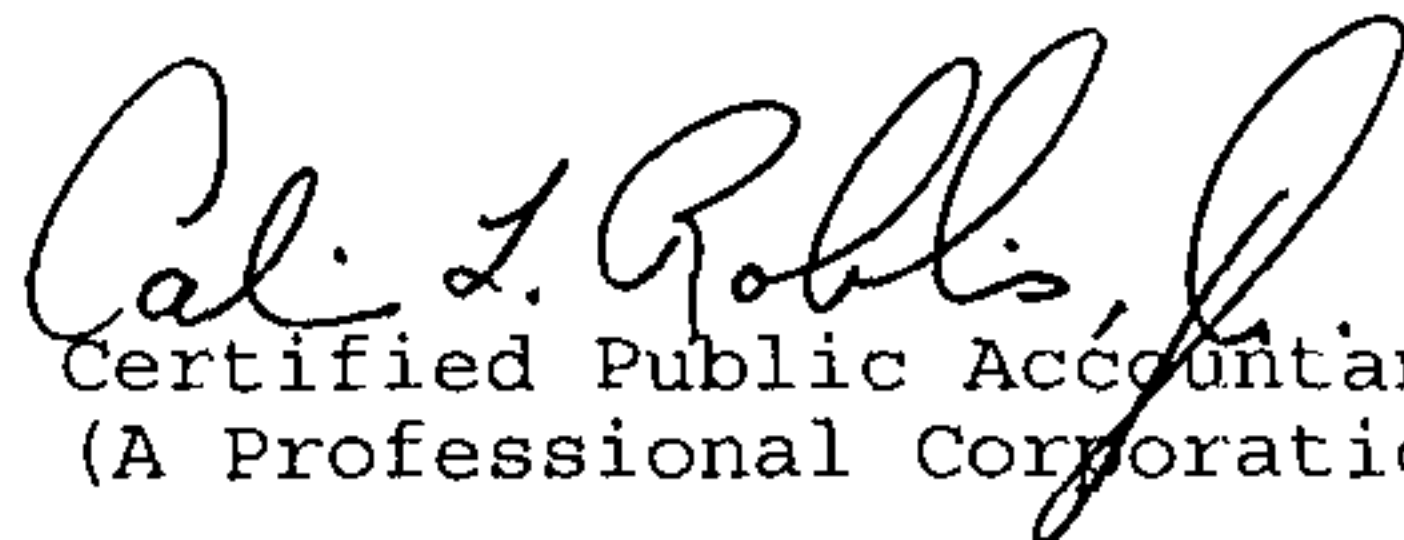
In my opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had I been able to examine evidence regarding year 2000 disclosures, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility as of November 30, 1998 and 1997, and the results of its operations and the cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 18 to the financial statements, the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility adopted GASB Statement Number 31 to account for its investments. The financial statements for the year ended November 30, 1997 were restated to reflect this change.

In the course of my audit, nothing came to my attention that caused me to believe there has been any material lack of compliance with the accounting or reporting requirements of the bond ordinance under which outstanding revenue bonds have been issued.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have issued a report dated May 19, 1999 on my consideration of the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility's internal control over financial reporting and on my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants.

My audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying financial information listed as "Supplementary Information" in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility. Such information, except for the Schedule of Insurance Coverage and Operating Statistics marked "unaudited", on which I express no opinion, has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in my opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to such financial statements taken as a whole.


Certified Public Accountant
(A Professional Corporation)

May 19, 1999
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

BALANCE SHEETS

November 30, 1998 and 1997

A S S E T S

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Cash:				
Payroll account	\$ 22,689	\$ 12,595		
Revenue account	157,016	40,780		
Other accounts	490,656	356,995		
On hand	<u>895</u>	<u>895</u>		
Total Cash	671,256	411,265		
Investments (See Note 4)	559,640	535,040		
Accounts receivable (See Note 10)	316,635	427,570		
prepaid expenses	<u>30,884</u>	<u>31,073</u>		
Total Current Assets	<u>1,578,415</u>	<u>1,404,948</u>		
<u>Restricted Assets - (See Note 3)</u>				
Bond Sinking Fund	50,137	47,214		
Bond Reserve Fund	98,619	96,110		
Contingencies Fund	57,722	56,253		
Customers' deposits	<u>226,821</u>	<u>190,069</u>		
Total Restricted Assets	<u>433,299</u>	<u>389,646</u>		
<u>Utility Plant and Equipment</u>				
At cost, net of accumulated depreciation (See Note 5)	6,261,130	6,200,365		
<u>Other Assets</u>				
Bond issuance expense	3,595	4,943		
Due from Water District No. 4 (See Note 8)	<u>34,819</u>	<u>34,819</u>		
Total Other Assets	<u>38,414</u>	<u>39,762</u>		
Total Assets	<u>\$ 8,311,258</u>	<u>\$ 8,034,721</u>		

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>Current Liabilities - (Payable from Current Assets)</u>				
Accounts payable	\$ 108,758	\$ 175,801		
Contracts payable	7,501	114,292		
Accrued and withheld taxes and expenses	43,907	52,885		
Miscellaneous payables	64,462	44,614		
Payable to other systems and the Parish Council	21,294	20,203		
Payable to State of Louisiana	<u>286,041</u>	<u>177,258</u>		
Total Liabilities (Payable from Current Assets)	<u>531,963</u>	<u>585,053</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities - (Payable from Restricted Assets) (See Note 13)</u>				
Revenue bonds - net of current maturities (See Note 6)	215,000	315,000		
Accumulated unpaid vacation (See Note 12)	<u>59,548</u>	<u>51,932</u>		
Total Long-term Liabilities	<u>274,548</u>	<u>366,932</u>		
Total Liabilities	<u>1,140,682</u>	<u>1,241,504</u>		
<u>Fund Equity</u>				
Contributed capital	1,882,514	1,836,919		
Retained earnings	<u>5,288,062</u>	<u>4,956,298</u>		
Total Fund Equity	<u>7,170,576</u>	<u>6,793,217</u>		
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>\$ 8,311,258</u>	<u>\$ 8,034,721</u>		

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility
 Port Allen, Louisiana

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN
 CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL

For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Beginning Balance, December 1	\$ 1,836,919	\$ 1,762,408
Contributions during the year	<u>45,595</u>	<u>74,511</u>
Balance, November 30	\$ <u>1,882,514</u>	\$ <u>1,836,919</u>

The sources of contributions
 at November 30, 1998 and 1997
 are as follows:

Federal Government-through the Parish Council	\$ 1,249,479	\$ 1,249,479
Developers	116,200	116,200
State Government-through the Parish Council	120,106	74,511
Parish Council	<u>396,729</u>	<u>396,729</u>
Balance, November 30	\$ <u>1,882,514</u>	\$ <u>1,836,919</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility
 Port Allen, Louisiana

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN
 RETAINED EARNINGS

For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Beginning Balance, December 1	\$ 4,956,298	\$ 4,721,424
Adjustment for implementation of GASB Statement No. 31 (See Note 18)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(17,614)</u>
Adjusted beginning balance	4,956,298	4,703,810
Net income for the year	<u>331,764</u>	<u>252,488</u>
Balance, November 30	\$ <u>5,288,062</u>	\$ <u>4,956,298</u>

Retained earnings at November 30, 1998 and 1997 consists of the following:

Reserved - for bond retirement	\$ 99,128	\$ 100,127
Unreserved	<u>5,188,934</u>	<u>4,856,171</u>
Balance, November 30	\$ <u>5,288,062</u>	\$ <u>4,956,298</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>Operating Revenues</u>		
Gas sales	\$ 1,914,965	\$ 1,988,698
Water sales	631,527	593,397
Penalties	19,029	17,954
Extension and connection charges	53,289	36,863
Service agreement (See Note 8)	113,209	136,185
Other income (See Note 11)	141,822	128,894
Bad debt recovery	<u>265</u>	<u>157</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>2,874,106</u>	<u>2,902,148</u>
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Gas purchases	976,275	1,115,677
Water purchases	73	104
Salaries and wages	767,320	726,569
Depreciation	248,405	237,627
Meter and system repairs and supplies	111,428	118,147
Bad debts	3,023	3,352
Billing expense	2,612	4,601
Cathodic protection	14,955	9,355
Collection expense	1,100	1,200
Equipment rental and repair	15,639	10,973
Equipment service contracts	25,690	23,218
Gas tap maintenance charge	5,850	5,400
Insurance - employee benefits	76,640	72,829
Insurance and surety bonds	71,624	75,271
Miscellaneous	20,602	18,142
Office supplies and postage	17,156	13,236
Payroll taxes	5,186	5,547
Professional services	16,144	21,308
Telephone	4,367	3,628
Truck and travel	34,735	34,906
Utilities	83,815	80,925
Retirement	57,854	53,816
Unemployment taxes and workmen's compensation	<u>32,773</u>	<u>44,234</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,593,266</u>	<u>2,680,065</u>
Operating Income	280,840	222,083

(CONTINUED)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES - (Cont'd)

For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Operating Income from the preceding page	\$ <u>280,840</u>	\$ <u>222,083</u>
<u>Nonoperating Revenues</u>		
Interest on investments and savings	62,976	57,168
(Loss) Gain on investment	<u>17,391</u>	<u>8,740</u>
Total Nonoperating Revenues	<u>80,367</u>	<u>65,908</u>
<u>Nonoperating Expenses</u>		
Interest on bonds	26,233	32,317
Amortization of debt issuance expenses	1,348	1,349
Trustee fees	<u>1,862</u>	<u>1,837</u>
Total Nonoperating Expenses	<u>29,443</u>	<u>35,503</u>
Net Income	\$ <u>331,764</u>	\$ <u>252,488</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</u>		
Operating income	\$ <u>280,840</u>	\$ <u>222,083</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	248,405	237,627
Bad debts resulting from an increase in allowance for doubtful accounts	-0-	-0-
Book value of assets abandoned	-0-	361
(Increase) Decrease in assets:		
Accounts receivable	110,935	(111,337)
Prepaid expenses	189	5,209
Increase (Decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(76,021)	7,306
Contracts payable	(106,791)	108,586
Miscellaneous payables	19,848	26,270
Payable to other systems	1,091	1,139
Accumulated unpaid vacation	7,616	4,314
Customer deposits	<u>36,752</u>	<u>7,773</u>
Total adjustments	<u>242,024</u>	<u>287,248</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	522,864	509,331

(CONTINUED)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS - (Cont'd)

For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities - from the preceding page	\$ <u>522,864</u>	\$ <u>509,331</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:</u>		
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(309,171)	(573,106)
Principal paid on revenue bond maturities	(90,000)	(85,000)
Interest expense	(28,332)	(34,300)
Trustee fees	(1,862)	(1,837)
Loan & grant proceeds	<u>154,378</u>	<u>138,302</u>
Net cash used by capital and financing activities	<u>(274,987)</u>	<u>(555,941)</u>
Net cash before cash flows before investing activities	247,877	(46,610)

(CONTINUED)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS - (Cont'd)

For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Net cash before cash flows before investing activities - from the preceding page	\$ <u>247,877</u>	\$ <u>(46,610)</u>
<u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</u>		
Interest and dividends on investments	62,976	57,168
Purchase of investment securities	(105,777)	(52,496)
Sale of investment securities	<u>98,568</u>	<u>45,432</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>55,767</u>	<u>50,104</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	303,644	3,494
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>800,911</u>	<u>797,417</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	\$ <u><u>1,104,555</u></u>	\$ <u><u>800,911</u></u>

Cash Flow Disclosures

Noncash Investing, Capital, and Financing Activities

During 1998 and 1997 there were no noncash investing, capital or financing activities.

<u>Interest Paid</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Interest charged to expense	\$ <u><u>28,332</u></u>	\$ <u><u>34,300</u></u>
Interest capitalized	\$ <u><u>-0-</u></u>	\$ <u><u>-0-</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

November 30, 1998 and 1997

INTRODUCTION

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility operates a water system, natural gas system and sewer system serving residences and businesses in parts of West Baton Rouge Parish. The Public Utility extends credit to its customers. Customers are required to make a cash deposit or provide other forms of collateral before service begins.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting standards. The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and the Accounting Principles Board are the accepted standard setting body for establishing accounting and financial reporting standards for entities other than governmental units. The Utility applies all FASB pronouncements and APB opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict with GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails.

Reporting Entity

GASB Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and component units that should be included within the reporting entity. For financial reporting purposes, in

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Cont'd)

conformance with GASB Statement No. 14, the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility includes all funds, account groups, et cetera, that are within the oversight responsibility of the Public Utility. Based on the criteria set forth in GASB Statement No. 14, the Public Utility is a component unit of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council. The basic criteria is the Council's ability to exercise oversight responsibility.

Other criteria used to determine if a governmental unit is a component unit are financial interdependency, designation of management, the ability to significantly influence operations and accountability for fiscal matters. Based on all the criteria set forth, the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility has no component units.

Proprietary Fund

The West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility is operated as an proprietary fund of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council, and as such employs the accrual method of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they are earned and expenses are recognized when incurred. Revenue from utility services provided but not yet billed to customers are recognized in the period in which the services were provided.

Proprietary funds are used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided the periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Cont'd)

Cash and Investments

Cash deposited with financial institutions is carried at cost which approximates market.

Investments are stated at fair market value.

Utility Plant and Equipment

Utility plant and equipment are recorded at original cost, including interest capitalized during the construction period. Donated fixed assets are recorded at fair market value when donated. Depreciation is recorded on all assets using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The service lives by type of asset are as follows:

Gas system	20-35 years
Water system	30-50 years
Sewer System	50 years
Utility equipment	5-10 years
Office equipment	5-10 years
Vehicles	4-5 years
Buildings	20 years

Deferred Expenses

The cost of issuing Utility Revenue Bonds is being amortized over the term of the bond issue using the straight-line method. Cost of issuing the 1993 bonds was \$13,482. Accumulated amortization was \$9,887 as of November 30, 1998 and \$8,539 as of November 30, 1997.

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Cont'd)

Capitalization of Interest

Interest is capitalized on assets acquired with tax-exempt debt. The amount of interest to be capitalized is calculated by offsetting interest expense incurred from the date of the borrowing until completion of the project with interest earned on invested proceeds over the same period. No interest was capitalized during the year ended November 30, 1998 or 1997.

Statement of Cash Flows

For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. The Public Utility does not consider its investment in FNMA and FMAC securities or any funds held by its brokers as cash equivalents (See Note 4.)

NOTE 2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash is shown on the balance sheet under various captions including restricted assets. The carrying value of cash on deposit with financial institutions on November 30, 1998 was \$1,103,660, all bank deposits were in interest bearing accounts.

The bank balances of these deposits totaled \$1,085,146 on November 30, 1998. At November 30, 1998 the Utility's bank balances were secured by \$100,000 of FDIC insurance, and \$1,100,000 of collateral held by the pledging financial institution's agent in the name of the pledging financial institutions and pledged to the Utility (GASB Category 3).

Even though the pledged securities are considered uncollateralized (Category 3) under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 3, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the district that the fiscal agent has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand.

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS - (Cont'd)

Under state law, the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility may deposit funds in demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under the laws of Louisiana and national banks having their principal office in the state of Louisiana. Funds may also be invested in direct United States Treasury obligations and obligations guaranteed by federal agencies provided such obligations are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America. Investment is also permitted in obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. government instrumentalities, which are federally sponsored. Statutes also allow the Utility to invest in any investment as stipulated in R.S. 33:2955.

The Utility may invest such monies it has in any general fund or special funds which the management of the Utility and Parish Council, in their discretion, may determine to be available for investment and which are not specifically exempted or prohibited from investment under existing state or federal statutes.

NOTE 3. RESTRICTED ASSETS

The restricted assets are accounts required to be maintained under the terms of the bond indenture of the outstanding Utilities Revenue Bonds dated August 1, 1993. These bonds were issued during 1993 when Utility Revenue Bonds dated December 1, 1964 were defeased.

The "Sinking Fund" is to be used to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds as they become due and payable. The Utility is required to deposit into this account, on a monthly basis, 1/6th of the interest due on the Bonds on the next interest payment date and 1/12th of the principal due on the Bonds on the next principal date.

The "Reserve Fund" is to be used solely for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on the Bonds payable from the aforementioned Sinking Fund which would otherwise be in default. The Reserve Fund was established by depositing \$42,000 of the proceeds of the

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 3. RESTRICTED ASSETS - (Cont'd)

Bonds into this account immediately upon delivery of the Bonds. Monthly deposits of \$1,000 transferred from the Revenue Fund must be made until the Reserve Fund equals \$84,000.

The "Contingencies Fund" is to be used for extensions, additions, improvements, renewals and replacements necessary to properly operate the system. Monthly transfers must be made from the Revenue Fund to the Contingencies Fund in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the gross revenues of the system for the preceding month, provided that such amount remains after the payment of all reasonable and necessary expenses of operating and maintaining the system and after the aforementioned Sinking Fund and Reserve Fund have been funded. Monthly transfers are to continue until the Contingencies Fund has a balance of \$50,000 and needs to be resumed if the fund is reduced below \$50,000.

NOTE 4. INVESTMENTS

At November 30, the Public Utility had investments as follows:

	<u>Fair Value Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>1998:</u>		
FNMA and FMAC Pools, & U.S. Treasury Notes 5.625% to 7.50%, due 1/15/00 to 5/15/08	\$ 528,545	\$ 521,944
Paine Webber Cash and Money Funds	<u>31,095</u>	<u>31,095</u>
Total	\$ <u>559,640</u>	\$ <u>553,039</u>

The investments are held by the Public Utility's broker in its street name. Because the securities are not in the name of the Public Utility, and are not held by the District or its agents, the securities are considered uninsured and unregistered, GASB Category 3.

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility
Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 4. INVESTMENTS - (Cont'd)

	<u>Fair Value Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>1997:</u>		
FNMA and FMAC Pools, US Treasury Notes and Bonds 5.875% to 7.875%, due 4/15/98 to 7/15/06	\$ 522,407	\$ 531,012
Paine Webber Cash and Money Funds	<u>12,633</u>	<u>12,633</u>
Total	\$ <u>535,040</u>	\$ <u>543,645</u>

NOTE 5. UTILITY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Utility Plant and Equipment consisted of the following:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
As of November 30, 1998:			
Gas distribution system	\$ 2,835,994	\$1,458,789	\$1,377,205
Water distribution system	5,500,895	1,693,089	3,807,806
Sewer system	822,070	80,753	741,317
Utility and sewer equipment	365,016	275,079	89,937
Office equipment	166,584	110,420	56,164
Vehicles	238,102	198,460	39,642
Buildings	107,193	80,206	26,987
Land	41,978	-0-	41,978
Construction in progress	<u>80,094</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>80,094</u>
Totals	\$ <u>10,157,926</u>	\$ <u>3,896,796</u>	\$ <u>6,261,130</u>

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility
 Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 5. UTILITY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT - (Cont'd)

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
As of November 30, 1997:			
Gas distribution system	\$2,458,919	\$1,407,256	\$1,051,663
Water distribution system	5,272,582	1,577,655	3,694,927
Sewer system	822,070	57,906	764,164
Utility and sewer equipment	353,610	250,603	103,007
Office equipment	125,868	100,116	25,752
Vehicles	238,102	179,592	58,510
Buildings	107,193	75,262	31,931
Land	41,978	-0-	41,978
Construction in progress	<u>428,433</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>428,433</u>
Totals	<u>\$9,848,755</u>	<u>\$3,648,390</u>	<u>\$6,200,365</u>

Cost includes sewer systems donated to the Parish valued at fair market value on the date donated. Donated assets valued at fair market value totaled \$116,200 at November 30, 1998 and 1997.

NOTE 6. REVENUE BONDS PAYABLE

The following is a summary of utility revenue bond transactions of the Public Utility for the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Bonds payable, December 1	\$ 405,000	\$ 490,000
Bonds retired	<u>(90,000)</u>	<u>(85,000)</u>
Bonds payable, November 30	\$ <u>315,000</u>	\$ <u>405,000</u>

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 6. REVENUE BONDS PAYABLE - (Cont'd)

Revenue bonds payable at November 30, 1998 and 1997 consisted of the following:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
\$840,000 Utilities Revenue Bonds Series 1993, dated August 1, 1993; due in annual installments of \$60,000 to \$110,000 through August 1, 2001; 7% interest, principal and interest to be paid from the income and revenue derived from the operation of the Public Utility.	\$ 315,000	\$ 405,000
Less Current Portion	<u>100,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>
Long Term Portion	\$ <u>215,000</u>	\$ <u>315,000</u>

The annual requirements to amortize the revenue bonds payable as of November 30, 1998 are as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>November 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
1999	100,000	22,050	122,050
2000	105,000	15,050	120,050
2001	<u>110,000</u>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>117,700</u>
Total	\$ <u>315,000</u>	\$ <u>44,800</u>	\$ <u>359,800</u>

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 7. PENSION PLAN

Substantially all employees of the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility are members of the Parochial Employees Retirement System of Louisiana (System), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by a separate board of trustees. The System is composed of two distinct plans, Plan A and Plan B, with separate assets, and separate benefit provisions. All employees of the Public Utility are members of Plan A.

All permanent employees working at least 28 hours per week and who are paid wholly or in part from parish funds and all elected parish officials are eligible to participate in the System. Under Plan A, employees who retire at or after age 60 with at least 10 years of creditable service, at or after age 55 with 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with at least 30 years of creditable service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 percent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service. However, for those employees who were members of the supplemental plan only prior to January 1, 1980, the benefit is equal to one percent of final-average salary plus \$24 for each year of supplemental-plan-only service earned prior to January 1, 1980, plus 3 percent of final-average salary for each year of service credited after the revision date. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least the amount of creditable service stated above, and who do not withdraw their employee contributions, may retire at the ages specified above and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established or amended by state statute.

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 7. PENSION PLAN - (Cont'd)

The System issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. The report may be obtained by writing to the Parochial Employees' Retirement System, Post Office Box 14619, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-4619, or by calling (225) 928-1361.

Funding Policy. Under plan A, members are required by state statute to contribute 9.5 percent of their annual covered salary and the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 7.75 percent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the System also include one-fourth of one percent (except Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish. These tax dollars are divided between Plan A and Plan B based proportionately on the salaries of the active members of each plan. The contribution requirements of plan members and the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility contributions to the System under Plan A for the years ending November 30, 1998, 1997, and 1996, were \$57,854, \$53,816, and \$47,519, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE 8. WATER SYSTEM AGREEMENT

The West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility leases several water systems to Water Works District No. 4 (another component unit of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council) under a local services agreement entered into in February, 1982. The lease expired in 1996, but continues on a month to month basis.

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 8. WATER SYSTEM AGREEMENT - (Cont'd)

Rental income from the leased water systems was \$1,251 for the year ended November 30, 1998 and \$1,252 for the year ended November 30, 1997.

A separate operating agreement entered into with Water Works District No. 4, requires the Public Utility to operate the systems it leases to Water Works District No. 4. The agreement also provides for the Public Utility to operate any additional water systems acquired or constructed by the Water Works District. The operating agreement's term coincides with that of the local services agreement described above. Fees under the operating agreement are based on the Water System's proportionate share of the Public Utility's office, administrative, operating and maintenance expenses. The Public Utility billed Water Works District No. 4 \$77,678 under the operating agreement for the year ended November 30, 1998 and \$75,410 for the year ended November 30, 1997. In addition, the Public Utility billed Water Works District No. 4 \$34,280 and \$59,523 during the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997 for additional maintenance and repair services provided that were not covered by the original operating agreement. Water Works District No. 4 owed the Public Utility \$17,526 and \$16,882 as of November 30, 1998 and 1997, respectively for these services. The receivables are included in Accounts Receivable on the Balance Sheet.

In addition to the regular services provided for under the Water Service Agreement, the Public Utility assisted Water Works District No. 4 in relocating some of its water lines during the year ended November 30, 1990. The relocation was required by the Louisiana Department of Transportation (See Note 14). Total cost of relocating the Water District's lines was \$48,498. The balance owed to the Public Utility as of November 30, 1998 and 1997 was \$34,819, and is shown in the Other Asset section of the Balance Sheet.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 9. WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH COUNCIL

Contributed Capital - During the year ended November 30, 1997, the Parish Council obtained a grant from the Governor's Office of Rural Development to be used for the renovation and painting of one of the Public Utility's water tower. The grant was for \$120,106 and \$75,411 had been received by the Parish Council and expended on the project as of November 30, 1997. During the year ended November 30, 1998, the balance of the grant, \$45,595, was received.

Garbage Billing Fees - The West Baton Rouge Public Utility bills and collects Garbage Fees for the West Baton Rouge Parish Council. The Utility is paid \$.33 per customer billing for providing this service. The Utility earned \$3,958 for the year ended November 30, 1998 and \$3,796 for the year ended November 30, 1997 for providing this service. The Utility owed the Council, \$9,899 for garbage fees collected and other amounts collected but not remitted to the Council at November 30, 1998. The amount owed to the Council at November 30, 1997 was \$9,809.

NOTE 10. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable at November 30, 1998 and 1997 was made up of the following:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Customer accounts:		
Billed	\$ 230,126	\$ 290,253
Unbilled	61,940	114,105
Receivable from other water systems	<u>28,369</u>	<u>27,012</u>
Total	320,435	431,370
Less allowance for doubtful account	<u>(3,800)</u>	<u>(3,800)</u>
Net	\$ <u>316,635</u>	\$ <u>427,570</u>

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility
 Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 11. OTHER INCOME

Other income as of November 30, 1998 and 1997 was composed of the following:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Service charges	\$ 5,365	\$ 4,920
Sewer fees	102,386	110,219
Charges to other systems	3,830	2,736
Garbage billing fees	3,958	3,796
Miscellaneous income	<u>26,283</u>	<u>7,223</u>
 Total	 \$ <u>141,822</u>	 \$ <u>128,894</u>

NOTE 12. ACCUMULATED UNPAID VACATION

The Utility has the following policy relating to vacation:

- One week of vacation after six months of service.
- Two weeks of vacation after one to five years of service.
- Three weeks of vacation after five to fifteen years of service.
- Four weeks of vacation after fifteen to twenty years of service.
- Five weeks of vacation after twenty or more years of service.

Each employee accrues annual leave on January 1 of each year for that year. Employees can accumulate up to 300 hours of unused vacation.

As of November 30, 1998 and 1997, employees of the Utility had accumulated and vested \$59,548 and \$51,932, respectively, of vacation benefits.

The Utility's sick leave policy does not provide for the vesting of sick leave; therefore, there is no provision for accumulated sick leave on these statements.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility
 Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 13. CURRENT LIABILITIES PAYABLE FROM RESTRICTED ASSETS

The following current liabilities were payable from restricted assets as of November 30, 1998 and 1997:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Revenue bonds payable (See Note 6)	\$ 100,000	\$ 90,000
Accrued interest	7,350	9,450
Customers' deposits	<u>226,821</u>	<u>190,069</u>
Total	\$ <u>334,171</u>	\$ <u>289,519</u>

NOTE 14. PAYABLE TO STATE OF LOUISIANA

During the year ended November 30, 1997, the Public Utility was required to relocate some of its gas lines by the Louisiana Department of Transportation. The gas lines were located on Highway Department right-of-ways for roads that were being widened. The Department of Transportation agreed to loan the Public Utility \$140,981 to finance the relocation. At November 30, 1997, \$63,791 had been advanced to the Public Utility to assist in paying costs incurred to that date on the relocation project. During the year ended November 30, 1998, an additional \$108,783 to cover costs incurred during the year. The total amount payable on this loan was \$172,574 at November 30, 1998.

During the year ended November 30, 1990, the Public Utility was required by the Louisiana Department of Transportation to relocate some gas and water lines located on highway right-of-ways, to allow for widening of those highways. The Public Utility received \$197,900 from the Louisiana Department of Transportation (DOTD) during the year ended November 30, 1992. Of this amount, \$113,467 was a loan from DOTD and is shown as a current liability on the Balance Sheet and \$84,433 was a grant from DOTD. The Public Utility had not repaid the loan as of November 30, 1998.

(CONTINUED)

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 15. POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

Retiree Benefits

In addition to the pension benefits described in Note 7, the Parish Council adopted an ordinance that provides post-retirement health care benefits to all employees who retire from the Utility at or after age 60 with at least 10 years of service, at or after the age 55 with 25 years of service, or at any age with 30 years of service. Currently, two retirees meet those eligibility requirements. The Utility pays for 60 percent of the medical insurance costs for retirees not choosing medicare supplement insurance and 100% for those choosing medicare supplement insurance coverage. The cost of retiree health care benefits is recognized as an expenditure as paid. For the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997, those costs totaled \$4,344 and \$5,582, respectively.

COBRA Benefits

Under the Consolidated Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), the Public Utility provides health insurance benefits to eligible former employees and eligible dependents. Certain requirements are outlined by the federal government for this coverage. The premiums are to be paid in full by the insured. This program is offered for a duration of 18 months after the termination date. There is no associated cost to the Public Utility under this program. There were no participants in the program as of November 30, 1998 and 1997.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In addition to the transactions discussed in Notes 8 and 9 to these financial statements the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility had dealings with another component unit of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council.

The Utility and another water system in the Parish share the cost of operating a water well. The Utility billed the other system \$12,192 and \$10,848 for costs paid by the Utility during the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997, respectively. The other system owed the Utility \$8,867 at November 30, 1998 and \$8,496 at November 30, 1997.

The other system billed the Utility for \$10,684 and \$7,614 for costs it paid during the years ended November 30, 1998 and 1997, respectively. The Utility owed the other system \$10,684 at November 30, 1998 and \$7,614 at November 30, 1997.

NOTE 17. MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND CREDIT CONCENTRATIONS

Water sales to Placid Refining Company accounted for 40.9% of water sales for the year ended November 30, 1998 and 40.2% for the year ended November 30, 1997. The receivable from Placid was approximately 7.27% of total accounts receivable at November 30, 1998 and 4.04% of total accounts receivable at November 30, 1997.

Gas sales to a customer in the highway construction business accounted for 14.70% of gas sales for the year ended November 30, 1998 and 11.17 % for the year ended November 30, 1997. The receivable from this customer was approximately 20.59% of total accounts receivable at November 30, 1998 and 20.80% of the accounts receivable balance at November 30, 1997.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 17. MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND CREDIT CONCENTRATIONS - (Cont'd)

Gas sales to a customer in the shipyard business accounted for 6.60% of gas sales for the year ended November 30, 1998 and 8.97% for the year ended November 30, 1997. The receivable from this customer was approximately 6.61% of total accounts receivable as of November 30, 1998 and 5.26% as of November 30, 1997.

Gas sales to a customer in the asphalt business accounted for approximately 6.98% of gas sales for the year ended November 30, 1998. The receivable from this customer was approximately 5.17% of total accounts receivable as of November 30, 1998.

There is also a concentration of credit risk with respect to accounts receivable associated with the limited geographic area served by the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility.

NOTE 18. RESTATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

During the year ended November 30, 1998, West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility adopted GASB Statement Number 31 to account for its investments. Statement 31 required retroactive application by restatement of the financial statements for the year ended November 30, 1997. In the November 30, 1997 financial statements, beginning retained earnings was decreased by \$17,614 for the decrease in fair market value of investments occurring prior to the year ended November 30, 1997. The November 30, 1997 income statement included an increase of \$9,009 in investment gains because of the application of GASB Statement Number 31.

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

NOTE 19. YEAR 2000 READINESS

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility is currently addressing year 2000 issues. (The year 2000 issue refers to the fact that many computer programs use only the last two digits to refer to a year. Therefore, both 1900 and 2000 would be referred to as "00." Computer programs have to be adjusted to recognize the difference between those two years or the program will fail or create errors. Also, some programs may not be able to recognize that 2000 is a leap year. Further, the year 2000 issue could affect electronic equipment - such as environmental systems and vehicles containing computer chips that have date recognition features.)

In assessing the year 2000 issue, the Public Utility determined that its computer system and software were not year 2000 compliant. During the current year the Public Utility spent approximately \$38,000 to upgrade its computer system and software. The Public Utility is in the process of contacting its vendors to determine their year 2000 readiness.

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y I N F O R M A T I O N

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

OPERATING STATISTICS (UNAUDITED)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

On November 30, 1998, the natural gas system was serving 3,293 customers as compared to 3,262 on November 30, 1997. The number of customers billed during the current period and other customer data are presented below:

Gas Sales	\$ 1,914,965
MCF's of gas sold	420,688
Total number of customers' billings	39,566
Average number of customers billed per month	3,297
Average monthly revenue per customer	\$ 48.40
Average revenue per MCF billed	\$ 4.55

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

OPERATING STATISTICS (UNAUDITED) - (Cont'd)

November 30, 1998 and 1997

An analysis of gas sales and purchases for the year ended November 30, 1998 is as follows:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>MCF</u>
Gas sales	\$ 1,914,965	420,688
Gas loss accounted for		3,395
Less gas purchases	<u>976,275</u>	<u>414,167</u>
Gross Profit on Gas Sales	\$ <u>938,690</u>	
MCF gain unaccounted for on sales		<u>9,916</u>
Percent of Gain	<u>2.4%</u>	

The water division of the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility was serving 1,088 customers at November 30, 1998.

Operations of the Water Division for the current year are reflected in the following statistical data:

	<u>Placid</u>	<u>Chemical Plant</u>	<u>Others</u>
Water sales	\$ 258,427	\$ 16,016	\$ 357,084
M gallons sold	564,814	32,031	338,529
Total number of customers' billings	12	12	12,929
Average number of customers billed per month	1	1	1,077
Average monthly revenue per customer	\$ 21,536	\$ 1,335.	\$ 27.62
Average revenue per M gallons	\$.46	\$.50	\$ 1.06

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN UTILITY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

For the year ended November 30, 1998 and 1997

	<u>Cost November 30, 1997</u>	<u>Additions and (Transfers)</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Cost November 30, 1998</u>
Gas distribution system	\$2,458,919	\$ 377,075	\$ -0-	\$ 2,835,994
Water distribution system	5,272,582	228,313	-0-	5,500,895
Sewer System	822,070	-0-	-0-	822,070
Utility and sewer equipment	353,610	11,406	-0-	365,016
Office equipment	125,868	40,716	-0-	166,584
Vehicles	238,102	-0-	-0-	238,102
Buildings	107,193	-0-	-0-	107,193
Land	41,978	-0-	-0-	41,978
Construction in progress	<u>428,433</u>	<u>(348,339)</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>80,094</u>
Totals	<u>\$9,848,755</u>	<u>\$ 309,171</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$10,157,926</u>

West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility

Port Allen, Louisiana

INSURANCE COVERAGE (UNAUDITED)

November 30, 1998

Insurance and fidelity bond coverage on November 30, 1998 were as follows:

<u>Expiration</u>	<u>Insurer</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
February 1, 1999	The American Central Insurance Company (Automobile Insurance) Property damage	Bodily injury liability-\$1,000,000; Comprehensive, \$250 deductible; Uninsured motorists \$100,000; Collision \$250 deductible.
January 1, 1999	Parish Government Risk Management Agency (Workmen's Compensation)	Statutory rates, \$100,000 maximum.
March 29, 1999	Ranger Insurance Co. (General Liability)	General aggregate limit, \$2,000,000; Products-completed operation aggregate, \$2,000,000; each occurrence \$1,000,000; Personal and advertising injury limit \$1,000,000; Fire damage, \$100,000 any one fire; Medical expense, \$5,000 any one person.
February 17, 1999	Western Surety Co.	Public Official's Bond (Ronald K. Treuil) \$100,000.
March 20, 1999	Western Surety Co.	Position surety bond on the following: Office manager, three secretaries, meter readers; \$5,000 each.
October 6, 1999	Commercial Union Insurance Company	Water tower coverage, coverage varies by tower, \$10,000 deductible, 90% coinsurance.



CALVIN L. ROBBINS, JR.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
(A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION)

**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Parish President, and the
Chairman and Members of the West
Baton Rouge Parish Council
Port Allen, Louisiana

I have audited the financial statements of West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility, a component unit of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council, as of and for the year ended November 30, 1998, and have issued my report thereon dated May 19, 1999. I have conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

COMPLIANCE

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility's financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of the its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit, and accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing my audit, I considered West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility's, a component unit of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council, internal control over financial reporting in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, I noted certain matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that I considered to be reportable conditions. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to my attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial

reporting that, in my judgement, could adversely affect the West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utility's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the following paragraph

An important element in designing an internal accounting control system that safeguards assets and reasonably insures the reliability of the accounting records is the concept of segregation of responsibilities. No one person should be assigned duties that would allow that person to commit an error or perpetrate fraud and to conceal the error or fraud. For example, the same person should not be responsible for any two of the following functions:

- 1) Authorization of a transaction;
- 2) Recording of the transaction; and
- 3) Custody of assets involved in the transaction.

Due to the small size of the organization, a proper segregation of duties is not possible with respect to cash transactions. Management believes it is not practical or cost effective to correct this weakness. This is a repeat finding.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. My consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, I believe that the reportable condition disclosed above relating to lack of segregation of duties is a material weakness.

This report is intended for the information of management and members of the West Baton Rouge Parish Council. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.


Certified Public Accountant
(A Professional Corporation)

May 19, 1999
Baton Rouge, Louisiana