

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service  
Commission held in the City of  
Albany on November 20, 2002

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Maureen O. Helmer, Chairman  
Thomas J. Dunleavy  
James D. Bennett  
Leonard A. Weiss  
Neal N. Galvin

CASE 01-W-1949 - Joint Petition of Long Island Water Corporation, American Water Works Company, Inc., Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH and Apollo Acquisition Company for Approval of an Agreement and Plan of Merger.

CASE 02-W-0054 - Petition of Long Island Water Corporation for Permission to Defer Expenditures in Connection with the New National Customer Service Call Center and a National Financial Shared Service Center, filed in C 9221.

CASE 02-W-0056 - Petition of Long Island Water Corporation for Permission to Defer Expenditures Associated with the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks, filed in C 9221.

ORDER ADOPTING TERMS OF A JOINT PROPOSAL

(Issued and Effective November 27, 2002)

BY THE COMMISSION:

INTRODUCTION

On December 20, 2001, Long Island Water Corporation, its parent American Water Works Company, Inc., and the Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH petitioned the Commission pursuant to Public Service Law (PSL) Section 89-h for authority to transfer

American Water Work's stock to Thames.<sup>1</sup> Shortly after the petition was filed, Department of Public Service Staff met in exploratory discussions with the petitioners to determine whether settlement negotiations in this case would be worthwhile. In accordance with the requirements of 16 NYCRR 3.9, the parties' subsequent settlement efforts proved to be successful.

On October 3, 2002, Long Island Water, American Water Works, Thames, and Staff submitted a Joint Proposal with the terms and conditions they believe the Commission should use to authorize Thames' acquisition of American Water Works' stock. The Joint Proposal also addresses the provisions of the existing Long Island Water rate plan and proposes to extend them by twenty months.

Notice of the Joint Proposal was issued on October 10, 2002 and the public was provided an opportunity to submit comments in this proceeding. The proponents of the Joint Proposal filed statements supporting their specific proposals; however, no other comments nor any opposition have been received.

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
CONTAINED IN THE JOINT PROPOSAL

The Joint Proposal states that the transfer of the Long Island Water Corporation and the American Water Works to Thames would be in the public interest. It also states that safe and adequate water service will continue to be provided to

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<sup>1</sup> The December 2001 petition claims the Commission could disclaim its jurisdiction over a corporate stock acquisition at the parent company level. In any event, the petitioners have urged us to act expeditiously and favorably on their petition.

Long Island's customers with the proposed modifications of the rate plan that was adopted in 1998 and first modified in 1999.<sup>2</sup>

First, the Joint Proposal would extend the current rate plan an additional twenty months, from July 2003 to March 2005. Consequently, Long Island Water would not be expected to obtain any general rate increase or base rate tariff adjustments during the extension.

Next, the Joint Proposal would modify the plan's provisions for property tax changes, an insurance company "refund," the installation of new facilities, security measures, and the consolidated telephone call center and financial services center that the American Water Works subsidiaries will share.

Local property taxes would continue to be projected at the same level as before; however, for the extension period the company would be permitted to recover a slightly greater amount of any taxes it incurs above the estimate--85% rather than the prevailing 80%. With respect to certain funds Long Island Water received when its insurance carrier was converted from a mutual insurance company to a corporation, the funds will be applied over ten years to the company's Revenue Adjustment Clause to reduce the company's reconciliation target by \$73,900 per year.

Long Island Water is installing iron removal facilities at three water production plants. Its revenue requirements are expected to increase by up to \$1.1 million for the two facilities that should be completed and placed into service during the extended term of the rate plan. Accordingly, the Revenue Adjustment Clause reconciliation target will be increased by the cost of these facilities (up to a total of \$1.1 million) when they go into service.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Case 98-W-0475, Long Island Water Corporation, Order Allocating Property Tax Refunds and Establishing Rate Plan (issued October 28, 1998); Cases 99-W-0244, et al., American Water Works Company, Inc., National Enterprises Inc. and Long Island Water Corporation, Order Approving Acquisition and Modifying Multi-Year Rate Plans (issued June 25, 1999).

<sup>3</sup> The rate recognition of the capital costs for these projects is limited to \$7.7 million.

Long Island Water's RAC reconciliation target will also increase by \$100,000 to permit the company to recover the costs it incurs for security measures needed to better protect the waterworks. The Joint Proposal would increase the RAC reconciliation target by another \$125,700 to permit recovery, over ten years, of Long Island Water's share of the costs for the telephone call center and financial services center American Water Works is providing its subsidiaries.

Should the company obtain excess earnings during the twenty-month extension, customers and stockholders will share them in equal proportions above 10.4% and up to 11.0%. Over 11.0%, customers will receive 75% and shareholders will obtain 25%. The earnings sharing calculation for the three-year period from April 2002 to March 2005 will be performed on a composite basis.

#### SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

##### The Petitioners

The petitioners consider the proposed merger, and the acquisition of the American Water Works stock by Thames, to be in the public interest. They state that the new affiliation of these companies will provide Long Island Water and its customers substantial advantages, including the benefit of Thames' expertise in the water utility industry and better access to capital. The petitioners point out that Thames has vast holdings in England, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere. They believe Long Island Water can specifically benefit from Thames' ability to provide security for water facilities and the firm's ongoing research and development programs.

As to Long Island Water's rate plan, the petitioners support an extension of the stable rates that customers have enjoyed for several years. They support, as well, the terms addressing new facilities, services and security measures, property taxes, and the one-time payment the company obtained.

In sum, the petitioners claim the proposed merger and stock acquisition has no adverse consequences for the Long Island Water customers, employees, or the company's ongoing

operations and finances. And, with the benefits listed above, the petitioners believe an ample basis exists for the Commission to adopt the Joint Proposal's terms and to approve the Thames acquisition.

#### Staff

Staff also supports the Joint Proposal and believes its provisions will serve the public interest. Staff points out that an extension of the current rate plan will shield customers from a base rate increase and provide them some of the synergies that the merger and acquisition should achieve. Staff specifically supports the proposed modifications to the company's Revenue Adjustment Clause to cover the iron removal facilities that will improve water clarity and quality; the security measures that will protect the integrity of the water works; and permitting the company to share in the efficiency of American Water Works' consolidated customer service and financial services. Staff also favors the Joint Proposal's capture of a significant one-time payment Long Island Water obtained from its insurance company; its treatment of local property tax matters and potential excess earnings; and, its requirement that Long Island Water participate in a regulatory proceeding concerning utility company cash management practices.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Initially, we note that the Joint Proposal's terms are unopposed and the proposals in this case have not elicited any adverse comments from the public. No potentially interested party has chosen to participate in these proceedings either after notice of the procedures Staff employed to review the December 2001 merger and stock acquisition petition, or after notice of the Joint Proposal we are considering here.

In any event, we have fully examined the December 2001 petition and the October 2002 proposal and we find that Thames' plan to acquire the stock of American Water Works and Long Island Water is acceptable and in the public interest with the Joint Proposal terms we are adopting.

Thames is the water utility arm of an international firm with vast holdings in 44 countries. This business organization provides water service to over 43 million customers. It has an acceptable financial standing and it is therefore reasonable to expect that American Water Works' and Long Island Water's affiliation with Thames will provide them better access to capital markets on favorable terms. It is also reasonable to believe that this organization will provide its American affiliates and subsidiaries the benefits of the knowledge, research and development it acquires elsewhere. From the information we have obtained about Thames, we do not foresee any detriment to Long Island Water customers from the proposed merger and acquisition. In particular, the petitioners have provided their assurances that Long Island Water's ratepayers will not be asked to pay any transaction costs or any acquisition premium.<sup>4</sup>

Long Island Water's customers have enjoyed stable rates since 1997. With the submission of Thames' acquisition proposal, the time became ripe for Staff to examine Long Island Water's recent performance and determine whether the existing rate plan should be extended. The results of Staff's examination are reflected in the terms presented here to extend the existing rate plan by another twenty months.

We have examined the specific provisions offered to extend the rate plan and we find them acceptable. The annual costs for two new iron removal facilities, and those for better security, and the combined customer calling center and financial services center, should be addressed by the operation of the company's Revenue Adjustment Clause. We also adopt the proposed ten-year amortization of the insurance company proceeds that will be used to offset some of the company's other costs. We can also adopt the Joint Proposal's treatment of local property taxes, which is similar to our action in a recent proceeding involving another water company, and the proposed excess earnings provisions.

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<sup>4</sup> Case 01-W-1949, Joint Petition (dated December 20, 2001) ¶33.

Accordingly, we will adopt the terms and the provisions of the Joint Proposal and shall require that they be put into effect.

The Commission orders:

1. The Joint Petition submitted by Long Island Water Corporation, American Water Works Company, Inc. and Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH, dated December 20, 2001 is granted.

Consent, permission and approval, pursuant to Public Service Law Section 89-h, is hereby granted for Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH to acquire the stock of the American Water Works Company, Inc.

2. The terms, conditions and provisions of the October 2, 2002 Joint Proposal attached to this order, modifying and extending Long Island Water Corporation's multi-year rate plan, are adopted and hereby incorporated and made a part of this order.

3. This proceeding is continued.

By the Commission,

(SIGNED)

JANET HAND DEIXLER  
Secretary

BEFORE THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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-----X  
Joint Petition of Long Island Water Corporation,  
American Water Works Company, Inc.,  
Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH, and  
Xpollo Acquisition Company for Approval of an  
-Agreement and Plan of Merger Pursuant to  
Section 89-h of the New York State  
Public Service Law

Case 01-W-1949

Petition of Long Island Water Corporation  
Pursuant to Section 561.18 of the  
Uniform System of Accounts to Defer  
Expenses in Connection With the Consolidation of  
Customer and Financial Service Facilities

Case 02-W-0054

Petition of Long Island Water Corporation  
Pursuant to Section 561.18 of the  
Uniform System of Accounts to Defer  
Expenses in Connection With the Additional  
Security-Related Costs Associated with the  
September 11 Terrorist Attacks

Case 02-W-0056

-----X

**JOINT PROPOSAL FOR  
APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER  
AND MODIFYING AND EXTENDING TERM OF MULTI-YEAR  
RATE PLAN FOR LONG ISLAND WATER CORPORATION**

Dated: October 1, 2002



BEFORE THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

-----X

Joint Petition of Long Island Water Corporation.  
American Water Works Company, Inc.,  
Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH, and  
Apollo Acquisition Company for Approval of an  
Agreement and Plan of Merger Pursuant to  
Section 89-h of the New York State  
Public Service Law

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Case 02-W-0056

-----X

**JOINT PROPOSAL FOR  
APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER  
AND MODIFYING AND EXTENDING TERM OF MULTI-YEAR  
RATE PLAN FOR LONG ISLAND WATER CORPORATION**

**INTRODUCTION**

On December 20, 2001, Long Island Water Corporation ("Long Island Water"),  
American Water Works Company, Inc. ("American"), Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH  
("Thames Holdings") and Apollo Acquisition Company ("Acquisition Co.") (collectively  
"Petitioners") filed a Joint Petition pursuant to Public Service Law Section 89-h seeking New

York State Public Service Commission ("Commission") approval of the purchase of the stock of American. As described in detail in the Joint Petition, RWE Aktiengesellschaft ("RWE"), American, Thames Holdings and Acquisition Co. entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger ("Agreement"). A copy of the Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The Agreement provides that Acquisition Co. shall be **merged with** and into American, the parent of Long Island Water. Upon completion of the transaction, Acquisition Co. will dissolve and American shall be the surviving corporation. In the Joint Petition, the Petitioners respectfully requested:

A) That the Commission issue an Order (i) approving the transaction contemplated in the Agreement; and (ii) authorizing Thames Holdings, RWE or any similarly situated corporation [Thames Water Aqua US Holdings, Inc.] to acquire indirect control of Long Island Water through the acquisition of the capital stock of American, pursuant to Section 89-h;<sup>1</sup> and (iii) **determinin**g that no further approval of the Commission is required with regard to the Agreement; and

B) That the Commission expedite the processing of this request in order to permit the transaction to proceed as soon as reasonably possible given the desire to close the transaction and proceed to achieve the benefits of the transaction which are likely to be achieved by the combining of the best practices of Thames and American.

On December 7, 2001, an exploratory discussion was held at the Commission's offices in Albany, New York to **identify** interested parties and to explore the feasibility of a negotiated outcome of this proceeding. Pursuant to Section 3.9 of the Commission's regulations ( 16 NYCRR § 3.9), a Notice of Intention to Enter Into Settlement Discussions was filed with the Secretary to the Commission on April 2, 2002 and served on all parties to the two most recent proceedings affecting rates of Long Island Water. No parties besides Staff of the New York

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<sup>1</sup> The Joint Petition notes that **American** would be owned directly by Thames Holdings or by an intermediary holding company which would be owned directly by Thames Holdings. The intermediary holding company, Thames Water Aqua US Holdings, Inc., has been formed. Thames Water Aqua **US** Holdings, inc. is a Delaware corporation. A schematic of the post-merger organizational **structure** is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

State Department of Public Service (“Staff”) expressed interest in the settlement discussions. Settlement discussions began on April 16, 2002. Several meetings between Staff and the Petitioners culminated in the execution of this Joint Proposal.

As a result of the discussions, Staff and the Petitioners agreed that the stock acquisition and the Agreement and Plan of Merger are in the public interest. Staff and the Petitioners also agreed that the relief requested in the Joint Petition should be granted by the Commission. Furthermore, in conjunction with the acquisition, the parties have agreed to a twenty-month extension of Long Island Water’s current Rate Plan and other terms and conditions as set forth herein.

### **I. THE PARTIES**

The parties to this Joint Proposal are Long island Water, American, Thames Holdings, Acquisition Co. and Staff (the “Parties”). Long Island Water is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American and a regulated water-works corporation in New York. Long Island Water currently provides service pursuant to a multi-year Rate Plan adopted by the Commission on June 25, 1999.<sup>2</sup> The multi-year Rate Plan modified in part and extended Long Island Water’s Rate Plan adopted by the Commission on October 28, 1998 (collectively the “Long Island Water Rate Plan”).’

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<sup>2</sup> See Cases 99-W-0244, Joint Petition of American Water Works Company, Inc. and National Enterprises Inc. for Approval Pursuant to Public Service Law Section 89-h. of the Acquisition by American Water Works Company, Inc. of All the Outstanding Shares of Common Stock of National Enterprises, Inc., Order Approving Acquisition and Modifying Multi-Year Rate Plans (June 25, 1999).

<sup>3</sup> See Case 98-W-0475 • Petition of Lone Island Water Corporation for Approval Pursuant to Public Service Law Section 113(2) of a Proposed Allocation of a \$2.2 11 .000 Tax Refund From Nassau County, Order Allocanng Property Tax Refunds and Establishing Rate Plan (October 28, 1998).

## II. TERMS OF JOINT PROPOSAL

A. The terms of the Long island Water Rate Plan shall remain in full force and effect unless specifically proposed to be changed or modified herein.

1. ~~Term~~ Parties hereby agree and recommend that the expiration date of the Long Island Water Rate Plan be extended from July 31, 2003 through March 31, 2005. With this extension, customers of Long Island Water will enjoy the benefits of eight years and eleven months (i.e., from May 2, 1996 through March 31, 2005) during which Long Island Water's rates have been and will remain constant, with the exception of a rate reduction in 1998.

As a result of the Commission's adoption of this Joint Proposal and extension, the terms and conditions of the existing Long Island Water Rate Plan are effective through March 31, 2005. Except as otherwise permitted under the Long Island Water Rate Plan, Long Island Water will not be permitted to increase rates through a general rate increase prior to April 1, 2005. Thus, Long Island Water customers will not see a base rate tariff adjustment.

2. Property Tax Reconciliation. The reconciliation of property taxes will vary depending on the period covered, as described in more detail in the following subdivisions.

a. Through July 31, 2003 - The projected level of property taxes will continue to be the \$11,959,721 that is currently employed in the Long Island Water Rate Plan. Through July 31, 2003, Long Island Water will continue to defer for subsequent recovery through the Revenue Adjustment Clause ("RAC") 80% of any property taxes above the projected level, and the remaining 20% will be borne by stockholders. For the same period, Long Island Water will defer and return to customers through the RAC 100% of any decrease in property taxes from the projected level.

b. August 1, 2003 through March 31, 2005 - The projected level of property taxes will continue to be the \$11,959,721 that is currently employed in the Long Island Water Rate Plan. For the period August 1, 2003 through March 31, 2005, Long Island Water will defer for subsequent recovery through the RAC 85% of any property taxes above the projected level, and the remaining 15% will be borne by stockholders. For the same period, Long Island Water will defer and return to customers through the RAC 100% of any decrease in property taxes from the projected level.

3. Iron Removal Facilities. Long Island Water hereby formally confirms its commitment to proceed with the installation of iron removal facilities at Plants 12, 22 and 24, with the iron removal facilities at Plants 12 and 24 scheduled to be placed in service during the term of the Joint Proposal. The increase in revenue requirement associated with the installation of iron removal facilities at Plants 12 and 24, up to \$ 1.1 million, will be recovered by raising the RAC reconciliation target level by a commensurate amount (i.e., by \$ 1.1 million), timed to the in-service dates of the iron removal facilities. No more than \$7.7 million in capital costs will be reflected in rates.

4. Incremental Security Costs. To permit Long Island Water to recover an increase in revenue requirement associated with incremental, security-related activity, the RAC reconciliation target will be increased by \$100,000 effective on the date of the Commission's approval of this Joint Proposal. This resolves the Long Island Water pending petition in Case 02-W-0056.

5. Call Center/Shared Financial Services. The costs incurred, and to be incurred, relating to American's consolidation of the Call Center and Shared Financial Services function are the subject of a pending deferred accounting petition in Case 02-W-0054. As of

December 31, 2002. Long Island Water expects that it will have deferred about \$1,257,000 of such costs. Those costs will be amortized over a ten-year period. In resolution of Case 02-W-0054, to permit Long Island Water to recover fully the increase in revenue requirement associated with the Call Center/Shared Financial Services **function**, the UC reconciliation target will be increased by \$125,700 effective on the date of the Commission's approval of this Joint Proposal.

6. Demutualization Payment. In August 2001, Long Island Water received a one-time demutualization payment due to a prior workers' compensation carrier converting from a mutual insurance company to a corporation. Long Island Water agrees to treat such one-time payment as a deferred credit to be amortized over a ten-year period by decreasing the RAC reconciliation target by \$73,900 effective on the date of the Commission's approval of this Joint Proposal. The one-time demutualization payment, which was received in August 2001, will not be included in the earnings sharing mechanism for the rate year ending March 2002.

7. Earnings Sharing Mechanism. For the period August 1, 2003 to March 31, 2005, the earnings sharing threshold for Long Island Water remains at 10.4%. All earnings between 10.41% and, up to and including, 11.0% will continue to be shared 50%/50% between customers and stockholders. Earnings above 11.0% will continue to be allocated on the basis of 75% to customers and 25% to stockholders. The Parties agree and propose that the earnings sharing calculation adopted by the Commission in Case 99-W-0244 be amended to provide that the Long Island Water earnings will be calculated for the three year period, April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2005, on a composite basis.

8. Cash Management Practices. Long Island Water agrees to abide by any future generic Commission order regarding cash management practices.

9. Public Interest. The Parties agree that the stock acquisition and the Agreement and Plan of Merger will bring numerous benefits as provided in detail in the Joint Petition filed on December 20, 2001 in this proceeding. The Parties agree that the public interest will be promoted through the approval of the stock acquisition and the Agreement and Plan of Merger. The Parties, therefore, request that the Commission grant the relief requested in the Joint Petition.

### **III. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY OR RELATED ACTIONS**

If any law, rule, regulation, order or other requirement (or any repeal or amendment of an existing rule, regulation, order or other requirement) of the state, local or federal government results in a change in Long Island Water's annual operating expenses (including income or other federal tax expenses) not anticipated in the forecasts on which the rates are based and that would materially reduce or increase annual earnings, Long Island Water will defer the full effect of any such expense change, with any such deferrals to be reflected in rates in such manner as is determined by the Commission.

### **IV. PROVISIONS NOT SEVERABLE**

It is understood that this Joint Proposal represents a negotiated resolution of numerous issues. Each provision of this Joint Proposal is in consideration and support of all the other provisions herein, and is expressly conditioned upon acceptance of all others by the Commission. To the extent that the Commission fails to approve this Joint Proposal in its entirety and in accordance with its terms, then the parties to this Joint Proposal shall be free to pursue their respective positions in this proceeding without prejudice and upon reasonable notice to the other parties.

## **V. PRECEDENTIAL EFFECT**

The provisions of this Joint Proposal apply solely to and are binding only in the context of and for purposes of this Joint Proposal. None of the terms and provisions of this Joint Proposal and none of positions taken herein by any party may be referred to, cited or relied upon by any party in any fashion as precedent in any other **proceeding** before the Commission or any other regulatory agency or before any court of law, except in **furtherance** of the results and purposes of this Joint Proposal.

## **VI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS**

In the event of any disagreement over the interpretation of this Joint Proposal or the implementation of any of the provisions of this Joint Proposal, which cannot be resolved informally among the parties: the parties promptly shall **confer** and in good faith attempt to resolve such disagreement. If any such disagreement cannot be resolved by the parties, the matter shall be submitted to an Administrative Law Judge ("**ALJ**") designated by the Chief ALJ for a **determination** on an expedited basis using such procedures as the ALJ decides are appropriate under the circumstances. Within fifteen (15) days **from** the **ALJ's** decision, any party may petition the Commission for relief from the **ALJ's** determination on any disputed matter.



## VII. COUNTERPARTS

This Joint Proposal may be executed in counterpart originals, and shall be binding on each signatory party when the counterparts have been executed.

Agreed to as of this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2002



New York State  
Department of Public Service

By: David R. Van Ort, Esq.  
Staff Counsel

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Long Island Water Corporation and  
American Water Works Company, Inc.

By: Robert J. Gallo  
President of Long Island Water Corporation

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Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH

By: James McGivern  
Managing Director

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Apollo Acquisition Company

By: Ronald E. Walsh  
Secretary

AL-76828.2

## VII. COUNTERPARTS

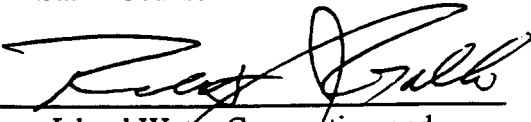
This Joint Proposal may be executed in counterpart originals, and shall be **binding** on each signatory party when the counterparts have been executed.

Agreed to as of this 1st day of October, 2002

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New York State  
Department of Public Service

By: David R. Van Ort, Esq.  
Staff Counsel



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Long Island Water Corporation and  
American Water Works Company, Inc.

By: Robert J. Gallo  
President of Long Island Water Corporation

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AL-76828.2

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Agreed to as of this 1<sup>st</sup>-day of October, 2002

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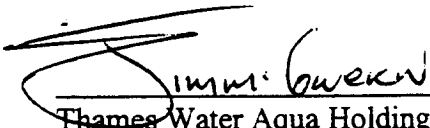
New York State  
Department of Public Service

By: David R. Van Ott, Esq.  
Staff Counsel

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Long Island Water Corporation and  
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By: Robert J. Gallo  
President of Long Island Water Corporation



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~~Thames~~ Water Aqua Holdings GmbH

By: James McGivern  
Managing Director

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Apollo Acquisition Company

By: Ronald E. Walsh  
Secretary

AL-76828.2

## VII. COUNTERPARTS

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Agreed to as of this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2002

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New **York State**  
Department of Public Service

By: David R. Van Ort, Esq.  
Staff Counsel

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Long Island Water Corporation and  
American Water Works Company, Inc.

By: Robert J. **Gallo**  
President of Long Island Water Corporation

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**Thames Water Aqua Holdings GmbH**

By: James **McGivern**  
Managing Director



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Apollo **Acquisition** Company

By: **Ronald E.** Walsh  
**Secretary**

**EXECUTION COPY**

**AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER**

Among

**RWE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT,**

**THAMES WATER AQUA HOLDINGS GMBH,**

**APOLLO ACQUISITION COMPANY**

**and**

**AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY, MC.**

Dated as of September **16, 2001**

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**EXHIBIT A** Certificate of **Incorporation**



AGREEMENT AND PLAN OF MERGER dated as of September 16, 2001, by and among RWE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, a company organized under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany ("Guarantor"), THAMES WATER AQUA HOLDINGS GMBH, a company organized under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany and a wholly owned subsidiary of Guarantor ("Parent"), APOLLO ACQUISITION COMPANY, a Delaware corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Parent ("Sub"), and AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC., a Delaware corporation (the "Company").

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of each of the Company and Sub has approved and declared advisable, the Supervisory Board of Guarantor has approved and deemed advisable, and the Managing Directors of Parent have approved and declared advisable, this Agreement and the merger of Sub with and into the Company (the "Merger"), upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, whereby each issued and outstanding share of Common Stock, par value \$1.25 per share, of the Company (the "Company Common Stock") not owned by Parent, Sub or the Company, other than the Appraisal Shares (as defined in Section 2.01(d)), will be converted into the right to receive \$46.00 in cash;

WHEREAS simultaneously with the execution and delivery of this Agreement, Parent and certain stockholders of the Company (the "Specified Company Stockholders") are entering into a voting agreement (the "Company Voting Agreement") pursuant to which the Specified Company Stockholders are agreeing to take certain actions in furtherance of the Merger; and

WHEREAS Guarantor, Parent, Sub and the Company desire to make certain representations, warranties, covenants and agreements in connection with the Merger and also to prescribe various conditions to the Merger.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the representations, warranties, covenants and agreements set forth herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

## ARTICLE I

### The Merger

SECTION 1.01. The Merger. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, and in accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law (the "DGCL"), Sub shall be merged with and into the Company at the Effective Time (as defined in Section 1.03). At the Effective Time, the separate corporate existence of Sub shall cease and the Company shall continue as the surviving corporation (the "Surviving Corporation") and shall succeed to and assume all the rights and obligations of Sub in accordance with the DGCL.

SECTION 1.02. Closing. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, the closing of the Merger (the "Closing") shall take place at 11 :00 am., New

**York time**, on the second business day after the satisfaction or **waiver** of the conditions set forth in Article **VI** (other than those that by their terms cannot be satisfied until the time of the Closing), at the offices of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, 825 Eighth Avenue, New York, New **York** 10019, or at such other time, date or place agreed to in writing by Parent and the **Company**, provided, **however**, that if all the conditions set forth in Article **VI** shall not have been **satisfied** or waived on such second business day, then the Closing shall take place on the first business day on which all such conditions shall have **been** satisfied or waived. The date on which the Closing occurs is **referred** to in this Agreement as the "Closing Date."

SECTION 1.03. Effective Time. Upon the terms and **subject** to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, as soon as practicable on or **after** the Closing Date, a certificate of merger or other appropriate documents (in any such case, the "Certificate of Merge") shall be duly prepared and executed by the parties in accordance with the relevant provisions of the **DGCL** and filed with the **Secretary of State** of the State of Delaware. The Merger shall become effective upon the filing of the Certificate of Merger with the **Secretary** of State of the State of Delaware or at such subsequent time or date as Parent and the Company shall agree and **specify** in the Certificate of Merger. The time at which the Merger becomes **effective** is referred to in this Agreement as the "Effective Time."

SECTION 1.04. Effects of the Merger. The **Merger** shall have the effects set forth in Section 259 of the **DGCL**.

SECTION 1.05. Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws. (a) The Restated **Certificate** of Incorporation of the **Company** shall be amended at the Effective **Time** to read in the **form** of **Exhibit A** and, as so amended, such Restated Certificate of Incorporation shall be the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the **Surviving Corporation** **until** thereafter changed or amended as provided therein or by applicable law.

(b) The By-laws of Sub as in **effect** immediately prior to the **Effective Time** shall be the By-laws of the Surviving Corporation until **thereafter** changed or amended as provided therein or by applicable law.

SECTION 1.06. Directors. (a) The directors of Sub immediately prior to the **Effective Time** **shall** be the directors of the Surviving Corporation until the earlier of their resignation or removal or until **their respective** successors are duly elected and qualified, as the **case may be**.

(b) Guarantor shall take all necessary action to cause J. James Barr to be elected as a **director**, as of the Effective Time, of **Thames Water Plc ("Thames")**.

(c) Guarantor shall take all necessary action to cause **Marilyn Ware** to be elected as a member, as of the Effective Time, of the **Thames Water International Advisory Council**.

SECTION I.07. Officers. The officers of the Company immediately prior to the Effective Time shall be ~~the~~ officers of the Surviving Corporation until the earlier of their resignation or removal or until their respective successors are duly, elected and qualified, as the case may be.

## ARTICLE II

### Conversion of Securities

SECTION 2.01. Conversion of **Capital** Stock. At the Effective Time, by virtue of the Merger and without any action on the part of the holder of any shares of capital stock of the Company or Sub:

(a) Capital Stock of Sub. Each issued and outstanding share **of common stock** of Sub shall be converted into and become one **fully** paid and **nonassessable** share of common stock, par value \$1 .00 per share, of the Surviving Corporation.

(b) Cancellation of **Treasury** Stock and Parent-Owned Stock Each share of Company Common Stock that is owned by the Company, as **treasury** stock, or by Parent or Sub immediately prior to the Effective Time shall automatically be canceled and shall cease to exist and no consideration shall be delivered or deliverable in exchange **therefor**.

(c) Conversion of **Company Common Stock**. Each share of Company Common Stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (other than shares to be canceled in accordance with Section 2.01 (b) and the Appraisal Shares) shall be converted into the right to receive \$46.00 in cash without interest (the "Merger Consideration"). At the **Effective** Time all **such** shares shall no longer be outstanding and shall automatically be canceled and shall cease to exist, and each holdn of a certificate that immediately prior to the Effective Time represented any such shares (a "**Certificate**") shall cease to have any rights with respect thereto, except the right **to** receive the **Merger Consideration** and any dividends declared and unpaid thereon **payable** to holders of record thereof as of a record date preceding the Effective Time. Following the **Effective** Time, upon **surrender** of **Certificates in accordance with Section 2.02, the Surviving Corporation** shall pay to the holders of Certificates as of the Effective Time any unpaid dividends declared in respect of the Company Common **Stock with a record date prior to the Effective** Time and which remain unpaid at the **Effective** Time, including the "stub period" dividend referred to in Section **4.01(a)(i)(x)(C)**.

(d) **Appraisal Rights.** Notwithstanding anything in this **Agreement to the** contrary, shares (the "Appraisal Shares") of Company Common **Stock** issued and outstanding immediately prior to the **Effective Time that are held by any holder who** is entitled to demand and properly demands appraisal of such **shares pursuant to, and who** complies in all respects with, the provisions of Section 262 of the **DGCL ("Section 262")** shall not be converted into the right to receive the Merger Consideration as provided in

Section 2.01(c), but instead such holder shall be **entitled** to payment of the fair value of **such shares** in accordance with the provisions of Section 262. At the **Effective Time**, **all** Appraisal Shares shall no longer be outstanding and shall automatically **be canceled and shall** cease to exist, and **each** holder of Appraisal Shares **shall** cease to have any rights **with respect thereto**, except the **right to** receive the fair value of such shares in accordance with the provisions of **Section 262**. Notwithstanding the foregoing if any such **holder shall fail to perfect** or otherwise shall waive, withdraw or lose the right to appraisal under Section 262 or a court of **competent jurisdiction shall determine** that such holder is not **entitled** to the relief provided by **Section 262**, then the right of such holder to be paid the **fair** value of such holder's Appraisal Shares under Section 262 shall cease and **each** such **Appraisal Share** shall be deemed to have been **converted** at the Effective Time into, **and shall have** become, the right to receive the Merger **Consideration** as provided in Section 2.01(c). The Company shall **serve** prompt notice to Parent of any demands for **appraisal of any shares** of Company Common Stock, and Parent **shall** have the right to participate in and direct all negotiations and proceedings with respect to such **demands**. Prior to the Effective Time, the Company **shall not, without** the prior written consent of Parent, make any payment with respect to, or **settle** or offer to settle, any such demands, or agree to do any of the foregoing

**SECTION 2.02. Exchange of Certificates.** (a) **Paying Agent.** Prior to the **Effective Time**, Parent shall designate a bank or trust company **reasonably** acceptable to the Company to act as agent for the payment of the **Merger Consideration** upon **surrender** of Certificates (the "Paying Agent"). Parent shall take all steps **necessary** to enable, and **shall cause, the Surviving Corporation** to provide to the Paying Agent **immediately following** the Effective Time all the cash necessary to **pay** for the shares of Company Common Stock converted **into the right to receive** the Merger Consideration pursuant to Section 2.01(c), plus any **amounts payable in** respect of unpaid dividends declared in respect of the Company Common Stock with a record date prior to the Effective Time and which remain unpaid at the Effective Time, including the "stub **period**" dividend **referred to in** Section 4.01(a)(i)(x)(C) (such cash being hereinafter referred to as the "Exchange Fund").

(b) **Exchange Procedure.** As soon as **reasonably practicable after the Effective Time**, the Paying Agent shall mail **to each holder** of record of a **Certificate** (i) a form of **letter of transmittal** (which **shall specify** that delivery **shall be effected**, and risk of loss and title to the **Certificates** held by **such person** shall pass, only upon proper delivery of the Certificates to **the Paying Agent** and shall be in **customary form and have** such other provisions as Parent may reasonably specify) and (ii) **instructions** for use in **effecting** the surrender of the Certificates **in exchange for** the Merger **Consideration**. Upon **surrender** of a Certificate for **cancellation** to the Paying Agent or to such other agent or agents as may be appointed by Parent, together with such **letter** of transmittal, duly completed **and validly** executed, and such other documents as may reasonably be required by the Paying Agent, the holder of such **Certificate shall be** entitled to receive in exchange **therefor** the amount of cash payable in respect of the shares **formerly** represented by such **Certificate pursuant** to Section 2.01(c), and the Certificate so surrendered **shall** forthwith be canceled. **In the event of** a **transfer of ownership** of Company **Common** Stock that is not registered in the stock **transfer** books of the

Company, the proper amount of cash may be paid in exchange **therefor** to a person other **than** the person in whose name the Certificate so surrendered is registered if such Certificate shall be properly endorsed or otherwise be in proper **form** for transfer and the person requesting such payment shall pay any transfer or other taxes required by reason of the payment to a person other than the registered holder of such Certificate or establish to the satisfaction of Parent that such tax has been paid or is not applicable. No interest shall be paid or shall accrue on the cash payable upon surrender of any Certificate.

(c) No Further Ownership Rights in Company Common Stock. **All** cash paid upon the surrender of a Certificate in accordance with the terms of this Article II shall be deemed to have been paid in full satisfaction of all rights pertaining to the shares of Company Common Stock formerly represented by such Certificate. At the close of **business** on the day on which the Effective Time occurs the stock transfer books of the Company shall be closed, and there shall be no further registration of transfers on the stock transfer books of the Surviving Corporation of the shares of Company Common Stock that were outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time. If, **after** the **Effective** Time, Certificates are presented to the Surviving Corporation or the Paying Agent for transfer or any other reason, they shall be canceled and exchanged as provided in this Article II.

(d) Termination of Exchange Fund. Any portion of the Exchange Fund that remains undistributed to the holders of Company Common Stock for one year **after** the Effective Time shall be delivered to the Surviving Corporation, upon demand, and any holder of Company Common Stock who has not theretofore complied with this Article II shall thereafter look only to the Surviving Corporation for payment of its claim for Merger Consideration.

(e) No Liability. None of Parent, the Surviving Corporation or the Paying Agent shall be liable to any person in respect of any cash delivered to a public official pursuant to any applicable abandoned property, escheat or similar law. If any Certificates shall not have been surrendered prior to three years **after** the Effective Time (or immediately prior to such earlier date on which any Merger Consideration would **otherwise** escheat to or become the property of any Governmental Entity (as defined in Section 3 .01 (d)), any such Merger Consideration in respect thereof **shall**, to the extent permitted by **applicable** law, become the property of the Surviving Corporation, **free** and clear of all claims or interest of any person previously entitled thereto.

(f) Investment of Exchange Fund. The Paying Agent shall invest any cash included in the Exchange Fund, as directed by Parent, on a daily basis; provided, however, that such investments shall be in (i) obligations of or guaranteed by the United States of America and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America, (ii) commercial paper obligations rated A-1 or P-1 or better by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or Standard & Poor's Corporation, respectively, (iii) certificates of deposit **maturing** not more than 180 days after the date of purchase issued by a bank organized under the laws of the United States or any state thereof having a combined capital and

surplus of at least \$500,000,000 or (iv) a money market fund having assets of at least \$3,000,000,000. Any interest and other income resulting from such investments shall be paid to Parent.

(g) Lost Certificates. If any Certificate shall have been lost, stolen, defaced or destroyed, upon the making of an affidavit of that fact by the person claiming such Certificate to be lost, stolen, defaced or destroyed and, if required by the Surviving Corporation, the posting by such person of a bond in such reasonable amount as the Surviving Corporation may direct as indemnity against any claim that may be made against it with respect to such Certificate, the Paying Agent shall pay in respect of such lost, stolen, defaced or destroyed Certificate the Merger Consideration.

(h) Withholding Rights. Parent, the Surviving Corporation or the Paying Agent shall be entitled to deduct and withhold any applicable taxes from the consideration otherwise payable pursuant to this Agreement to any holder of shares of company common Stock.

SECTION 2.03. Redemption of Preferred Stock and Preference Stock. On or prior to the date on which the Effective Time occurs, but in any event prior to the Effective Time, the Company shall redeem (the "Stock Redemption") (i) each issued and outstanding share of its Cumulative Preferred Stock, 5% Series, par value \$25.00 per share (the "Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock"), for a redemption price of \$25.25 per share plus an amount equal to full cumulative dividends thereon (as defined in Section 6 ("Section 6") of Division A of Article Fourth of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended to the date of this Agreement) to the redemption date (as defined in Section 6) and (ii) each issued and outstanding share of its 5% Cumulative Preference Stock, par value \$25.00 per share (the "Company 5% Cumulative Preference Stock" and, together with the Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock and the Company Common Stock, the "Company Capital Stock"), for a redemption price of \$25.00 per share plus an amount equal to full cumulative dividends thereon (as defined in Section 5 ("Section 5") of Division B of Article Fourth of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, as amended to the date of this Agreement) to the redemption date (as defined in Section 5) (the redemption price for the Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock and the Company 5% Cumulative Preference Stock being referred to as the "Redemption Price").

## ARTICLE III

### Representations and Warranties

SECTION 3.01. Representations and Warranties of the Company. The Company represents and warrants to Parent and Sub as follows:

(a) Organization, Standing and Power. Each of the Company and each of its subsidiaries (as defined in Section 8.03) (i) is duly organized, validly existing and in good

standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organization, (ii) has **all** requisite corporate power and authority to carry on its business as now being conducted and (iii) except **as** set forth in Section 3.01 (a) of the disclosure schedule delivered by the Company to Parent prior to the execution of this Agreement (the "Company Disclosure Schedule"), is duly qualified or licensed to do business and is in good standing to do business in each jurisdiction in which the nature of its business or the ownership, **leasing** or operation of its properties makes such qualification or licensing necessary, other than where the failure to be so qualified or licensed or in good standing individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be **expected** to have a material adverse effect (as **defined** in Section 8.03). The Company has made available to Parent and its representatives true and complete copies of (A) the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws of the Company by reference to the Filed SEC Documents (as defined in Section **3.01(e)**), in each case as amended to the date of this Agreement and **(B)** the minutes of all meetings of the stockholders, the Board of Directors and each committee of the Board of Directors of the Company since June 1, 1998.

**(b) Subsidiaries.** Section 3.01 (b)(i) of the Company Disclosure Schedule contains a true and complete list of each Significant Subsidiary (as defined in Section 8.03) of the Company as of the date of this Agreement, including its jurisdiction of organization, the Company's interest therein and a brief description of the principal **line** or lines of business conducted by each such Significant Subsidiary. Except as set **forth** in Section **3.01(b)(i)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule, all the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests in, each subsidiary of the Company as of the date of this Agreement are owned by the Company, by another wholly owned subsidiary of the Company or by the Company and another wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, free and clear of all material pledges, claims, liens, charges, encumbrances and security interests of any kind or nature whatsoever (collectively, "Liens"), and are duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable. Except for the capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests in, **its** subsidiaries and as set forth in Section 3.01 **(b)(ii)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule, as of the date of this **Agreement**, the Company does not own, directly or indirectly, any capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests **in**, any corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, limited liability company or **other** entity.

**(c) Capital Structure.** The authorized capital stock of the Company consists of (i) **300,000,000** shares of Company Common **Stock**, (ii) **1,770,000** shares of Cumulative **Preferred** Stock, par value **\$25.00** per share (the "Company Cumulative **Preferred** Stock"), of which 101,777 shares have been designated as Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock, (iii) 750,000 shares of Cumulative Preference Stock, par value \$25.00 per share (the "Company Cumulative Preference Stock"), of which 365,158 shares have been designated as Company 5% Cumulative **Preference** Stock and (iv) **3,000,000** shares of Cumulative Preferential Stock, par value **\$35.00** per share (the "Company Cumulative **Preferential** Stock"). As of the close of business on September 10, 2001, (1) **99,8** 17,628 shares of Company Common Stock (excluding shares held by the Company as treasury shares) were issued and outstanding, (2) 63,693 shares of Company Common Stock were held by the Company as treasury shares, (3) **2,232,100**

shares of Company Common Stock were reserved for issuance pursuant to the Company's 2000 Stock Award and Incentive Plan and the Company's **Long-Term Performance-Based Incentive Plan** (such plans, collectively, **the "Compaq Stock Plans"**), of which **905,751** shares were subject to outstanding Company Stock **Options** (as defined below), (4) **the** following number of shares of **Company** Common Stock were reserved (or registered with the SEC (as defined in Section 3.01 (d)) for issuance pursuant to each of the following Company Benefit Plans (as defined below): 876,125 **shares** under the Savings Plan For Employees of American Water Works Company, Inc. and its Designated Subsidiaries, 942,157 shares under the Employees' Stock Ownership **Plan** of **American** Water Works Company, Inc. and its Designated Subsidiaries, **50,000** shares under the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, 10,000 **shares** under **the** Company's Director Deferred Compensation Plan and **1,755,049 shares** under **the** Company's Dividend Reinvestment and Stock **Purchase** Plan (collectively, **the "Other Company Stock Plans"**), (5) **80,865,863 shares** of Company Common Stock were reserved for issuance **in** connection with the **rights** (the 'Company Rights' issued pursuant to the Rights Agreement dated as of February **18, 1999**, as amended as of June **1, 2000** (as amended **from** time to time (**the "Company Rights Agreement"**))), between **the** Company and **BankBoston N.A.** (presently **known** as Fleet National **Bank**), as **Rights** Agent, (6) 101,777 shares of Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock were issued **and** outstanding, (7) 365,158 shares of Company 5% Cumulative Preference Stock **were** issued and outstanding, (8) **no shares of Company Cumulative Preferred Stock (other than the Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock) were issued and outstanding**, (9) no shares of Company Cumulative **Preference** Stock (**other than the Company 5% Cumulative Preference** Stock) were issued and outstanding and (10) no **shares** of Company Cumulative **Preferential** Stock were issued and **outstanding**. **There are no** outstanding stock appreciation rights or **other** rights **that** are linked to **the** price of Company Common Stock granted under **any** Company Stock Plan **whether** or **not** granted in tandem **with** a related Company Stock Option (as defined below). No **shares** of Company Capital Stock are owned by any subsidiary of the Company. As of **the** close of business on September **10, 2001**, there were outstanding options to **purchase** Company Common Stock granted under **the** Company Stock Plans (collectively, **the "Company Stock Options"**) to purchase 905,751 shares of Company Common Stock with exercise prices on a per share basis lower than the Merger **Consideration**, and the **weighted** average exercise price of **such** Company Stock Options was equal to \$23.65. Except as set forth above, as of the **close** of **business** on September **10, 2001**, no shares of capital stock **of**, or **other** equity or voting **interests in**, the Company, or **options, warrants or other** rights to acquire **any** such stock or securities, were issued, **reserved** for issuance or outstanding. During the **period from** September **10, 2001** to **the** date **of this** Agreement, (x) **there** have been no issuances by the Company of **shares** of capital stock **of**, or other equity or voting interests **in**, the Company **other than** issuances **of shares of Company** Common Stock pursuant to the exercise of Company Stock Options outstanding **on such date in accordance with their terms as in effect on the date of this Agreement** and (y) there have been no **issuances** by **the** Company of **options, warrants or other rights to acquire shares of capital stock or other equity or voting interests from the Company**. All outstanding shares of capital stock **of the** Company **are, and all shares that may be** issued pursuant to the Company Stock Plans and Other Company Stock **Plans will be, when**



issued **in** accordance with the terms thereof, duly authorized, **validly** issued, fully paid and nonassessable and not subject to preemptive rights. There are no bonds, debentures, notes or other indebtedness of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, and, except as set forth above, no securities or other instruments or obligations of the Company or any of its subsidiaries the value of which is in any way based upon or derived **from** any capital or voting stock of the Company, having in any such case at any time (whether actual or contingent) the right to vote (or convertible into, or exchangeable for, securities having the **right** to vote) on any matters on which stockholders of the Company or any of its subsidiaries may vote. Except as set forth above and except as specifically permitted under Section 4.01 (a) (including as set forth in Section **4.01(a)(ii)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule), there are no Contracts (as **defined** in Section 3.01 (d)) of any kind to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or by which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is bound obligating the Company or any of its subsidiaries to issue, deliver or **sell**, or cause to be issued, delivered or sold, additional shares of capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests **in**, or securities convertible into, or exchangeable or exercisable for, shares of capital stock of; or other equity or voting interests in, the Company or any of its subsidiaries or obligating the Company or any of its subsidiaries to issue, **grant**, extend or enter into any such security, option, warrant, call, right or Contract. Except for the Stock Redemption and the redemption terms of any **preferred** stock of any of the Company's subsidiaries and as permitted by Section **4.01(a)(i)(y)**, there are not any outstanding contractual obligations of the Company or any of its subsidiaries to (I) repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests in, the Company or any of its subsidiaries as of the date of this Agreement or **(II)** vote or dispose of any shares of the capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests in, any of the **Company's** subsidiaries as of the date of this Agreement. The copy of the Company Rights Agreement on file with the SEC (as **defined** in Section **3.01(d)**) as an exhibit to the Form 8-A Registration Statement of the Company filed with the SEC on March **1, 1999**, **as** amended by the amendment thereto on file with the SEC as an exhibit to the Form 8-A Registration Statement of the Company filed on June **1, 2000**, is complete and **correct**.

(d) **Authority. Noncontravention.** (i) The Company has the requisite corporate power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and, subject to the Stockholder Approval (as defined in Section **3.01(n)**) and the Company Required Consents (as defined below), to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby. The execution and delivery of this Agreement by the Company and the **consummation** by the Company of the transactions contemplated hereby have **been** duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the **part** of the Company and no other corporate proceedings on the part of the Company are necessary to approve this Agreement or the Company Voting Agreement or **to** consummate the transactions contemplated hereby or thereby subject, in the case of the **consummation** of the Merger, to obtaining the Stockholder Approval (**assuming consummation** of the Stock Redemption). This Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by the Company and constitutes a valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms. The Board of Directors of the Company, at a meeting duly **called** and held at which all directors of the Company were present, duly and **unanimously** adopted

resolutions (A) approving the Stock Redemption and the Company Voting Agreement and approving and declaring advisable this Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby, (B) directing that this Agreement be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the Company's stockholders and (C) **recommending that the** Company's stockholders adopt this Agreement. In its determination of **whether** the Merger is in the best interests of the **Company's** stockholders, the Board of Directors of the Company has complied with the **provisions** of Article Tenth of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company. The execution and delivery of this Agreement **and** the Company Voting Agreement and the **consummation** of the transactions contemplated hereby and **thereby and compliance** with the provisions hereof and **thereof** do not and will not conflict with, or result in any violation or breach **of**, or default (with or without notice or lapse of time, or both) under, or give rise to a right **of**, or result in, termination, **cancelation** or **acceleration** of any obligation **or** to loss of a material benefit **under**, or result in the creation of any **Lien** in or upon any of the properties or assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries under, or give rise to **any increased**, additional, accelerated or guaranteed rights or **entitlements** under, any provision of(x) the Restated Certificate of **Incorporation** or By-laws of the Company or the certificate of incorporation or by-laws (or similar organizational documents) of any of its subsidiaries, (y) subject to obtaining the third party **consents** set forth in Section 3.01(d) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, any loan or credit agreement, bond, debenture, note, mortgage, indenture, guarantee, lease or **other contract**, agreement, **instrument, arrangement or understanding, whether oral or written (each, including all amendments thereto, a "Contract")**, to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or any of their **respective properties** or assets is subject or (z) **subject to obtaining** the Company Required Consents and the receipt of the Stockholder Approval and the other matters **referred** to in the following sentence, any (A) statute, law, ordinance, rule or regulation applicable to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or their **respective properties** or assets ("Applicable Law"), (B) **judgment**, order or **decree applicable** to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or their respective **properties** or assets ("Judgment"), or (C) Permit (as **defined** in Section 3.01(h)) **other** than, in the case of clauses (y) and (z), any such **conflicts**, violations, breaches, **defaults, rights, losses**, Liens or **entitlements** that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. No consent, approval, order or authorization of; **registration**, declaration or filing with, or notice to, any domestic or foreign (**whether** national, **federal**, state, provincial, local or otherwise) government or any **court, administrative** agency or commission **or other governmental** or regulatory authority or agency (including a state public **utility commission**, state public **service commission or similar state regulatory body (each, a "PUC")) (each a "Governmental Entity")**, is required by or with respect to the Company or any of its subsidiaries in connection with (I) the execution and delivery of this **Agreement** by the Company, (II) the execution and delivery of the Company Voting Agreement or (III) the **consummation** of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby or compliance with the provisions hereof and **thereof**, except for (1) the filing of a **premerger** notification and report form by the Company under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended (the "**HSR Act**"), and the **receipt**, termination **or expiration**, as applicable, **of such other approvals or waiting** periods **required under** any other applicable competition, merger control, **antitrust** or similar law

or regulation, including, if the Company has completed its acquisition of **Azurix** North America Corp. and **Azurix** Industrials Corp. prior to the Closing, the competition, merger control, antitrust or similar laws or regulations of Canada or the Investment Canada Act, if applicable, (2) the filing **with** the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) of a proxy statement relating to the adoption by **the** Company’s stockholders of this Agreement (as amended or supplemented **from** time to time, the “Proxy **Statement**”) **and** such reports under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), as may be required in connection with this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby and thereby, (3) the filing of the Certificate of Merger with the **Secretary** of State of the State of Delaware and appropriate documents with the relevant authorities of **other** states in which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is qualified to do business, (4) any filings required **under** the rules and regulations of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”), (5) such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices required under Applicable Laws and Judgments of any PUC, (6) such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, **registrations**, declarations, filings and notices **required** under Applicable Laws and Judgments of any state departments of public health or departments of health or similar state regulatory bodies or of any federal or state regulatory **body** having jurisdiction over environmental protection or environmental conservation or similar matters (collectively, “Health Agencies”), (7) such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices required to be obtained from or made to any **non-U.S. Governmental Entity** due solely to the identity or involvement of Guarantor, Parent, Sub or any of **their respective** subsidiaries and (8) **such** other consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices the failure of which **to be obtained** or made individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. Consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices (x) described (i) in the foregoing clause (5) that are required to be obtained or made by the Company or any of its subsidiaries and (ii) in the foregoing clause (6) the failure of which to obtain or make would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse **effect** or (y) of any Governmental Entity that would not be required to be obtained or made by the Company or any of its subsidiaries but for an acquisition of a business or asset by the Company or any of its subsidiaries that is **consummated after** the date of this Agreement the failure of which to **obtain** or make would reasonably be expected to have a **material** adverse effect are hereinafter **referred** to as the “Company Required Consents.”

(ii) The Company and the Board of Directors of the Company have taken **all** action **necessary** to (A) render the Company Rights inapplicable to **the** execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and the Company Voting Agreement and to the **consummation** of the Merger and any acquisition of Company Common Stock contemplated by Section **4.03(b)** and **(B)** ensure that (x) neither Parent nor any of its affiliates or associates is or will become an “**Acquiring Person**” (as defined in the Company **Rights** Agreement) by reason of the execution, delivery and **performance** of this Agreement or the Company Voting Agreement or by reason of **the consummation of the** Merger or any acquisition of Company Common Stock contemplated by **Section 4.03(b), (y)**

neither a "Distribution Date" nor a "Triggering Event" (each as **defined** in the Company Rights Agreement) shall occur by reason of the execution, delivery and **performance of this** Agreement or the Company Voting Agreement or by reason **of the consummation** of the Merger or any acquisition of Company Common Stock contemplated by Section **4.03(b)** and (z) except as set forth in Section **3.01 (d)(ii)** of the Company **Disclosure** Schedule, the Company Rights **shall** terminate or be redeemed prior to the Effective Time.

(e) SEC Documents. The Company has filed **with** the **SEC** all forms, **reports**, schedules, statements and other documents required to be filed **with** the SEC by the Company since January **1, 2000** (together with all information incorporated therein by reference, the "SEC Documents"). **Except** as set **forth** in Section **3.01(e)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule, no subsidiary of the Company is required to **file** any form, report, schedule, statement or other document with the SEC. As of **their respective** dates, the SEC Documents complied in **all** material **respects** with the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "**Securities** Act") or the **Exchange** Act, as the case may be, and the rules and regulations of the SEC promulgated thereunder applicable to such SEC Documents, and none of the SEC Documents at the time they were filed contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact **required** to be stated **therein** or **necessary** in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were **made**, not misleading **Except** to the extent that information contained in any SEC Document **filed** and **publicly available** prior to the date of this **Agreement** (a "Tiled SEC **Document**") has been revised or superseded by a later **filed** Filed SEC Document, none of the SEC Documents **contains** any untrue **statement** of a material **fact** or **omits to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make** the statements therein, in light of the **circumstances** under which they were made, not **misleading. The financial statements** (including the related notes) **included** in the SEC Documents comply as to form in **all** material **respects** with applicable **accounting** requirements and the published rules and regulations of the SEC with respect thereto, have **been** prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting **principles** in the United States ("**GAAP**") (**except**, in the case of unaudited **statements**, as permitted by Form 10-Q of the SEC) applied on a consistent basis during the periods involved (except as may be indicated in the notes thereto) and fairly present in **all** material **respects** the consolidated **financial** position of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries as of the dates thereof and their consolidated results of operations and cash flows for the periods then ended (**subject**, in the case of **unaudited** statements, to normal, **recurring** year-end audit adjustments).

(f) Absence of Certain Changes or Events. Since December **31, 2000**, the Company and its subsidiaries have conducted **their respective** businesses only in the ordinary course consistent with past practice and other than as set forth in the Filed SEC **Documents**, there has not been (i) prior to the date of this **Agreement**, any state of facts, change, **development**, effect, condition or **occurrence that individually or in the aggregate** constitutes, has had, **or would reasonably be** expected to have, **a material** adverse **effect**, (ii) prior to the date of **this** Agreement, any declaration, setting aside **or** payment of any dividend on, or other **distribution** (whether in cash, stock or **property**) **in respect of**, any of

the Company's or any of its subsidiaries' capital stock or other equity or voting interests, except for dividends by a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company to its shareholders and except for the regular quarterly cash dividend with respect to (w) preferred stock of the Company's subsidiaries, in accordance with the terms thereof, (x) the Company Common Stock in ~~the~~ amount of SO.235 per share, in accordance with the Company's past dividend policy, (y) the Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock in the amount of \$0.3 125 per share, in accordance with the terms thereof, and (z) the Company 5% Cumulative Preference Stock in the amount of SO.3 125 per share, in accordance with the terms thereof, (iii) prior to the date of this Agreement, any purchase, redemption or other acquisition of any shares of capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests in, the Company or any options, **warrants**, calls or rights to acquire such shares or other interests, (iv) prior to ~~the~~ date of this Agreement, any split, combination or reclassification of any of the Company's capital stock or other equity or voting interests or any issuance or the authorization of any issuance **of any other** securities in respect **of**, in lieu of or in substitution for shares of capital stock of, or ~~other~~ equity or voting interests in, the Company, (v) prior to the date of this Agreement, any material unfunded liability incurred as a result of any entry by ~~the~~ Company or any of its subsidiaries into, or any amendment of, any Company Benefit Plan (as defined in Section **3.01(k)**), (vi) prior to the date of this Agreement, any change in financial or tax accounting methods, principles or practices by the Company or any of its subsidiaries, except insofar as may have been required by a change in **GAAP** or Applicable Law, (vii) except as set forth in **Section 3.01(f)(vii)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule, prior to the date of this **Agreement**, any material election with respect to taxes by the Company or any of its subsidiaries or any settlement or compromise of any material tax liability or refund or (viii) prior to the date of this Agreement, any revaluation by the Company or any of its subsidiaries of any of the material assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

(g) **Litigation** Except as set forth in the Filed SEC Documents and except as set forth in Section 3.01(g) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, there is no suit, claim, action or proceeding pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened against the Company or any of its subsidiaries or any of their respective assets that individually or in the aggregate would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, nor is there any Judgment of any Governmental Entity or arbitrator outstanding against, or, to the knowledge of the Company, investigation, notice of violation, order of forfeiture or **complaint** by any **Governmental** Entity against, the Company or any of its subsidiaries that individually or in the aggregate would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect.

(h) **Compliance with Laws**. Except as set forth in Section **3.01(h)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule, and except with respect to Environmental Laws (as defined in Section **3.01(j)**), the Employee **Retirement** Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("**ERISA**"), and taxes, which are the subject of Sections **3.01(j)**, **3.01(k)** and **3.01(l)**, respectively, or as set forth in the Filed SEC Documents, the Company and its **subsidiaries** are in compliance with all Applicable Laws and Judgments of **any Governmental** Entity applicable to their businesses or operations, except for instances of noncompliance that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to

have a material adverse effect. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has received, since January 1, 2001, a written notice or other written communication alleging a possible violation by the Company or any of its subsidiaries of any Applicable Law or Judgment of any Governmental Entity applicable to its businesses or operations, except for written notices or other written communications alleging possible violations that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. The Company and its subsidiaries have in effect all material permits, licenses, variances, exemptions, authorizations, franchises, orders and approvals of all Governmental Entities (collectively, 'Permits'), necessary or advisable for them to own, lease or operate their properties and assets and to carry on their businesses as now conducted, except for those which the failure to obtain individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is in violation of, default (with or without notice or lapse of time or both) under, or event giving to any other person any right of termination, amendment or cancellation of, with or without notice or lapse of time or both, any Permit of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, except for any such violations, defaults or events that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect.

(i) [Intentionally omitted].

(j) Environmental Matters. Except as disclosed in the SEC Documents and as set forth in Section 3.01(j) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, and except for such matters that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect: (i) each of the Company and its subsidiaries possesses all Environmental Permits (as defined below) necessary to conduct its businesses and operations; (ii) each of the Company and its subsidiaries is in compliance with all applicable Environmental Laws and all applicable Environmental Permits, and none of the Company or its subsidiaries has received any written communication from any Governmental Entity or other person that alleges that the Company or any of its subsidiaries has violated or is liable under any Environmental Law or Environmental Permit; (iii) there are no Environmental Claims (as defined below) pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened in writing (A) against the Company or any of its subsidiaries or (B) against any person whose liability for any such Environmental Claim the Company or any of its subsidiaries has retained or assumed, either contractually or by operation of law, and (iv) to the knowledge of the Company, there have been no Releases (as defined below) of any Hazardous Materials (as defined below) that would reasonably be expected to form the basis of any Environmental Claim or any liability under any Environmental Law or Environmental Permit.

For the purposes of this Agreement: (A) "Environmental Claims" means any and all administrative, regulatory or judicial actions, orders, decrees, suits, demands, demand letters, directives, claims, liens, investigations, proceedings or notices of noncompliance or violation by any Governmental Entity or other Person alleging liability arising out of, based on or related to (x) the presence, Release or threatened Release of; or exposure to, any Hazardous Materials at any location, whether or not owned, operated, leased or

managed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries, or (y) any other circumstances forming the basis of any violation or alleged violation of any **Environmental** Law or Environmental Permit; **(B)** "Environmental Laws" means all laws, rules, regulations, orders, decrees, common law, judgments or binding agreements issued, promulgated or entered into by or with any Governmental Entity relating to pollution or protection of the environment (including ambient air, surface water, groundwater, soils or subsurface strata) or to health and safety as affected by the exposure to Hazardous Materials, including laws and regulations relating to the presence of, exposure to, Release of or threatened Release of Hazardous Materials or otherwise relating to the generation, manufacture, processing, distribution, use, treatment, storage, recycling, transport, handling of, or the arrangement for such activities with respect to, Hazardous Materials; **(C)** "Environmental Permits" means all permits, licenses, certificates, registrations, waivers, exemptions and other authorizations required under applicable Environmental Laws; **(D)** "Hazardous Materials" means **all** hazardous, toxic, explosive or radioactive substances, wastes or other pollutants, including (x) petroleum, petroleum distillates and all other hydrocarbons, asbestos or asbestos-containing material, and **(y)** all other substances or wastes of any nature prohibited, limited or regulated as harmful to or polluting of or in order to protect the environment; and **(E)** "Release" means any release, **spill**, emission, leaking, dumping, injection, pouring, deposit, disposal, discharge, dispersal, leaching or migration into or through the environment (**including** ambient air, surface water, **groundwater**, land surface or subsurface strata) or within any building, structure, facility or fixture.

**(k) ERISA Compliance.** (i) Section 3.01 (k)(i) of the Company Disclosure Schedule contains a true and complete list of any benefit, employment, personal services, collective bargaining, compensation, change in control, severance+ time-off or perquisite **agreement**, plan, policy or other similar arrangement, **(A)** covering one or more current or former employees or directors of, or current or former independent contractors with respect to, the Company or any of its subsidiaries (each, a "Participant"), and maintained by the Company and/or one or more of its subsidiaries or **(B)** with respect to which the Company **and/or any** of its subsidiaries has or would reasonably be expected to have any liability (collectively, "Company Benefit Plans"). The Company has provided or made available to Parent **true** and complete copies of (1) each Company Benefit Plan (or, in the case of any unwritten Company Benefit Plans, descriptions thereof), (2) the most recent annual report on Form 5500 required to be filed with the United States Internal Revenue Service (the **"IRS"**) with respect to each Company Benefit Plan (if any such report was required), (3) the most recent summary plan description for each Company Benefit Plan for which such summary plan description is required and (4) each trust agreement and group annuity contract relating to any Company Benefit Plan; provided that any of the foregoing not provided to Parent as of the date of this Agreement shall be delivered to Parent promptly but in no event later than 30 days following the date of this Agreement. Each Company Benefit Plan has been administered in accordance with its terms, **except** where the failure so to be administered individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. The Company and its subsidiaries and all the Company Benefit Plans are in compliance with all applicable provisions of **ERISA** and the Code, except for instances of **possible** noncompliance **that**

individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect Except as set forth in Section 3.01 (k)(i) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, all Company Benefit Plans that are intended to be qualified under **Section 401(a)** of the Code have received favorable determination letters **from** the IRS to the effect that such Company Benefit Plans are qualified and exempt **from** Federal **income** taxes under Sections 401(a) and 501(a), **respectively**, of the Code, and no such **determination** letter has been revoked nor, to the knowledge of the Company, has revocation been threatened, and nothing has **occurred** since the **date** of **such** letter that would reasonably be expected to adversely **affect** its qualification. There is not pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened any litigation relating to the Company **Benefit** Plans that individually or in the aggregate would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse **effect**.

(ii) Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries, nor any Company Benefit Plan which is subject to **ERISA**, has engaged in a "prohibited transaction" (as such term is defined in Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code) or any other breach of fiduciary responsibility **that could** subject the **Company**, any of its subsidiaries or any officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries to the tax or penalty on prohibited **transactions** imposed by **such** Section 4975 or to any liability under Section 502(i) or **502(1)** of ERISA, except for any **such** tax, penalty or liability that individually or in the **aggregate** would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse **effect**. **All contributions and premiums** required to be made under **the** terms of any Company Benefit Plan **as of the date** hereof have been timely made or have been reflected on the most recent consolidated balance sheet **filed** or in-rated by reference in the Filed SEC Documents, except as, **individually** or in the aggregate, would reasonably be expected to have a material **adverse effect**.

(iii) Except as, individually or in the aggregate, would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, the **deduction** of any amount payable pursuant to the terms of the Company Benefit Plans would not **reasonably** be expected to be subject to disallowance under Section 162(m) (**before** giving effect to Section **162(m)(4)(F)**) of the Code for taxable years of the Company ending prior to the date hereof

(iv) Section **3.01(k)(iv)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule contains a list of **all** Company Benefit Plans which, as a **consequence** of **the consummation** of the Merger, are reasonably expected to (x) entitle any Participant to severance pay **and/or (y)** accelerate the time of payment or vesting or trigger any payment or **funding** (whether through a **grantor** trust or **otherwise**) of compensation or benefits under, increase the amount payable or trigger any other material obligation.

(v) The Company has **provided to Parent a true and complete** copy of the Report (as **hereinafter** defined) given to the compensation **committee** of the



board of directors of the Company containing the **estimates of any** payments and/or benefits that would reasonably be expected to be received (whether in cash or property or the vesting of property) as a result of the **Merger or any other** transaction contemplated by this Agreement (including as a result of termination of employment on or following the Effective Time) by any Participant who is a “disqualified individual” (as such term is defined in proposed Treasury Regulation Section 1.280G-1) (each, a “Primary Company Executive”) under any Company Benefit Plan (including any additional payment **from** the Company or any of its subsidiaries or any other person in the **event that the excise tax under** Section 4999 of the Code is imposed on such individual) **that would be reasonably** be expected to be paid to the **Primary** Company Executives as a result **of the** Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this **Agreement** (including **as** a result of termination of employment on or following the **Effective Time**) **under all** Company Benefit Plans and **(y)** the ‘base amount’ (as **defined** in Section **280G(b)(3)** of the Code) for each Primary **Company Executive, all as** calculated and set forth **in** the report (dated August **1, 2001**) prepared **by the compensation** consultant retained by the Company (the “Report”). To the **knowledge of the** Company, the information provided to the compensation consultant that prepared the Report is accurate in all material respects.

(l) **Except as would not, individually or in the aggregate with respect** to clause (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv), reasonably be expected **to have** a material adverse effect: (i) Each of the Company and each of its subsidiaries has filed (or caused to be **filed**) all tax returns required to be filed by it and all such returns are true, **complete and correct, or requests for extensions to file such tax returns have been timely filed, granted and have** not expired. Each of the Company and each of its subsidiaries has paid (or caused to be paid) all taxes shown as due **on such tax returns**, and the most **recent financial statements** contained in the Filed SEC Documents reflect an adequate **reserve (in addition to any** reserve for **deferred** taxes established to reflect timing differences **between** book and tax income) of tax for all taxes payable by each of the Company **and each of its subsidiaries** for all taxable periods and portions thereof accrued **through the date of such financial** statements.

(ii) **Except as set forth in Section 3.0 1 (l)(ii) of the Company** Disclosure Schedule, **no tax return** of the Company **or any of its subsidiaries is** under audit or examination by any **taxing authority**, and **no written notice of such an audit or examination has been received by the Company or any of its subsidiaries. There is no** deficiency, refund litigation., written proposed adjustment or matter in controversy with respect to any taxes due and owing by the Company **or** any of its subsidiaries. Each deficiency resulting **from** any completed **audit or examination relating to taxes by any taxing authority has been** timely paid, except for such deficiencies being contested in good faith **and for** which adequate reserves are reflected on the books of the Company. The United States Federal income tax returns of the Company and each of its subsidiaries consolidated in such tax returns have been either examined by **and settled with the**

IRS or closed by virtue of the applicable statute of limitations and no requests for waivers of the time to assess any such taxes are pending

(iii) **No liens** for taxes (other than **for current** taxes not yet due and **payable** or for taxes being contested in good faith and **for which** adequate **reserves** are reflected on the books of the Company) exist with respect to any assets or properties of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is bound by any agreement with respect to the allocation, indemnification or sharing of taxes.

(iv) Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has constituted either a **“distributing corporation”** or a **“controlled corporation”** in a distribution of stock qualifying for **tax-free** treatment under Section **355** of the Code (x) in the two years prior to the date of this Agreement or (y) in a **distribution** which **could otherwise** constitute part of a **“plan”** or **“series of related transactions”** (within the meaning of Section 355(e) of the Code) in conjunction with the Merger.

(v) As used in this Agreement, (A) **“taxes” shall** include (I) all forms of taxation, whenever created or imposed, and whether domestic or foreign, and whether imposed by a national, federal, state, provincial, local or other **Governmental** Entity, including **all** interest, penalties and additions imposed with respect to such **amounts**, (2) liability for the payment of any amounts of the type **described** in clause (1) as a result of being a member of an **affiliated**, consolidated, combined or unitary group and (3) liability for the payment of any amounts as a **result of being party to any tax sharing agreement or as a result of any express or implied obligation to indemnify any** other person with respect to the payment of any amount described in clause (1) or (2) and (B) **“tax returns” shall mean all** domestic or foreign (whether **national, federal**, state, provincial, local or otherwise) **returns**, declarations, statements, reports, schedules, forms and information returns relating to taxes and any amended tax **return**.

(m) State Takeover Statutes. Assuming the accuracy of the **representations** and warranties set forth in Section **3.02(h)**, the approval by the Board of Directors of the Company of this **Agreement**, the Company Voting Agreement and the Merger and any acquisition of Company Common Stock contemplated by Section **4.03(b)** constitutes approval of this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement **and** the **Merger** and any acquisition of Company Common **Stock** contemplated by Section **4.03(b)** for **purposes** of Section 203 **of the DGCL and such** approval **represents the only action necessary to** ensure that the restrictions contained in Section 203(a) of the **DGCL** do not and will not apply to the **performance** of this Agreement, to the **consummation** of the Merger in accordance with the **provisions** of this Agreement or any **acquisition** of Company Common Stock contemplated by Section **4.03(b)** or to the Company Voting **Agreement**. Assuming the accuracy of the **representations** and warranties **set forth** in section **3.02(h)**, no other state takeover or similar statute or regulation (**excluding**, for the avoidance of doubt, **any** Applicable Law which requires the Company Required Consents or the Parent

Required Consents to be obtained) is applicable to this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement or the Merger or any acquisition of Company **Common** Stock contemplated by Section 4.03(b).

(n) Voting Requirements. The **affirmative** vote at the Stockholders Meeting (as defined in Section 5.01(b)) or any adjournment or postponement thereof of the holders of a majority of the votes represented by all the outstanding **shares** of Company Common Stock and Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock, voting together as a single class, with **each** share of Company Common Stock entitled to one vote and each share of Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock entitled to 1/10th of a vote, in favor of adopting this Agreement (the "Stockholder Approval") is the only vote of the holders of any class or series of the Company's capital stock necessary to approve or adopt this Agreement or the Merger. The affirmative vote of the holders of the Company Capital Stock is not necessary to approve **any** other action required to be taken by this Agreement or the Company Voting Agreement (other than the consummation of the Merger).

(o) Regulation as a Utility. Except as set forth in Section 3.01(o) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, the Company is not subject to regulation as a public utility holding company, public utility or public service **company** (or similar designation) by any PUC. Section 3.01(o) of the Company Disclosure Schedule contains a true and complete list of each subsidiary of the Company that is subject to regulation as a public utility or public **service** company (or similar designation) by any PUC, including the name of each such jurisdiction in which such subsidiary is subject to **such** regulation. None of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a "public utility **company**" or a "holding company within the meaning of Section 2(a)(5) or 2(a)(7), respectively, of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (the "Holding Company **Act**") or a "subsidiary company" or an "**affiliate**" (within the meaning of Section 2(a)(8) or 2(a)(11), respectively, of the Holding Company Act) of any holding company which is required to register as a holding company under the Holding Company Act. All filings **required** to be made by the Company or any of its subsidiaries since January 1, 2000, under any Applicable Laws or Judgments relating to the regulation of public utilities or public service companies (or similarly designated companies), have been filed with the appropriate PUC, Health Agency or other appropriate Governmental Entity, as the case may be, including all forms, statements, **reports**, agreements (oral or written) and all documents, exhibits, amendments and supplements appertaining thereto, including but not limited to all rates, **tariffs**, franchises, service agreements and related documents and all such filings complied, as of their respective dates, with **all** applicable requirements of all Applicable Laws or Judgments, except for such **filings** or such **failures** to comply **that** individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect

(p) Title to Properties. (i) Each of the Company and each of its subsidiaries owns or has valid and enforceable right to use under existing **franchises**, water rights, easements or licenses, or valid and enforceable leasehold interests in, **all** of its properties, rights and assets necessary for the conduct of its respective business and operations as currently conducted, except where the failure to have such title, rights or interests

individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. All such properties, **rights** and **assets**, other than properties, rights and **assets** in which the Company or any of its subsidiaries has a leasehold **interest**, are **free** and clear of all Liens, except **for** Liens relating to secured indebtedness or that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect.

(q) Brokers. No broker, investment banker, **financial** advisor or other person, other than Goldman, Sachs & Co., the **fees** and expenses of which will be paid by the Company, is entitled to any broker's, finder's, financial advisor's **or other** similar **fee** or **&mission** in connection with the transactions **contemplated** by this Agreement based upon arrangements made by or on behalf of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

(r) Opinion of Financial Advisor. The Company has received the written opinion of Goldman, Sachs & Co. to the **effect** that, as of the date of this Agreement, the Merger Consideration is fair to the Company's stockholders **from a financial** point of view.

(s) Contracts. All material Contracts to which **the** Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party or any of their respective properties or assets is subject **that** are **required to be filed as an exhibit to any Filed SEC Document have been filed as an** exhibit to such Filed SEC Document (such filed **Contracts**, the "**Filed Contracts**"). All the Filed **Contracts** are valid and in **full force** and effect, except to the **extent** they have previously expired or terminated in accordance with their terms or they expire or **terminate** in compliance with the provisions of Section 4.01(a)(x)(C) and except for **any** invalidity or failure to be in **full force and effect** **which** would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. None of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is in violation of or default (with or without notice or lapse of time or both) under, or has waived or failed to enforce **any rights or benefits** under, any Filed **Contract**, **except** for violations, **defaults**, waivers or **failures to enforce** rights or **benefits** that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse **effect**.

(t) Information Supplied. None of the information included or **incorporated** by reference in the Proxy **Statement** will, at the date the Proxy Statement is **filed** with the SEC or mailed to the Company's stockholders or at the time of the **Stockholders** Meeting, or at the time of **any** amendment or supplement **thereof**, contain any untrue **statement** of a **material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in** order to make the statements **therein**, in light of the **circumstances** under which they **are** made, not misleading, except that no representation or warranty is made by the Company with respect to statements made in the Proxy Statement based on information supplied by Guarantor, Parent or Sub specifically for inclusion or incorporation by **reference therein**. **The Proxy Statement will comply as to form in all material respects with the requirements** of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

SECTION 3.02. Representations and Warranties of Guarantor, Parent and Sub. Guarantor, Parent and Sub jointly and severally represent and warrant to the Company as follows:

(a) Organization. Each of Guarantor and Parent is a company duly organized and validly existing under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany. Sub is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of **the** State of Delaware. Each of Guarantor, Parent and Sub (i) has all **requisite corporate** power and authority to carry on its business as now being conducted and (ii) is duly qualified or licensed to do business and is, if applicable, in good standing to do business in each jurisdiction in which the nature of its business or the ownership, leasing or . operation of its properties makes such qualification or licensing **necessary**, other than where the failure to be so qualified or licensed or in good standing individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to prevent or materially impede or delay the consummation of the Merger or the other transactions contemplated hereby. Guarantor owns 100% of the outstanding capital stock of Parent and, indirectly **through** Parent, 100% of the outstanding capital stock of Sub.

(b) Authority, Noncontravention. Guarantor, Parent and Sub **have the** requisite corporate power and authority to execute and deliver **this Agreement and**, subject to the Parent Required Consents (as defined below), to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby and Parent has the **requisite corporate power and authority to execute and deliver the Company Voting Agreement and to consummate the transactions** contemplated thereby. The execution and delivery of this Agreement by Guarantor, Parent and Sub, the execution and delivery of the Company Voting Agreement by Parent and the **consummation** by Guarantor, Parent and **Sub of the** transactions contemplated hereby and thereby have been duly **authorized** by all necessary company or **corporate** action, as applicable, on the part of Guarantor, Parent and Sub and no other corporate proceedings on the part of Guarantor, Parent or Sub are necessary to approve this Agreement or the Company Voting **Agreement or to consummate the** transactions contemplated hereby or thereby. This **Agreement has been duly executed** and delivered by Guarantor, Parent and Sub and the Company Voting Agreement **has** been duly executed and delivered by Parent and each of this Agreement and the Company Voting Agreement constitutes the valid and binding obligation **of Guarantor, Parent and Sub, as applicable, in** accordance with their terms. The execution and delivery of **this Agreement and the Company Voting** Agreement and the consummation of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby and compliance with the provisions of this **Agreement and the** Company Voting Agreement do not and will not conflict with, or result in any violation or breach of, or default (with or without notice or lapse of time, or both) under, or give rise to a right **of**, or result in, termination., **cancellation** or acceleration of any **obligation or** to loss of a material benefit under, or result in the **creation of any Lien upon any of the** properties or assets of Guarantor, Parent or Sub under, or give rise to any **increased**, additional, accelerated or guaranteed rights or entitlements under, any provision of (i) the Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of Sub or equivalent organizational documents of Guarantor or Parent, (ii) any Contract applicable to **Guarantor, Parent, Sub** or their

respective subsidiaries or their respective properties or assets or (iii) subject to **obtaining** the Parent Required Consents and other matters referred to in the following sentence, **any** (A) Applicable Law or (B) Judgment, in each case applicable to **Guarantor**, Parent, Sub or their respective subsidiaries or **their** respective properties or assets, **other** than, in the case of clauses (ii) and (iii), any such conflicts, violations, defaults, rights, losses or Liens that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to prevent or materially impede or delay the consummation of the Merger or the other transactions contemplated hereby. No consent, approval, order or authorization of; registration, declaration or filing with, or notice to, any Governmental Entity is **required** by or with respect to Guarantor, Parent or Sub or their respective subsidiaries in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Company Voting Agreement or the consummation by Guarantor, Parent and Sub of the transactions **contemplated** hereby **and** thereby **or the compliance with the provisions of this Agreement and the Company** Voting Agreement, except for (1) the **filing** of a premerger notification and report **form** under the HSR Act and the receipt, **termination or expiration, as applicable, of such other** approvals or waiting periods required under any other applicable competition, merger control, antitrust or similar law or **regulation**, including, if the Company has completed its acquisition **of Azurix North America Corp. and Azurix Industrials Corp. prior to the Closing, the competition, merger control, antitrust or similar laws and regulations of** Canada or the **Investment** Canada Act, if applicable, (2) the **filing** with, or furnishing to, the SEC of such reports under the Exchange Act **as may be required in connection with this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions** contemplated hereby and thereby, (3) the filing of the **Certificate of Merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware and appropriate documents with the relevant authorities of other states in which the Company is qualified to do business,** (4) such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices required under Applicable Laws and Judgments of any PUC, (5) such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices **required under the Applicable Laws and Judgments of any Health Agency,** (6) such consents, approvals, orders, **authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices required** to be obtained **from** or made to any Governmental Entity due solely to any acquisition of any business or person by **the** Company or any of its subsidiaries following the date of this Agreement and (7) such other consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices the failure of which to be obtained or made individually or in the aggregate would not impair in any **material respect** the ability of Guarantor, Parent or Sub to perform its obligations under this Agreement or prevent or materially impede or delay **the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. Consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings and notices described (i) in the foregoing clause (4) that are required to be obtained or made by Guarantor, Parent or Sub or any of their respective subsidiaries and (ii) in the foregoing clause (5) the failure of which to obtain or make would impair in any material respect the ability of Guarantor, Parent or Sub to perform its obligations under this Agreement or prevent or materially impede or delay the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, are hereinafter referred to as the "Parent Required Consents."** No consent, approval, order, authorization, registration, declaration, filing **or notice** the failure of which to **obtain or make would prevent or materially impede**

or delay the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement with any **non-U.S.** Governmental Entity is required to be made or obtained by Guarantor, Parent or Sub or any of their respective subsidiaries in connection with the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the Company Voting Agreement or the consummation by Guarantor, Parent and Sub of the transactions contemplated hereby and thereby or the compliance with the provisions of this Agreement and the Company Voting Agreement, except for such consents, approvals, orders, authorizations, registrations, declarations, filings or notices (x) required as a result of a change in Applicable Law after the date of this Agreement or (y) required to be obtained **from** or made to any Governmental Entity due solely to any acquisition of a business or person by the Company or any of its subsidiaries following the date of this Agreement. To the knowledge of Guarantor and Parent, as of **the** date of this Agreement, there exists no state of facts, condition, event or circumstance which would materially adversely **affect** Parent's ability to obtain the Parent Required Consents in a reasonably timely manner.

(c) Interim aerations of Sub. Sub was **formed** solely for the purpose of engaging in the transactions contemplated hereby and has engaged in no business other than in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement

(d) Regulation as a Utility. Except as set forth in Section 3.02(d) of the disclosure schedule delivered by Parent to the Company prior to the execution of this Agreement (the "Parent Disclosure Schedule") or as permitted in accordance with Section 4.03(a)(a), neither Guarantor, **Parent**, Sub nor any of their **respective** subsidiaries (i) is a "public utility company or a 'holding **company**'" or a "subsidiary company" of any holding company which is required to register as a holding company under the Holding Company Act, in each case as defined in the Holding Company Act, or (ii) is otherwise subject to regulation as a public utility holding company, public utility or public service company (or similar designation) by any PUC; provided, however, the foregoing representation shall not be deemed **to** be breached as a result of (x) after **the** date hereof, any of Guarantor, Parent or Sub or any of their respective subsidiaries entering into any operation and maintenance or concession contract that would not be prohibited under Section **4.03(a)(b)** or (y) changes in Applicable Law after the date of this Agreement.

(e) Capital Resources. On or prior to the Closing Date, Parent will have sufficient cash to pay the Merger Consideration and any other amounts payable under Section 2.02.

(f) Brokers. No broker, investment banker, financial advisor or other person, other than Merrill Lynch, Pierce, **Fenner & Smith** Incorporated and Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, the fees and expenses of which will be paid by or on behalf of Parent, is entitled to any broker's, finder's, financial **advisor's** or other similar **fee** or commission in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement based upon **arrangements** made by or on behalf of Guarantor, **Parent**, Sub or any of their subsidiaries.

(g) Information Supplied. None of the information **supplied** or to be **supplied** by Guarantor, Parent or Sub specifically for inclusion in the Proxy Statement will, at the date the Proxy Statement is filed with the SEC or mailed to the Company's **stockholders** or at the time of the Stockholders Meeting, or at the time of any amendment or supplement **thereof**, contain any **untrue** statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order **to** make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.

(h) Ownership of Company Stock As of the date of this Agreement, neither Guarantor, Parent nor Sub nor any of their respective subsidiaries **"beneficially owns"** (as such term is defined for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act) any shares of Company Common Stock

## ARTICLE IV

### Covenants Relating to Conduct of Business

SECTION 4.01. Conduct of Business. (a) Conduct of Business by the Company. During the Period **from** the date of this Agreement to the Effective **Time, except as** consented to in writing by Parent (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or **delayed;** and which consent shall be deemed given if the Company has not received **written** notice **otherwise from** Parent within five business days **after** requesting such consent of Parent **as** provided in Section 4.01(b)) or as **specifically contemplated** by this Agreement, the **Company shall**, and shall cause **each of** its subsidiaries to, carry on their respective businesses in the ordinary course consistent with past practice and use their commercially reasonable efforts to comply with **all** Applicable Laws and, to the extent consistent therewith, use their commercially reasonable efforts to preserve their material assets and technology, **preserve** their relationships **with PUCs, Health Agencies,** customers, suppliers and others having **business** dealings with them and maintain their material **franchises,** rights and **Permits necessary to the conduct of their** business. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, during the period **from** the **date** of this Agreement to the Effective **Time,** except as consented to in writing by Parent (which consent shall not unreasonably be withheld or delayed; and which consent **shall** be deemed given if the Company has not received written notice otherwise **from** Parent within five business days **after** requesting such consent of Parent as provided in Section 4.01(b)) or as **specifically** contemplated by this Agreement or as set forth in Section 4.01(a) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, the Company shall not, and **shall** not permit any of its subsidiaries to:

(i) (x) declare, set aside or pay any dividends **on,** or make any other distributions (whether in **cash, stock** or **property**) in respect **of,** any of its capital stock or other equity or **voting** interests except for:

(A) dividends by a direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company to its shareholders;



- (B) regular quarterly cash dividends with respect to the Company **Common** Stock, not in excess of an annual rate of \$0.94 per share **in 2001**, \$0.98 per share in 2002 and \$1.02 per share in 2003, in each case **with** usual declaration, record and payment dates and in accordance with the Company's past dividend policy,
- (C) if **the** Effective Time occurs other than on a record date for quarterly cash dividends with respect to the Company Common Stock, a "stub period" dividend equal to an amount not to exceed 25% of the amount of the cash dividend per share permitted to be paid pursuant to **the** immediately preceding clause (B) during such fiscal year in which the Effective Time occurs multiplied by a **fraction**, the numerator of which is the number of days between the immediately preceding record date and the Effective Time and the denominator of **which** is the number of days between such record date and the next regularly scheduled **record** date;
- (D) regular cash dividends **with** respect to outstanding shares of Company 5% Cumulative Preferred Stock in accordance with the terms thereof as in **effect** on the date of this Agreement;
- (E) regular cash dividends with respect to outstanding shares of Company 5% Cumulative Preference Stock in accordance with the terms thereof as in effect on the date of this Agreement; or
- (F) (x) cash dividends **with** respect to any **outstanding** shares of preferred stock of any of the Company's subsidiaries or (y) cash dividends **with** respect to any outstanding shares of non-preferred capital stock of any of the Company's non-wholly owned subsidiaries; provided, however, that **in** the case of subsidiaries owned as of the date of this Agreement, such dividends **shall** be paid only in the ordinary course of **business** consistent with such subsidiary's past **practice**; or

(y) purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of capital stock of, or other equity or voting interests in, the Company or its subsidiaries or any options, warrants, calls or rights to **acquire** any such shares or other interests, except (A) for the Stock Redemption, (B) purchases, redemptions or other acquisitions as required by the respective terms of any preferred stock of the Company or as required or permitted by the respective terms of any **preferred** stock of any of the Company's subsidiaries, (C) for the purpose of **funding** or providing benefits under employee benefit plans, stock option and **other** incentive compensation plans, directors **plans** and the dividend reinvestment provisions of the Company's Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan, (D) purchases, redemptions or other acquisitions in the ordinary course of business consistent **with** past practice of any voting stock of a subsidiary of the Company not held by the

Company or its subsidiaries or **(E)** the purchases of shares of capital stock of a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company by the Company or a wholly **owned** subsidiary of the **Company**, or

(z) split, combine or reclassify **any** of its capital stock or other **equity** or voting interests or issue or authorize the issuance of any other securities in respect **of**, in lieu of or in substitution for shares of its capital stock or other **equity** or voting interests;

(ii) issue, deliver, sell, pledge or **otherwise** encumber any shares of its capital **stock**, any other equity or voting interests or any securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, or any options, **warrants**, calls or rights to **acquire**, any such **shares**, interests or securities or any stock appreciation rights or other rights that are linked **to** the price of Company Common Stock **other than**:

- (A) the issuance of shares of Company Common Stock (and associated Company Rights) upon the exercise of Company Stock Options and settlement of **all** other rights to purchase or receive Company Common Stock (collectively, the 'Company Stock Issuance Rights') in accordance with the terms of such Company Stock Options and Company Stock Issuance Rights as in **effect** on the date of this **Agreement**;
- (B) the delivery or sale of shares of Company Common Stock held as treasury stock of **the** Company as of the date hereof or **thereafter** purchased on the open market by the Company or one of its subsidiaries as permitted by, and for the purposes set forth in, Section 4.01 **(a)(i)(y)(C)**;
- (C) the issuance of shares of capital stock to the Company or a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company by a subsidiary of the **Company**;
- (D) the issuance of shares of Company Common Stock pursuant to the Company Rights Agreement pursuant to the terms thereof as in **effect on the date hereof**;
- (E) to the extent **permitted** by Section **5.09(i)**, the issuance of shares of Company Common Stock **pursuant** to the Company's Dividend Reinvestment and **Stock Purchase Plan**; or
- (F) issuances of shares of Company Common Stock **which are necessary**, in the reasonable judgment of **the** Company, in order to maintain the credit ratings of the Company or its subsidiaries; provided that any such issuance of shares **shall be permitted** only if prior to such issuance the Company shall have consulted with

Parent, and the Company and Parent shah have been unable to agree on a mutually acceptable alternative basis to maintain the credit rating of the Company or its subsidiary, as the case may be;

(iii) amend its **certificate** of incorporation or by-laws (or similar organizational documents) except as may be required by Applicable Law or by the rules and regulations of the New York Stock Exchange; or

(iv) (A) directly or indirectly acquire or agree to acquire, whether by merging or consolidating with, or by purchasing assets of, or by any other **manner, any assets** cons-muting a business or any **corporation**, partnership, joint **venture**, association, limited liability company or other entity or division thereof **other** than:

(x) **the** acquisition of any business which is regulated by a PUC or owned or operated by a **municipality** or local **Governmental Entity**, provided, that all such acquisitions permitted by this clause (x) shall not involve aggregate payments (including debt assumption) by the Company and its subsidiaries of more than **\$300,000,000**; or

(y) the acquisition of any business in or related to (1) the water services or wastewater services industry or (2) any line of business conducted by **Azurix** North America Corp. or **Azurix** Industrials Corp. on or prior to the **date** of consummation of the acquisition of such entities which is not regulated by a PUC or owned or operated by a municipality or **local** Governmental Entity, provided that all such acquisitions permitted by this clause (y) shall not involve aggregate payments (including debt assumption) by the Company **or** any of its subsidiaries of more than **\$100,000,000**;

provided that., if the Company or any of its subsidiaries requests the consent of Parent for any acquisition not otherwise permitted by this clause (A) then Parent shall promptly inform the Company whether Guarantor or any of its subsidiaries is participating or intends to participate in the bidding for such acquisition and, if Parent informs the Company that Guarantor or one of its subsidiaries is participating or intends to participate in the bidding for such acquisition or if Guarantor or one of its subsidiaries does in fact so participate, then the Company shall not be subject to the provisions of this Section **4.01(a)(iv)** with respect to such acquisition (provided further that, for the purposes of this **Section 4.01(a)(iv)**, the Company may presume (absent written notice *to the contrary from* Parent) that Guarantor or one of its subsidiaries is participating in any competitive bidding **process** for an acquisition which (i) is not **prohibited** by Section 4.03 and (ii) has been marketed broadly to major **participants** in the water **services** or wastewater services industries and shall not be required to **request** the consent of

Parent or otherwise be subject to the provisions of this Section **4.01(a)(iv)** with respect to any such acquisition); or

(B) any other assets that are material (**unless** such assets are **acquired** in the ordinary course of business), other than assets constituting a business the acquisition of which does not require consent or approval under Section 4.01 **(a)(iv)(A)**;

it being understood and agreed that the Company and its **subsidiaries** shall, reasonably in advance of the applicable meeting of the Company's Board of Directors, provide Parent with reasonable documentation **describing**, and consult with Parent with **respect** to, any acquisition which **requires** approval of the Company's Board of Directors; or

(v) directly or indirectly sell, lease, license, sell and leaseback, mortgage or otherwise **encumber** or subject to any **Lien** or otherwise dispose of any **real** property, or any other **properties** or assets or any interest therein that are material, individually or in the aggregate, **other than**:

- (A) **sales of real** proper& or other properties or assets, provided that the fair market value of all such **properties** and assets does not exceed **\$100,000,000**;
- (B) **the sale of any property or asset that the Company or one of its** subsidiaries is legally **required**, or **under bona fide threat** of condemnation or similar proceedings, to sell to any Governmental Entity so long as the Company **sells** such property or asset to such **Governmental** Entity **in** a manner consistent with past **practice**;
- (C) the sale of shares of capital stock or other securities which are held as passive minority investments so long as such sale is made in an ads-length **transaction**; or
- (D) the grant of easements, rights of way and Liens in the ordinary course of business consistent with past **practice**, or in **connection** with secured indebtedness of the Company or any of **its** subsidiaries **permitted** by Section **4.01(a)(vi)** and consistent with **past practice**;

it being understood and agreed **that** the Company and its subsidiaries shall, reasonably in **advance** of the applicable meeting of the Company's Board of Directors, provide Parent with reasonable documentation describing, and consult **with Parent with respect to, any sale, lease, license, sale/leaseback, mortgage,**

encumbrance or other disposition which requires approval of the Company's Board of Directors; or

(vi) (x) incur any indebtedness or guarantee any indebtedness of another person or issue or **sell** any debt securities or options, warrants, calls or other rights to acquire any debt securities of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, enter into any interest rate protection agreement or other hedging arrangement, guarantee any debt securities of another person, enter into any "keep well" or other agreement to maintain any financial statement condition of another person or enter into any **arrangement** having the economic effect of any of the foregoing (excluding for purposes of clarification, advances received as contemplated by Section 4.01 **(a)(vii)(B))**, except for:

- (A) the incurrence of short-term indebtedness in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice;
- (B) the incurrence of long-term indebtedness and interest rate protection and other hedging arrangements in respect of such **long-term** indebtedness so long as the aggregate amount of such long-term indebtedness outstanding as of the end of each fiscal year ended **after** the date of this Agreement (excluding, **without** duplication, long-term indebtedness otherwise permitted under this Section 4.01 **(a)(vi)(x)**, but including long-term indebtedness incurred to fund capital expenditures **permitted** by Section 4.01 (a)(vii) to the extent the incurrence of such indebtedness is included in the Company's business plan **described** below), does not exceed 110% of the aggregate amount of all long-term indebtedness contemplated to be outstanding as of the end of such **fiscal** year by the Company's business plan for the five-year period **ending** on December 31, 2005, a true and complete copy of which has been provided to Parent prior to **the** date of this Agreement;
- (C) (1) the incurrence of indebtedness or guarantees of indebtedness to finance acquisitions and the incurrence or assumption of indebtedness of the entities acquired in such acquisitions, in either case in connection with acquisitions permitted by Section 4.01 **(a)(iv)**, or (2) the **incurrence** of indebtedness or **guarantees** of indebtedness to fund **capital** expenditures **permitted** by Section **4.01(a)(vii)**;
- (D) the incurrence of any guarantees, bid bonds, **performance** bonds, surety bonds, payment bonds, letters of credit and **"keep well"** agreements and other similar arrangements entered into in the ordinary course **of business** consistent with past practice between the Company and its subsidiaries or in support of the indebtedness

or other obligations of the Company, the Company's subsidiaries or among the Company's subsidiaries; or

- (E) the incurrence of indebtedness in an amount equal to (1) the **cost** of Company Common **Stock** purchased for issuance pursuant to Section **4.01(a)(ii)(B)**, plus (2) the amount of cash **proceeds** that would otherwise be expected to be received by the Company **from** the sale of Company Common Stock under the Company's Dividend **Reinvestment** and Stock Purchase **Plan** after the date, and for so long as, such plan is indefinitely suspended pursuant to Section **5.09(i)**; or
- (y) make any material loans, advances or capital **contributions** to, or investments **in**, any other **person**, other than the Company or any direct or indirect subsidiary of the Company other than (A) investments made in joint ventures formed for purposes permitted **pursuant** to section **4.01(a)(iv)**, (B) loans, advances, capital **contributions** and **investments** made in connection with actions permitted **pursuant** to sections **4.01(a)(iv)**, (v), (vi)(x), **(vii)** or (x) or **(C)** in the ordinary course of business;

it being understood and agreed that the Company and its subsidiaries shall consult with Parent **(i)** on the Company's and its subsidiaries' credit ratings and (ii) prior to incurring any material long-term indebtedness (**other** than issuances of **tax-free** long-term indebtedness) of the Company or any of its subsidiaries; **or**

**(vii)** **incur or** commit to incur any capital expenditures in excess of 120% of the amount budgeted in the Company's five-year capital **plan**, a true and complete **copy** of which has been provided to Parent prior to the date of this Agreement, other **than**:

- (A) capital expenditures required by changes in or newly promulgated Applicable Laws **or** Judgments or applicable **standards or** policies of **any Governmental** Entity **after the** date of this Agreement;
- (B) capital expenditures **funded** by customer advances or **contributions** in aid of **construction**;
- (C) capital expenditures incremental to the Company's five-year capital plan as may be required to serve customers who generate **sufficient revenues to fully fund the cost of such capital expenditures without adversely affecting customer rates**;

- (D) capital expenditures related to the operation of any business acquired through an acquisition **permitted** by Section 4.01(a)(iv);
- (E) capital expenditures to the extent covered by insurance or as reasonably required in the Company's judgment following a catastrophic event; or
- (F) capital expenditures in connection with **performance** by the Company or one of its subsidiaries under any Contract to the extent the Company's or such subsidiary's obligations in connection with any such capital expenditure are non-recourse to the Company or such subsidiary and funded by the United States government;

it being understood and agreed that the Company and its subsidiaries shall, reasonably in advance of the applicable meeting of the Company's Board of Directors, provide Parent with reasonable documentation describing, and consult with Parent with respect to, any capital expenditure which requires approval of the Company's Board of Directors; or

(viii) except as required by Applicable Law or any Judgment (x) pay, discharge, **settle** or satisfy any **mated** claims (including claims of stockholders), **liabilities** or obligations (whether absolute, accrued, asserted or **unasserted**, contingent or otherwise), other than the **payment**, discharge, settlement or satisfaction of claims, liabilities or obligations (A) in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (B) as required by their terms as in **effect** on the date of this Agreement or on **the** date of acquisition of the person subject thereto or (C) incurred since the date of this Agreement in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice, (y) waive, release, grant or transfer any right of material value, other than in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice or (z) waive any material benefits of, or agree to modify in any materially adverse respect, or fail to enforce in any material respect, or consent to **any material** matter with respect to which its consent is required under, any material confidentiality, standstill or similar agreement to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries is a party;

(ix) except (i) as required to comply with Applicable Law or any Judgment, any Collective Bargaining Agreement or any provision of any Company Benefit Plan or other **Contract** as in **effect** on the date of this Agreement, (ii) in the ordinary course of the Company or its subsidiaries conducting their respective businesses consistent with past practice, (iii) as would, in the discretion of the Company, be commercially reasonable in order to retain Company Employees (as **defined** in Section 5.09(a)) or to hire (or promote) or replace new executives, (iv) as is or would be required to give effect to acquisition agreements entered into by the Company and/or its subsidiaries or (v)

**as** would not, individually or in the aggregate, materially **increase** the Company's and its subsidiaries' annual expense for compensation and benefits provided or to be provided to the Company **Employees**:

- (A) take any action to **fund** or in any other way secure the payment of compensation or benefits under any Company Benefit Plan or other **Contract**;
  - (B) take any action to accelerate the vesting or payment of any compensation or benefit under any Company Benefit Plan or other contract;
  - (C) grant any compensation, **benefits**, severance or termination pay or increases therein to any **Participant**; or
  - (D) establish, adopt, enter into, amend or terminate any Company Benefit Plan, except as required to implement grants or **increases** permitted under Section **4.01(a)(ix)(C)**; or
- (x) (A) enter into any material Contract **other than**:
- (1) any Contract related to the **Company's** PUC-regulated business entered into in the **ordinary** course of business **consistent with past practice**;
  - (2) any Contract related to the water **services** or wastewater **services industry**; provided that the average aggregate annual **revenues** to be received by the Company and its subsidiaries over **the** first three years of such Contract, together with the total average aggregate annual **revenues** to be received by the Company and its subsidiaries over the **first three years of all such other Contracts** entered into pursuant to this clause (2) during the twelve-month period beginning on the date of this Agreement or during any subsequent twelve-month period shall not exceed \$60 million per year (excluding any **consumer** price index or other similar adjustments and without **regard** to any extension **thereof**); provided, further that (A) the **average** annual amounts of any payments to be made to the Company during the **first** three years of such Contract in respect of any capital expenditures **permitted** by Section **4.01(a)(vii)(F)** of this Agreement **and other** recovered costs **of capital in respect thereof shall not count against such \$60 million per year limit** and (B) the average annual amounts



of any associated recovery of capital improvement **costs** (and, in the case of any “design-build-operate” Contract, payments in respect of the “design-build” portion of such Contract to the extent that those payments are (x) guaranteed by a non-affiliate of the Company which the Company reasonably determines is **sufficiently** creditworthy or (y) passed through to third parties who perform the “design-build” portion of such Contract) during the first three years of such Contract shall not count against such **\$60** million per year limit; or

- (3) any Contract providing for any transaction otherwise permitted by this Section 4.01 (a);

provided that if the Company or any of its subsidiaries requests the consent of Parent to enter into any Contract not otherwise permitted by this clause (A) then Parent **shall** promptly inform the Company whether Guarantor or any of its subsidiaries is participating or intends to participate in the bidding for such Contract and, if Parent informs the Company that Guarantor or one of its subsidiaries is participating or intends to participate in the bidding for such Contract or if Guarantor or one of its subsidiaries does in fact so participate, then the Company shall not be subject to the provisions of this clause (A) with respect to such Contract (provided further that, for the purposes of this clause (A), the Company may presume (absent written notice to the contrary **from** Parent) that Guarantor or one of its subsidiaries is participating in any competitive bidding process for a Contract which has been marketed broadly to major participants in the water services or wastewater services industries and shall not be required to request the consent of Parent or otherwise be subject to the provisions of this clause (A) with respect to any such Contract);

it being understood and agreed that the Company and its subsidiaries shall, reasonably in advance of the applicable meeting of the Company’s Board of Directors, provide Parent with reasonable documentation describing, and consult with Parent with respect to, any material Contract which requires the approval of the Company’s Board of Directors;

(B) renew any **material** Contract unless such renewal (i) shall not modify the terms of such Contract, taken as a whole, in any material adverse respect or (ii) is on terms that are reasonably agreed to by the Company in carrying on its business in the ordinary course; or

(C) modify, amend, waive or terminate (x) any material Contract other **than in** the ordinary course of business or (y) the Filed Contracts, in either case without consulting with Parent in good faith in advance; or

(xi) **authorize** any of, or **commit**, resolve or agree to take any of the foregoing actions.

(b) Administration of Consents. Any request for a consent of Parent under Section 4.01 (a), and any correspondence between the parties with respect to those **consents** (including the granting or **refusal** to grant any **such** consent) and any consultation required under Section 4.01 (a) shall be made solely by and between the person identified in Section 4.01 (b) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, on behalf of **the** Company and its subsidiaries, and the person identified **in Section 4.01(b)** of the Parent Disclosure Schedule, on behalf of Guarantor,- Parent and their **respective** subsidiaries.

(c) Control of the Company's Business. It is understood and agreed that Guarantor, Parent, Sub and their affiliates do not **have** the right to **control** or direct the Company's operations prior to the Effective Time. Prior to the **Effective** Time, the Company **shall** exercise, consistent with the **terms** and conditions of this Agreement, complete control and **supervision** over its operations.

(d) Certain Tax Matters. Except as set forth in Section 4.01 (d) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, during the period **from** the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time, the Company **shall**, and **shall** cause **each** of its subsidiaries to, (i) **not** make any **material** tax election without Parent's consent and (ii) to the **extent** permitted by **the** applicable agreement, cause **all** existing tax sharing **agreements** to be terminated as of the closing Date.

(e) Utility Filings. The Company shall, and shall cause each of its subsidiaries to, timely **file** in the **ordinary** course of business consistent with past practice **all** rate applications and all other material filings required to be made with **PUCs**. Except for filings in **the** ordinary course of business consistent with past practice that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse **effect**, the Company shall, and **shall** cause **each** of its subsidiaries to, consult with Parent reasonably in advance of making any filing to implement any changes in any of **its** or **any** of its subsidiaries' rates or surcharges for water **service**, standards of service or **accounting**.

SECTION 4.02. No Solicitation. (a) From and **after** the date hereof, the Company agrees (i) that it and its subsidiaries **shall** not, nor **shall** it or its subsidiaries authorize or knowingly permit any **director**, officer or employee of the Company **or** any of its subsidiaries or any investment banker, attorney, **accountant** or other advisor or **representative** of the Company or any of its subsidiaries (**collectively**, the **"Representatives"**) to, **directly** or **indirectly**, **solicit**, initiate or encourage, or take any other action knowingly to facilitate, any Takeover **Proposal** (as defined below) or engage in any discussions or negotiations regarding, or provide any nonpublic information or data to make or **implement**, any **Takeover Proposal**, in each case other than a Takeover Proposal made by **Parent**; (ii) that it **shall** immediately cease and cause to be **terminated** any existing discussions or negotiations with any third persons **conducted** heretofore

with a view to formulating a Takeover Proposal; and (iii) that it shall immediately notify Parent of receipt of any Takeover Proposal and that it shall keep Parent informed of the status of such Takeover Proposal; provided, however, that, at any time prior to obtaining the Stockholder Approval, the Company may, in response to a bona fide Takeover Proposal that the Board of Directors of the Company determines in good faith could reasonably be expected to lead to a Superior Proposal (as defined below) and which Takeover Proposal did not result **from** a breach of **this** Section 4.02, (x) **furnish** information with respect to the Company and its subsidiaries to the person making such Takeover Proposal (and its representatives) pursuant to a customary confidentiality agreement (except that such confidentiality agreement shall not prohibit such person **from** making an unsolicited Takeover Proposal), provided that **all** such information is provided on a prior or substantially concurrent basis to Parent, and (y) participate in discussions or negotiations with the person making such Takeover Proposal (and its representatives) regarding such Takeover Proposal.

The **term** "Takeover Proposal" means any inquiry, proposal or offer **from** any person relating to, or that is reasonably likely to lead to, any direct or indirect acquisition, in one **transaction** or a series of transactions, including by way of any merger, consolidation, tender offer, exchange offer, binding share exchange, business combination, **recapitalization**, liquidation, dissolution, joint **venture** or similar transaction, of (A) assets or businesses **that** constitute or represent 20% or more of the total revenue, operating income, EBITDA or assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, or (B) 20% or more of the outstanding shares of Company Capital Stock or **capital** stock of; or other equity or voting interests in, any of the Company's subsidiaries directly or indirectly holding the assets or businesses **referred** to in clause (A) above.

(b) Neither the Board of Directors of the Company nor any committee thereof shall (i) withdraw (or modify in a manner adverse to Parent or Sub) or propose publicly to withdraw (or modify in a manner adverse to Parent or Sub) the recommendation or declaration of advisability by such Board of **Directors** of the Company or any such committee of this Agreement or the Merger, or recommend, or propose publicly to recommend, the approval or adoption of any Takeover Proposal (other than a **Takeover** Proposal made by Parent) (each such action being referred to herein as an "Adverse Recommendation Change"), unless the Board of Directors of the Company determines in good faith, based on such matters as it deems appropriate, after consulting with legal counsel, that such action is necessary for the Board of Directors of the Company to comply with its fiduciary duties to the Company's stockholders under applicable law and the Company's certificate of incorporation, (ii) adopt or approve, or publicly propose to adopt or approve, any Takeover Proposal (other than a Takeover Proposal made by Parent), or withdraw its approval of the Merger, (iii) cause or permit the Company to enter into any letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, agreement in principle, acquisition **agreement**, merger agreement, **joint** venture agreement, partnership agreement or other agreement (each, an "Acquisition Agreement") constituting or related to any Takeover Proposal (other than a confidentiality agreement referred to in Section 4.02(a)) or (iv) agree or resolve to take any of the actions prohibited by clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) of this sentence. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, **at** any time prior to obtaining the Stockholder Approval, the Board of Directors of the Company may,

in response to a Superior Proposal (as **defined** below) that did not result **from** a breach of Section 4.02(a), cause the Company to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section 7.01 (f) and concurrently or promptly thereafter enter into an Acquisition Agreement; provided, however, that the Company shall not **terminate** this Agreement pursuant to **Section 7.01(f), unless the Company shall** have complied with all the provisions of this Section 4.02 (except for any failure to comply that would not adversely **affect** the rights of Parent under this Section **4.02**), **including** the notification provisions in this Section 4.02, and with all applicable requirements of Section **5.06(b)** (including the payment of the **Termination Fee** (as **defined** in **Section 5.06(b)**) prior to **or concurrently** with **such** termination); and provided further, however, that the Company shall not exercise its right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section **7.01(f)** until the **fifth** business day following Parent's receipt of written notice (a "Notice of Superior Proposal") **from** the Company **advising** Parent that the Board of Directors of the Company has **received** a Superior Proposal **specifying** the terms and conditions **of the Superior Proposal**, identifying the person making such **Superior Proposal** and stating that the Board of Directors of the Company intends to **exercise** its right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Section **7.01(f)** (it being understood and agreed that, prior to any such termination **taking effect**, any **amendment** to the price or any other **material** term of a Superior Proposal shall require a new Notice of Superior Proposal and a new five business day period).

The term "Superior Proposal" **means** any bona fide written **offer** made **by** a third party in respect of (i) a **transaction** that if **consummated would result in such third party** acquiring, directly or indirectly, 50% or more **of the** voting power of the Company Common Stock **or** 50% or more of the assets of the Company **and** its subsidiaries, **taken** as a whole, or (ii) a **direct** merger between such third **party and the Company**, in either case providing for consideration to the Company's stockholders consisting of cash and/or **securities** (it being understood that securities retained by the Company's stockholders be included for purposes of this **determination**), which transaction the Board of Directors of the Company determines in its good faith judgment (**after** consultation with a **financial** advisor of nationally recognized reputation) (taking into account the person making the offer, the consideration **offered**, the likelihood of **consummation** (including the **legal, financial** and regulatory **aspects** of the **offer**) as well as any other factors deemed relevant by the Board of **Directors** of the Company) to be more favorable **from a financial** point of view to the stockholders of the Company, taking into **account** any changes to the terms of this Agreement **offered** by Parent in response to such Superior **Proposal or otherwise**.

(c) Nothing contained in this Section 4.02 or **elsewhere** in this Agreement shall prohibit the Company **from** (i) taking and disclosing to its **stockholders** a position contemplated by Rule **14e-2(a)** promulgated under the Exchange Act **or** (ii) making any disclosure to the Company's stockholders if, in the good faith **judgment** of the Board of **Directors** of the Company, after **consultation** with outside **counsel**, **failure** to make **such** disclosure would be inconsistent with **applicable law**; provided, however, that in no event shall the Company or its Board of **Directors or any committee thereof take, agree or** resolve to take any action prohibited by Section **4.02(b)(i)** (subject to the last clause of Section **4.02(b)(i)**) or Section **4.02(b)(ii)**.

SECTION 4.03. Certain Conduct of the Parties. (a) During the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective Time, except as consented to in writing by the Company (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which consent shall be deemed given if Parent has not received written notice otherwise **from** the Company within eight business days after requesting such consent of the Company), Guarantor and Parent shall not, and shall cause their subsidiaries not to, directly or indirectly (a) acquire or agree to acquire or, except as required by Applicable Law, the rules and regulations of the **Frankfurt Stock** Exchange or, with respect to any disclosure by any subsidiary, the rules and regulations of the principal stock exchange on which such subsidiary's securities are listed, publicly disclose any acquisition, in one transaction or a series of transactions, including by way of any merger, consolidation, tender offer, exchange offer, binding share exchange, business combination, recapitalization, liquidation, dissolution, joint venture or similar transaction, of (i) any United States water services or wastewater services business that is regulated by a **PUC** or is owned or operated by a municipality or local Governmental Entity (other than any such acquisition which does not involve aggregate payments (including debt assumption) by Guarantor, Parent or their subsidiaries in excess of \$20 million) or (ii) (A) any business that would, upon the consummation of such acquisition, (x) cause Guarantor, Parent or any of their **respective** subsidiaries to be required to register as a holding company under the Holding Company Act or (y) subject Guarantor, Parent, Sub or any of their respective subsidiaries to regulation under the Holding Company Act in a manner that would raise substantive questions with respect to the ownership by any of them of any water or wastewater business or **(B)** any business (x) that would, upon the consummation of such acquisition, subject Guarantor, Parent or any of their **respective** subsidiaries to regulation under the Holding Company Act in a manner other than **that** described in clause (A) above or **(y)** that is a United States gas or electric utility, if in the case of clause (B), such business is subject to regulation as a gas or **electric utility** (or similar designation) by a PUC in any state which the parties agree is material or **(b)** take any other action that would reasonably be expected to (i) materially impede or delay obtaining any Parent Required Consent or Company Required Consent or the satisfaction of the conditions set **forth** in Section 6.01 (c) (to the extent relating to the Holding Company Act), 6.01 (d) or 6.02(d) or (ii) otherwise materially impede or delay the **consummation** of the Merger. In the **event that** Guarantor or Parent shall seek the consent of the Company to make an acquisition of the type described in Section **4.03(a)(a)(ii)(B)**, the sole basis on which the Company may withhold its consent shall be a determination by the Company that such acquisition would reasonably be expected to (x) materially impede or delay obtaining any Parent Required Consent or Company Required Consent or the satisfaction of the conditions set forth in Section 6.01 (c) (to the extent relating to the Holding Company Act), 6.01 (d) or **6.02(d)** or **(y)** otherwise materially impede or delay the **consummation** of the **Merger**.

**(b)** Prior to the obtaining of the Stockholder Approval, Guarantor and Parent shall not, and shall cause their respective subsidiaries not to, acquire "beneficial ownership" (as such **term** is defined for purposes of Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act) of any shares of Company Common Stock **After** the obtaining of the Stockholder Approval, Guarantor and Parent shall not, and shall cause their respective subsidiaries not to, **acquire** shares of Company Common **Stock** if such acquisition would result in Guarantor, Parent and their subsidiaries **acquiring** "beneficial ownership" (as so **defined**) of more than 4.9% of the shares of Company Common Stock outstanding at the time of such acquisition.

(c) During the period from the date of this Agreement to the Effective **Time**, except as consented to in writing by Parent (which consent **shall** not be unreasonably withheld or delayed and which consent shall be deemed given if the Company has not received written notice **otherwise from** Parent within eight business days **after** requesting such consent of Parent), the **Company** shall not, and shall cause its subsidiaries not to, directly or indirectly, take any action that would reasonably be expected to (i) materially impede or delay obtaining any Parent Required Consent or Company Required Consent or the satisfaction of the conditions set **forth in** Section 6.01 (c) (to the extent relating to the Holding Company **Act**), **6.01(d)** or 6.02(d) or (ii) otherwise materially impede or delay the **consummation** of the Merger.

## ARTICLE V

### Additional Agreements

SECTION 5.01. **Preparation of the Proxy Statement: Stockholders Meeting.** (a) As promptly as reasonably practicable following the date of this **Agreement**, the Company **shall** prepare and file with the SEC the **Proxy** Statement in preliminary form and the Company **shall** use its reasonable best efforts to respond **as** promptly as practicable to any comments of the SEC **with respect** thereto and to cause the Proxy Statement to be mailed to the **Company's** stockholders as promptly as practicable following the date of this Agreement. The Company **shall promptly notify Parent upon the receipt of any comments from the SEC or its staff or any request from the SEC or its staff** for amendments or supplements to the Proxy Statement **and shall** provide Parent with copies of all correspondence between the Company and its representatives, on the one hand, and the SEC and its **staff**, on the other hand. Parent **shall** promptly provide any information or responses to comments, or other assistance, **reasonably** requested in connection with the foregoing. Prior to filing or mailing the Proxy Statement (or any amendment or supplement thereto) or responding to any comments of the SEC with respect thereto, the Company (i) shall provide Parent an **opportunity** to review and **comment** on such document or response and (ii) shall give reasonable consideration to **all comments** proposed by **Parent**.

(b) The Company shall, as promptly as reasonably practicable **following** the date of this Agreement, establish a record date for, duly call, give notice **of, convene** and hold a meeting of its stockholders (the **"Stockholders Meeting"**) for the purpose of obtaining the Stockholder **Approval**, regardless of whether an Adverse **Recommendation** Change has **occurred** at any time **after** the date of this **Agreement**. The Company **shall**, through its **Board** of Directors, recommend to its stockholders that they adopt this Agreement, and shall include such recommendation in the Proxy Statement, in each case subject to its rights under Section **4.02(b)(i)**. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Company agrees that its obligations pursuant to this Section 5.01 **(b)** shall not be **affected** by the **commencement**, public proposal, **public** disclosure or communication to the Company or any other person of any Takeover Proposal.

SECTION 5.02. Access to Information; Confidentiality; Transition Planning.

(a) The Company shall, and shall cause each of its subsidiaries to, afford to Parent, and to Parent's officers, employees, investment bankers, attorneys, accountants and other advisors and representatives, reasonable access at reasonable times and during normal business hours during the period prior to the Effective Time or the **termination** of this Agreement, in a manner which does not unreasonably interfere with the business and operations of the Company, to all their respective properties, assets, books, contracts, commitments, directors, **officers**, employees, attorneys, accountants, auditors, other advisors and representatives and records and, during such period, the Company shall, and shall cause each of its subsidiaries to, make available to Parent on a prompt basis (a) access to each material report, schedule, form, statement and other document filed or received by it during such period to or **from** any PUC or **pursuant** to the requirements of applicable securities laws and (b) all other information concerning its business, properties and personnel as Parent may reasonably request; provided that such right of access shall not include sampling, testing or Phase II environmental site **assessment** activities. For **the** purposes of this Section 5.02, all communications, including requests for information or access, **pursuant** to this Section 5.02, shall only be made by and between a representative of each of Parent, on the one hand, and of the Company, on the other hand, which representative (a) shall initially be Jim **McGivern** for Parent and Ellen Wolf for the Company and (b) may be replaced with a substitute representative by either party **from** time to time upon reasonable written notice to the other party. The Company will promptly advise Parent of any material developments in its business. Notwithstanding the foregoing, (i) the Company and its subsidiaries shall not be required to provide any information to the extent that the Company or any of its subsidiaries is legally obligated to keep such information confidential or otherwise not to provide such **information** or to the extent that such access would constitute a waiver of the attorney-client privilege and (ii) the Company shall provide access to those properties, assets, books, contracts, commitments, directors, officers, employees, attorneys, accountants, auditors, other advisors and representatives and records **described** above of its subsidiaries that are not wholly-owned subsidiaries only to the extent that the Company has or is reasonably able to obtain such access. Parent will hold, and will direct its officers, employees, investment bankers, attorneys, accountants and other advisors and representatives to hold, any and all **information** received from the Company, directly or indirectly, in confidence in accordance with the **Confidentiality** Agreement dated June **26, 2001**, among Guarantor, Thames and the Company (as it may be amended **from** time to time, the "Confidentiality Agreement").

(b) The Company and Parent shall, and shall cause each of their respective subsidiaries to, reasonably cooperate to obtain an orderly transition and integration process in connection with the Merger in order to minimize the disruption to, and preserve the value of, the business of the Surviving Corporation and its subsidiaries during the period **from** and **after** the Effective Time. The Company and Parent agree that such cooperation shall include the development as soon as reasonably practicable following the date hereof of a mutually acceptable integration plan on a **business-by-business** and region-by-region basis with reasonable provisions for visitation by employees.

SECTION 5.03. Reasonable Best Efforts: Notification. Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, each **of the** parties agrees to use its

reasonable **best efforts** to take, or cause to be taken, all actions that are **necessary, proper and advisable to consummate and make effective the** Merger and the other transactions **contemplated by this Agreement** and the Company Voting **Agreement**, including using its reasonable best **efforts to accomplish the following** as promptly as reasonably practicable following the date of this **Agreement**: (a) the taking of all acts **necessary** to cause the conditions precedent set forth in Article VI to be satisfied, (b) the obtaining of all necessary actions or **nonactions, waivers, consents, approvals, orders** and authorizations **from Governmental** Entities and the **making of all necessary registrations, declarations** and filings and the taking of **all** steps as **may** be necessary to obtain **an approval** (including the Company **Required** Consents and the Parent Required Consents) or waiver **from**, or, to the extent **any** approval **or waiver** cannot **be** obtained, to avoid the need to obtain an approval (including the Company **Required** Consents and the Parent **Required** Consents) or waiver **from**, or to avoid an action or **proceeding** by, any **Governmental** Entity and (c) the obtaining of **all necessary** consents, **approvals** or **waivers from** third parties. **In** connection with and without limiting the foregoing, the Company shall, if any state **takeover** statute or similar statute or regulation is or becomes applicable to this Agreement, the Company Voting **Agreement**, the Merger or any of the **other** transactions **contemplated** hereby or thereby, use its reasonable best efforts to allow the Merger and the other **transactions contemplated by this Agreement** and the Company Voting **Agreement** to be consummated as **promptly as practicable** on the terms contemplated by **this** Agreement and the Company Voting Agreement and otherwise to **minimize** the **effect** of such statute or regulation on this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement, the Merger and the **other** transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. The Company, Guarantor and Parent **shall** provide such assistance, **information** and cooperation to each other as is reasonably requested in connection with the **foregoing and, in connection therewith**, shall notify the other person promptly following the receipt of any **comments from** any **Governmental** Entity and of any request by any Governmental Entity **for** amendments, supplements or additional information in respect of any registration, declaration or filing with such Governmental Entity and shall supply the other **person** with copies of **all** correspondence between such person or any of its representatives, on **the one** hand, and any Governmental Entity, on the other hand. **In addition, the** Company, Guarantor and Parent shall cooperate to promptly develop a mutually acceptable plan to obtain the Company Required Consents and the Parent Required Consents as expeditiously as **reasonably practicable** and without undue expense. To the extent that either party or any of its **subsidiaries** is **required** to make any registration, declaration or **filing** with **any** PUC in connection with obtaining the Company Required Consents or the Parent Required Consents, such party shall use **its reasonable** best efforts to (i) provide the other party an **opportunity** to review and comment on such registration, declaration or **filing** reasonably in advance of making any such registration, declaration or **filing**, (ii) give reasonable consideration to **all** comments **proposed** by the **other** party and (iii) if applicable, coordinate the submission of such registration, declaration or **filing** with the other party. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries **shall** enter into or agree to any **terms or** conditions in **connection** with obtaining the Company Required Consents without the prior written consent of Parent (which consent shall not be **unreasonably withheld or** delayed). None of Guarantor, **Parent**, Sub or any of their **respective** subsidiaries **shall** enter into or agree to any **tams** or conditions in connection with obtaining the **Parent** Required Consents without the prior written consent of the Company (which consent shall not be **unreasonably** withheld or delayed).



SECTION 5.04. Company Stock Options. (a) As soon as practicable following the date of this Agreement, the Company shall ensure that the Board of Directors of the Company (or, if appropriate, any committee administering the Company Stock Plans) shall adopt such resolutions or take such other actions (if any) as may be required to provide that:

(i) each Company Stock Option outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (whether vested or **unvested**) shall be converted at the Effective Time into the right to receive an amount of cash equal to (A) the excess, if any, of (1) the Merger Consideration over (2) the exercise price per share of Company Common Stock subject to such Company Stock Option, multiplied by (B) the number of shares of Company Common Stock for which such Company Stock Option shall not theretofore have been exercised;

(ii) each Company Stock Issuance Right outstanding immediately prior to the Effective Time (whether vested or **unvested**) shall be converted at the Effective Time into the right to receive an amount of cash equal to the product of (A) the Merger Consideration and (B) the number of shares of Company **Common** Stock subject to such Company Stock Issuance **Right**; and

(iii) make such other changes to the Company **Stock** Plans as the Company and Parent may agree are appropriate to give effect to the Merger.

(b) All amounts payable pursuant to Section 5.04(a) shall be subject to any required withholding of **taxes** or proof of eligibility of exemption therefrom, and shall be paid as soon as practicable following the **Effective** Time, without interest.

(c) The Company shall take all actions determined to be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Section 5.04 as mutually agreed by Parent and the Company. **prior** to the Effective Time, the Company shall ensure that the Board of Directors of the Company (or, if appropriate, any committee administering the Company Stock Plans) shall take or cause to be taken such actions as are required to cause (i) the Company Stock Plans to **terminate** as of the Effective Time and (ii) the provisions in any other Company Benefit Plan providing for the **issuance**, transfer or grant of any capital stock of the Company or any interest on or following the Effective Time in respect of any capital **stock** of the Company to be deleted as of the **Effective** Time.

SECTION 5.05. Indemnification. Exculpation and Insurance. (a) To the extent, if any, not provided by an existing right of indemnification or other agreement or **policy**, **from** and **after** the Effective Time, Guarantor and Parent shall, to the **fullest** extent permitted by applicable law, indemnify, defend and hold harmless each person who is now, or has been at any time prior to the date hereof, or who becomes prior to the Effective Time, an officer or director of the Company or any of its subsidiaries (each an **"Indemnified Party"** and, collectively, the **"Indemnified Parties"**) against (i) **all** losses, expenses (including reasonable **attorney's fees and expenses**), claims, damages or liabilities or, subject to the proviso of the next **succeeding** sentence, amounts paid in settlement, arising out of actions or omissions occurring at or prior to

the Effective Time (and whether asserted or claimed prior to, at or **after** the Effective Time) that are, in whole or in part, based on or arising out of **the** fact that **such** person is or was a director or officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries ("**Indemnified Liabilities**"), and (ii) **all Indemnified Liabilities** to the extent they are based in whole or in part on or arise in whole or in part out of or pertain to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby. **In** the event of any such loss, expense, claim, damage or liability (whether or not arising before the **Effective Time**); Guarantor and Parent shall pay or cause to be paid the reasonable fees and expenses of counsel selected by the **Indemnified Parties**, **which** counsel **shall** be reasonably satisfactory to Parent, promptly **after** statements **therefor** are received and otherwise **advance** to **such** Indemnified Party upon request reimbursement of documented expenses **reasonably** incurred; provided, however, that Guarantor and Parent shall not be **liable** for any settlement **effected** without its written prior consent (which consent shall not be unreasonably **withheld** or delayed). **In** the event any Indemnified Party is required to bring any action against Guarantor or Parent to enforce rights or to collect money due under **this** Agreement and such action results in **a final**, non-appealable judgment in favor of such Indemnified Party, Guarantor and Parent shall reimburse such Indemnified Party for all of its reasonable expenses in bringing and **pursuing** such action. Each Indemnified Party shall be entitled to the advancement of **expenses to the full** extent contemplated in this Section **5.05(a)** in connection with any such action; provided, however, that any person to whom expenses are advanced provides an **undertaking**, if and to the extent required by the DGCL, to repay such advances if it is ultimately determined that **such** person is not entitled to indemnification.

(b) For six years after the Effective Time, Guarantor and Parent shall **maintain** in **effect** (i) the Company's current directors' and officers' liability insurance **covering** each person currently covered by the Company's **directors'** and officers' liability insurance policy for acts or omissions **occurring** prior to the **Effective Time** on **terms with** respect to such coverage and amounts no less **favorable** in the aggregate to such **directors** and officers than those of such policy as in effect on the date of this **Agreement**; provided that Guarantor or Parent may substitute **therefor** policies of a reputable insurance company the terms of which, including coverage and amount, are **no less favorable** in the aggregate to such directors and officers than the insurance coverage otherwise **required** under this Section **5.05(b)**; provided however, that in no event shall Guarantor and Parent be required to pay aggregate annual **premiums** for **insurance under** this Section **5.05(b)** in excess of 200% of the amount of the **aggregate premiums** paid by the Company for the year **from July 22, 2001** through July **22, 2002** for such purpose (**which** premiums for the year **from July 22, 2001** through July **22, 2002** are hereby **represented and** warranted by the Company to be **\$327,500**), provided that Guarantor and Parent shall nevertheless be obligated to provide a policy with the best coverage available as may be obtained for such **200%** amount and (ii) in the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and By-Laws of the **Surviving Corporation** the provisions regarding elimination of liability of directors and indemnification **of**, and advancement of expenses to, **officers** or directors contained in the Restated **Certificate** of Incorporation attached as Exhibit A and the current **By-Laws** of the Company.

fc) In the event that Guarantor **or** Parent or any of their **successors** or assigns (i) consolidates with **or merges** into any other person and is not the **continuing** or

surviving corporation or entity of such consolidation or merger or (ii) transfers or conveys all or substantially all its properties and assets to any person, then, and in each such case, Guarantor and Parent shall cause proper provision to be made so that the **successors** and assigns of Guarantor or Parent, as the case may be, assume the obligations set forth in this Section 5.05.

(d) To the fullest extent permitted by law, **from** and after the Effective Time, all rights to indemnification as of the date hereof in favor of the directors and officers of the Company and its **subsidiaries with** respect *to their* activities as such prior to the Effective Time, as provided in, with respect to the Company, the Restated Certificate of Incorporation attached as Exhibit A and the current By-Laws of the Company, or, with respect to the Company's subsidiaries, their respective certificates of incorporation and by-laws (or similar organizational documents) in effect on the date hereof, or **otherwise** in effect on the date hereof, shall survive the Merger and shall continue in **full** force and **effect** for a period of not less than six years **from** the Effective Time; provided, however, that in the event any claim or claims are asserted or made within such six-year period, **all** such rights to indemnification in respect of such claim or **claims** shall continue until the **final** disposition thereof.

(e) The provisions of this Section 5.05 are intended to be for the benefit **of**, and will be enforceable by, each Indemnified Party, his or her heirs and his or her representatives.

SECTION 5.06. Fees and Expenses. (a) Except as provided below, all **fees** and expenses **incurred** in connection with this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby and thereby shall be paid by the party incurring such fees or expenses, whether or not the Merger is consummated

(b) **In** the event that (i) (A) a Takeover Proposal **shall** have been made to the Company or its stockholders or any person has publicly announced an intention (which has not been withdrawn) to make a Takeover Proposal, (B) **thereafter** this Agreement is terminated by either Parent or the Company pursuant to Section 7.01(b)(i) (but only if the Stockholders Meeting has not been held by the date that is five business days prior to the date of such termination due to a breach of Section 5.01 by the Company) **or** 7.01(b)(iii) and (C) within 12 months after such termination, the Company or any of its subsidiaries enters into a **definitive** agreement to consummate, or **consummates**, any Takeover Proposal (solely for purposes of this Section 5.06(b)(i)(C), the **term** "Takeover Proposal" **shall** have the meaning set forth in the definition of Takeover Proposal contained in Section 4.02(a) except that all references to **20%** shall be deemed references to **50%**), (ii) this Agreement is terminated by the Company pursuant to Section 7.01(f) or (iii) this Agreement is terminated by Parent pursuant to Section 7.01(c), then the Company shall pay Parent a fee equal to \$ 13.8 million (the "**T**ermination Fee") by wire transfer of same day **funds** to an account in the United States designated by **Parent** (x) in the case of a **termination** by the Company pursuant to Section 7.01 (f), concurrently with **such** termination, (y) in the case of a termination by Parent pursuant to section 7.01(c), within

two business days **after** such termination and (z) in the case of a payment as a result of any event **referred** to in Section **5.06(b)(i)(C)**, upon the first **to occur** of such events. The Company acknowledges that the agreements contained in this Section **5.06(b)** are an **integral part** of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and that, without these agreements, Parent would not enter into this **Agreement; accordingly, if the** Company fails promptly to pay the amounts due **pursuant** to this section **5.06(b)**, and, in **order to** obtain such payment, Parent **commences** a suit that results in a **final**, non-appealable judgment against the Company for the amounts set forth in this Section **5.06(b)**, the Company **shall** pay to Parent interest on the amounts set forth in this Section **5.06(b)** **from** and including the date payment of such amount **was** due to but **excluding** the date of actual payment at the prime rate of The Chase Manhattan Bank in effect on the date such payment was required to be made, together with reasonable **legal** fees and expenses **incurred** in connection with such **suit**.

(c) If this Agreement is terminated (i) by the Company **pursuant** to section 7.01 (e) (other than on account of a breach of Section 3.02(d), Section 4.03 or **Section 5.03**) or (iii) by Parent **pursuant** to Section 7.01 **(d)**, then the non-terminating **party** shall promptly (but not later than five business days after receipt of notice of the amount due **from the other party**) pay to the **terminating** party an amount equal to all documented **out-of-pocket** expenses and fees incurred by such terminating party or its **affiliates** (including fees and expenses payable to all **legal**, accounting, **financial**, public relations and other professional advisors) arising out **of**, in connection with or **related** to the Merger **or** the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement ("**Out-of-Pocket Expenses**") not to exceed \$20 million in the aggregate; provided, however, that if this Agreement is terminated under the **circumstances** described in clauses (i) or (ii) above by a party as a result of a willful breach by the **non-terminating** party, the **terminating** party may pursue any remedies available to it at law or in equity and such **party's** Out-of-Pocket Expenses shall not be limited to \$20 million.

SECTION 5.07. [**Intentionally** omitted].

SECTION 5.08. Collective Bargaining Agreements. From and **after** the Effective Time, Parent shall cause the Surviving Corporation and its subsidiaries to honor and continue to be bound by the **terms** of **all** collective **bargaining** agreements to which the **Company or** any of its subsidiaries is a party (the "**Collective Bargaining Agreements**").

SECTION 5.09. Benefits Matters. (a) For purposes hereof; "Company Employees" shall mean those individuals who are employees of the Company and its subsidiaries (including those employees who are on vacation, leave of **absence**, disability or maternity leave) as of the Effective Time.

(b) Subject to Applicable Law and Judgments and **obligations under** Collective Bargaining Agreements, Parent shall, and **shall** cause the Surviving Corporation to, give the Company Employees **full** credit, **for all** purposes, under any employee benefit plans or arrangements **maintained** by Parent's (or one of its

subsidiaries') water business in the United States, the Surviving Corporation and their respective subsidiaries, and in which Company Employees may become eligible to participate for the Company Employees' service with the Company and its subsidiaries to the same extent recognized by the Company and its subsidiaries immediately prior to the Effective Time, except for purposes of benefit accrual under defined benefit pension plans in which the Company Employees do not participate immediately prior to the Effective Time, so long as credit for past service under any such pension plan is also not given to other employees employed in Parent's (or one of its subsidiaries') water businesses in the United States or to the extent giving such credit would **result** in a duplication of **benefits** (including in respect of benefit accrual under defined benefit pension plans) for the same period of service.

(c) Subject to Applicable Law and Judgments and obligations under Collective Bargaining Agreements, Parent **shall**, and shall **cause** the **Surviving** Corporation to, (i) waive all limitations as to preexisting conditions, exclusions and waiting periods with respect to participation and coverage **requirements** applicable to **the** Company Employees and, to the extent applicable, any retired employee **constituting** a member of the Retiree Group (as defined below) (any such **employee** a 'Retired Employee') under any welfare benefit plans in which **such** employees may be **eligible** to participate after the Effective Time to the extent waived under the applicable Company Benefit Plan immediately prior to the Effective Time and (ii) provide each Company Employee (and each Retired Employee) with credit for any co-payments and **deductibles** paid prior to the Effective Time in the calendar year in which the Effective Time **occurs** (or, if later, the year in which such Company Employee (and each Retired Employee) commences participation) in satisfying any applicable **deductible** or out-of-pocket requirements under any welfare plans in which such Company Employee (and each Retired Employee) is eligible to participate after the Effective Time.

(d) Parent agrees to honor, and **shall** cause the **Surviving** Corporation to honor, the Company Benefit Plans disclosed in the Filed SEC Documents or **Section 3.01 (k)(i)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule in accordance with their **current** terms. Subject to Applicable Law and Judgments and obligations under Collective Bargaining **Agreements**, for a period of 18 months immediately following the **Effective** Time, Parent shall, or shall **cause** the **Surviving** Corporation to, provide to the Company Employees compensation (including base pay and annual and long **term** incentive opportunities) and employee benefits (including health, welfare, pension, vacation, savings and severance) that are no less favorable in the aggregate than those provided to the Company Employees immediately prior to the Effective Time; provided, that for a period of 12 months immediately following the Effective **Time**, Parent shall, or shall **cause** the Surviving Corporation to, maintain the Company Benefit Plans in accordance with **their** terms as in effect immediately prior to the Effective Time (other than **equity** or **equity-based** plans) without any adverse amendment thereto or termination thereof (except as required by Applicable Law and Judgments or any Collective Bargaining Agreement). Notwithstanding the foregoing, following the Effective Time, there shall be no obligation to provide Company Employees with awards of capital stock of any entity or awards of options or other rights of any kind to acquire capital stock of any entity); provided.

however, that the value of any equity-based compensation provided to Company Employees immediately prior to the Effective **Time** shall be taken into account in determining whether compensation and benefits provided **during** the 18 months **after** the Effective Time are no **less favorable** in the aggregate than those provided to Company Employees **immediately prior** to the Effective Time.

(e) Subject to Applicable Law and Judgments and obligations under Collective Bargaining Agreements, Parent shall, or shall cause the **Surviving Corporation** to, provide to the Retiree Group (as **defined** below), without adverse **amendment**, the post-retirement medical and life insurance benefits as in **effect** immediately prior to the Closing Date (at the same levels, and at the same **cost** (if any), as in **effect immediately** prior to the Closing Date), provided to Company **Employees who** are not covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement and their dependents as set forth in the retiree **medical** plan listed in Section **3.01(k)(i)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule (the "**Retiree Medical Plan**"). The "**Retiree Group**" means each **Company** Employee who is not (or was not while employed) covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement and who, as of the Closing Date, (i) is either retired under the terms of the Retiree Medical Plan **as** in effect on the date hereof or (ii) has satisfied **all** applicable eligibility requirements (under the terms of the Retiree Medical Plan as in **effect** on the date hereof) **necessary** to commence receiving benefits if his or her employment were terminated at the Effective **Time**.

(f) Subject to Applicable Law and Judgments and obligations **under** Collective Bargaining Agreements, in the **event** and to the extent that Guarantor or one of its subsidiaries **maintains** a qualified employer stock ownership plan for the **benefit** of employees employed in Parent's or one of its **subsidiaries'** (or one of their **respective** successors') water business in the United States (a "**Guarantor ESOP**"), Guarantor **shall** allow all current non-union Company Employees to participate in such Guarantor ESOP as soon as practicable **after** the **Effective Time**.

(g) Between the date **of** this Agreement and the Closing Date, the Company shall provide Parent commercially reasonable access to the Company Employees for purposes of **implementing** this **Agreement**.

(h) The Company shall use its reasonable best **efforts** to cause the Board of Directors of the Company not to exercise any discretion it possesses solely in respect of the **transactions** contemplated by this Agreement, to expressly set the date **when** a "change in control" occurs for the purposes of any applicable individual agreement covering a Participant (other than to deem such "change in control" to occur no **earlier** than the **Effective Time**).

(i) **The Company shall take all action necessary (i) to provide that the** component of the Company's Dividend Reinvestment **and** Stock Purchase Plan **permitting** independent monthly **purchases of** Company **Common** stock (**other** than purchases of Company Common Stock funded **solely** by reinvestment of Company

dividends) (the ‘DRSPP Stock Purchase Component’) shall be indefinitely suspended as promptly as reasonably practicable following the date of this Agreement (but in no event later than immediately following **the** second stock purchase effected following the date of this **Agreement** under the DRSPP Stock Purchase Component) and (ii) to cause all amounts not yet applied as of the date of termination of the DRSPP Stock Purchase Component to purchase Company Common Stock under the DRSPP **Stock** Purchase Component to be returned as promptly as practicable following such suspension.

SECTION 5.10. Public Announcements. Subject to each party’s disclosure obligations imposed by law or any applicable securities exchange, and except with respect to any Adverse Recommendation Change, Parent and Sub, on the one hand, and the Company, on the other hand, **shall**, to the extent reasonably practicable, consult and cooperate with each other before issuing, and give each other a reasonable opportunity to review and comment upon, any press release or other public statements (other than routine employee communications) with respect to this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement, the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby and thereby. The parties agree that the initial press release to be issued with respect to the transactions contemplated by this Agreement shall be in the form heretofore agreed to by the parties.

SECTION 5.11. Rights Agreement. The Board of Directors of the Company shall take all action necessary in order to render the Company Rights inapplicable to the **Merger**, the Company Voting Agreement and the performance of this **Agreement**.

SECTION 5.12. Stockholder Litigation. The Company agrees that it shall not settle or offer to settle any litigation commenced prior to or **after** the date hereof against the Company or any of its directors by any stockholder of the Company relating to this Agreement, the Company Voting Agreement, the Merger, any other **transaction** contemplated hereby or thereby, without the prior written consent of Parent (not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed).

SECTION 5.13. Director Resignations. On the Closing Date, the Company shall cause to be delivered to Parent duly executed resignations, effective as of the Effective Time, of each member of the Board of Directors of the Company and **shall** take such other action as is necessary to accomplish the foregoing.

## ARTICLE VI

### Conditions Precedent

SECTION 6.01. Conditions to Each Party’s Obligation to Effect the **Merger**. The obligation of each party to effect the **Merger** is subject to the **satisfaction** or waiver on or prior to the Closing Date of the following conditions:

(a) Stockholder Approval. The Stockholder Approval shall have been obtained.

(b) Antitrust. Any waiting period (and any extension thereof) applicable to the Merger under the HSR Act shall have been terminated or shall have expired and any other required approval or waiting period under any other similar competition, merger control, antitrust or similar law or regulation or the Investment Canada Act, if applicable, the failure of which to obtain or comply with which would be reasonably expected to have a material adverse effect, shall have been obtained or terminated or shall have expired

(c) No Injunctions or Legal Restraints. No temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction or other order or decree issued by any court of competent jurisdiction or other legal restraint or prohibition that has the effect of preventing the consummation of the Merger shall be in effect (collectively, "Legal Restraints").

(d) Required Consents. The Company Required Consents and the Parent Required Consents shall have been obtained prior to the Effective Time and shall have become Final Orders. Any reference in this Agreement to the "obtaining" of any such Company Required Consents or Parent Required Consents shall mean making such declarations, filings, registrations, giving such notice, obtaining such authorizations, orders, consents or approvals and having such waiting periods expire as are, in each case, necessary to avoid a violation of law. A "Final Order" for purposes of this Agreement means action by the relevant regulatory authority (i) which has not been reversed, stayed, enjoined, set aside, annulled or suspended and (ii) with respect to which any waiting period prescribed by Applicable Law or Judgment before the Merger and the other transactions contemplated hereby may be consummated has expired, and as to which all conditions to be satisfied before the consummation of such transactions prescribed by Applicable Law or Judgment have been satisfied.

(e) Stock Redemption. The Stock Redemption shall have been consummated.

SECTION 6.02. Conditions to Obligations of Guarantor. Parent and Sub. The obligations of Guarantor, Parent and Sub to effect the Merger are further subject to the satisfaction or waiver on or prior to the Closing Date of the following conditions:

(a) Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties of the Company contained herein shall be true and correct as of the date of this Agreement and as of the Closing Date with the same effect as though made as of the Closing Date (except that the accuracy of representations and warranties that by their terms speak as of a specified date will be determined as of such date), other than for such failures to be true and correct that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect. Parent shall have received a certificate signed on behalf of the Company by the chief financial officer of the Company to such effect. For the



purposes of determining the satisfaction of this condition, the representations and warranties of the Company shall be deemed not qualified by any references therein to materiality generally or to a material adverse effect

(b) Performance of Obligations of the Company. The Company shall **have** performed in all material respects all obligations required to be performed by it under this Agreement at or prior to the Closing Date, and **Parent** shall have received a certificate signed on behalf of the Company by the chief financial officer of the Company to such effect.

(c) Material Adverse Effect. No material adverse effect shall have occurred and there shall be no state of facts, change, development, effect, condition or occurrence that would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect

(d) Required Consents. The Final Orders relating to the Company Required Consents and the Parent Required Consents, together with any consents, approvals, orders, authorizations and declarations that shall have been obtained following the date of this Agreement and prior to the Effective Time in connection with any acquisition of any business or person by the Company or any of its subsidiaries, shall not individually or **in** the aggregate impose any terms or conditions, excluding any terms and conditions that may be imposed with respect to the acquisitions contemplated by the agreements dated as of October **15, 1999** between the Company and certain of its subsidiaries on one hand, and Citizens Communications Company ("Citizens") and certain of its **subsidiaries**, on the other hand, to **acquire** certain water and **wastewater assets of those Citizens** subsidiaries, to the extent reflected or referred to in the Proposed Decision of ALJ **McVicar** dated as of September **6, 2001** and excluding any terms and conditions that may be imposed to the extent **attributable to any acquisition of any business or person by** Guarantor or any of its subsidiaries with respect to which an acquisition agreement is entered into or that is publicly announced or **consummated** after the date of this Agreement, that would reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect, or a material adverse effect on the combined business, assets, properties, condition (**financial** or otherwise) or results of operations of the Company and **Thames** Water Holdings, Inc. and their respective subsidiaries taken as a whole.

SECTION 6.03. Conditions to Obligation of the Company. The obligation of the Company **to effect the Merger is further subject to the satisfaction or waiver on or prior to the** Closing Date of the following conditions:

(a) Representations and Warranties. The representations and warranties of Guarantor, Parent and Sub contained herein shall be true and **correct**, as **of the date of this Agreement and as of the Closing Date with the same effect as though made as of the Closing Date (except that the accuracy of representations and warranties that by their terms speak as of a specified date will be determined as of such date), other than for such** failures to be true and correct that individually or in the aggregate would not reasonably be expected to impair in any material respect the ability of Guarantor, Parent or Sub to

**perform** its obligations under this Agreement or prevent or materially delay the consummation of any of the transactions contemplated by this **Agreement**. The Company **shall** have received a certificate signed on behalf of Guarantor **and** Parent by a senior **officer** of each of Guarantor and Parent to such **effect**. For the purposes of **determining** the satisfaction of this condition, the representations and warranties of Guarantor, Parent and Sub shall be deemed not qualified by any references therein to materiality generally or to a material adverse effect

(b) Performance of Obligations of Parent and Sub. **Guarantor**, Parent and Sub **shall** have performed in all material respects **all** obligations required to be **performed** by **them** under this Agreement at or prior to the Closing Date, and the Company shall have **received** a certificate signed on behalf of Guarantor and Parent by a senior officer of each of Guarantor and Parent to such **effect**.

SECTION 6.04. Frustration of Closing Conditions. None of the Company, Guarantor, Parent or Sub may rely on the **failure** of any condition set forth in Section **6.01, 6.02** or **6.03**, as the case may be, to be satisfied if such **failure** was caused by such party's failure to use reasonable best efforts to consummate the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by **this** Agreement, as required by and subject to Section 5.03.

## ARTICLE VII

### Termination, Amendment and Waiver

SECTION 7.01. Termination. This Agreement may be terminated, and the Merger **contemplated** hereby may be abandoned, at any time **prior** to the Effective Time, whether **before** or **after** the **Stockholder** Approval has **been obtained**:

(a) by mutual written consent of Parent, Sub and the **Company**;

(b) by **either Parent** or the **Company**:

(i) if the Merger shall not have been consummated by **March 16, 2003**; provided, however, (A) that the right to **terminate** this Agreement pursuant to this Section **7.01(b)(i)** shall not be available to any party whose breach of this **Agreement has been the primary reason the Merger has not been consummated by** such **date**, (B) that neither Parent nor the Company may ~~terminate~~ pursuant to this clause **(b)(i)** if on such date all conditions in Article VI shall have been satisfied or be **capable** of being satisfied other than the condition set forth in Section **6.01(e)**, and ~~the~~ Company shall have mailed a notice of redemption to effect the Stock Redemption, and (C) that if on such date a **condition set** forth in Section **6.01(d)** or **6.02(d)** shall not have been **satisfied** but all other conditions set **forth** in Article VI shall have **been satisfied or be capable of being satisfied, then such**

date shall be extended to September 16, 2003; and provided, further, that if on such date (or such extended date pursuant to the immediately preceding proviso, as applicable), a condition set forth in Section 6.01 (d) or 6.02(d) shall not have been satisfied solely because the period described in clause (ii) of the definition of Final Order set forth in Section 6.01(d) shall not have expired, but all of the **other** conditions set forth in Article VI shall have been satisfied or be capable of being satisfied, such date shall be extended to the date of expiration of such period (**up** to a maximum of 60 days for such extension);

(ii) if any Legal Restraint of the type referred to in Section 6.01 (c) shall be in effect and shall have become **final** and **nonappealable** (provided that the party seeking to terminate this Agreement pursuant to this Section 7.01 **(b)(ii)** shall have used its reasonable best efforts to resist, resolve or **lift**, as applicable, such Legal **Restraint**); or

(iii) if, upon a vote at a duly held meeting to obtain the Stockholder **Approval**, the Stockholder Approval shall not have been obtained;

(c) by Parent in the event an Adverse Recommendation Change has occurred;

(d) by Parent if the Company shall have breached any of its representations, warranties or covenants contained in this Agreement, which breach (A) would give rise to the failure of a condition set forth in Section 6.02(a) or **6.02(b)**, and **(B)** has not been cured by the Company within twenty business days **after** its receipt of written notice thereof from **Parent**;

(e) by the Company if Parent shall have breached any of its representations, warranties or covenants contained in this **Agreement**, which breach (i) would give rise to the failure of a condition set forth in Section 6.03(a) or **6.03(b)**, and (ii) has not been cured by Parent within twenty business days **after** its receipt of written notice thereof **from** the **Company**; or

(f) by the Company in accordance with the **terms** and subject to the conditions of section **4.02(b)**.

**Notwithstanding** the foregoing, in no event shall Parent terminate this Agreement unless prior to the date of such **termination** Parent **shall** have complied with Section 7.03 (including paying to the Company the Reverse Fee) if applicable.

SECTION 7.02. **Effect of Termination.** In the event of **termination** of this **Agreement** by either the Company or **Parent** as provided in Section 7.01, this **Agreement shall** forthwith become void and have no effect, without any liability or obligation on the part of **Parent**, Sub or the Company, other than the provisions of the last sentence of Section **5.02(a)**, Section 5.06, this Section 7.02, Section 7.03 and Article **VIII**; provided however, that no such

termination shall relieve any party hereto from any liability or damages **resulting from a wilful breach by a** party of any of its representations, **warranties** or **covenants** set forth in this **Agreement**.

SECTION 7.03. Certain Breaches. If (a) this Agreement is terminated by either party pursuant to Section 7.01 (other than **(w)** the termination of this **Agreement** by either Parent or the Company pursuant to **Section 7.01 (a) or (b)(iii)**), (x) the termination of this **Agreement** by Parent pursuant to **Section 7.01(c)** or **(y)** the **termination of this Agreement** by the Company pursuant to **Section 7.01(f)**) at a time when any of the conditions set forth in, **Section 6.01(c)** (to the extent relating to the Holding Company Ad), **6.01 (d) or 6.02(d)** have not been satisfied and **(b)** at the time of such termination either **(i) Section 3.02(d)(i) is not true and correct** such that Guarantor, Parent, **Sub** or **any of their respective subsidiaries** (A) would be **required** to register as a holding company under the Holding Company Act or **(B) would be subject to regulation under the Holding Company Act in a manner that would raise substantive questions with respect to the ownership by any of them of any water or wastewater business or Guarantor or Parent is in breach of Section 4.03(a)(a)(i) or 4.03(a)(a)(ii)(A) or (ii) Section 3.02(d)(i) (other than as set forth above) or 3.02(d)(ii) is not true and correct or Guarantor or Parent is in breach of Section 4.03(a)(a)(ii)(B), 4.03(a)(b)(i), 5.03(a) (to the extent relating to Section 6.01(c) (to the extent relating to the Holding Company Act), 6.01(d) or 6.02(d)) or 5.03(b) (to the extent relating to the Company Required Consents and the Parent Required Consents) and, in the case of clause (ii), such failure to be true and correct or such breach is the primary cause of the failure of the conditions set forth in Section 6.01(c) (to the extent relating to the Holding Company Act), 6.01(d) or 6.02(d) to be satisfied, then** Parent shall pay the Company **an** amount equal to \$138 million (the **"Reverse Fee"**) by wire **transfer** of same day funds in U.S. dollars to an **account** in the United States designated by the Company within two business days **after** (or, in the case of a **termination** by Parent, concurrently with) such **termination**. Guarantor and Parent acknowledge that the agreements contained in this Section 7.03 are an integral part of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and that, without these **agreements**, the Company would not enter into this Agreement; **accordingly**, if Parent fails **promptly to pay the amounts due pursuant to this Section 7.03, and, in order to obtain such payment, the Company commences a suit that results in a final, non-appealable judgment against Guarantor or Parent for the amounts set forth in this Section 7.03, Parent and Guarantor shall pay to the Company interest on the amounts set forth in this Section 7.03 from and including the date payment of such amount was due to but excluding the date of actual payment at the prime rate of The Chase Manhattan Bank in effect on the date such payment was required to be made, together with reasonable legal fees and expenses incurred in connection with such suit.** The parties acknowledge and agree **that, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, the Company's sole and exclusive remedy with respect to any and all claims based on or with respect to any failure of Section 3.02(d) to be true and correct or any breach of Section 4.03(a)(a), 4.03(a)(b)(i), 5.03(a) (to the extent set forth above) or 5.03(b) (to the extent set forth above), in circumstances where the Company is entitled to payment of the Reverse Fee (other than any claims resulting from a willful breach by Guarantor or Parent or any of their respective subsidiaries of Section 3.02(d), 4.03(a)(a), 4.03(a)(b)(i), 5.03(a) (to the extent set forth above) or 5.03(b) (to the extent set forth above)) shall be the payment of the Reverse Fee pursuant to this Section 7.03.**

SECTION 7.04. Amendment. This Agreement may be amended by the parties hereto at any time prior to the Effective Time, whether before or **after** the Stockholder Approval **has** been obtained; provided, however, that after the Stockholder Approval has **been** obtained, there shall be made no amendment that by law requires **further** approval by stockholders of **the parties without the further approval** of such stockholders. **This** Agreement may not be amended except by an instrument in writing signed on behalf of each of the parties hereto.

SECTION 7.05. Extension: Waiver. At any time prior to the Effective Time, **the** parties may (a) extend the time for the performance of any of the obligations or other acts of the other parties, **(b)** waive any inaccuracies in the representations and **warranties** contained herein or in any document delivered pursuant hereto or (c) waive compliance with any of the agreements or conditions contained herein; provided, however, that **after** the Stockholder Approval has been obtained, there shall be made no waiver that by law **requires further** approval by stockholders of **the** parties without the **further** approval of such **stockholders**. **Any** agreement on **the** part of a party to any such extension or waiver **shall be valid only if set forth in an** instrument in writing signed on behalf of such party. The failure or delay by any party to **this** Agreement to assert any of its rights under this Agreement **or otherwise shall not** constitute a waiver of such rights nor shall any single or partial exercise by any party **to this** Agreement of any of its rights under this Agreement preclude any other or further exercise **of such rights** or any other **rights** under this **Agreement**.

## ARTICLE VIII

### General Provisions

SECTION 8.01. Nonsurvival of Representations and Warranties. None of the representations and warranties in this Agreement or in any instrument delivered pursuant to this Agreement shall survive the Effective **Time**. This Section 8.01 shall **not limit any covenant or agreement** of the parties **which by** its terms contemplates performance after the Effective Tie.

SECTION 8.02. Notices. All notices, requests, claims, demands **and other** communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed given if delivered personally or **one business day after** being sent by overnight courier (providing proof of delivery) to the parties at the following addresses (or at such other address for a party as shall be specified by like notice):

if to Guarantor, Parent or Sub, to:

**Thames Water Plc**  
**Clearwater Court**  
**Vastern Road**  
**Reading RG1 8DB**  
**United Kingdom**

Attention: Bill Alexander

**Janet Ravenscroft**

with a copy to:

**RWE Aktiengesellschaft**  
**Opernplatz 1, 45128**  
**Essen, Germany**

**Attention:** General Counsel

with a copy to:

**Cravath, Swaine & Moore**  
**worldwide Plaza**  
**825 Eighth Avenue**  
**New York, NY 10019**

**Attention:** Peter s. **Wilson**, Esq.  
 Mark I. Greene, Esq.

if to the Company, to:

**American Water Works Company, Inc.**  
**1025 Laurel Oak Road**  
**Voorhees, NJ 08043**

**Attention:** W. Timothy **Pohl**

with a copy to:

**Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**  
**425 Lexington Avenue**  
**New York, NY 10017**

**Attention:** Caroline B. **Gottschalk**, Esq.  
 Peter s. **Malloy**, Esq.

SECTION 8.03. **Definitions.** For purposes of this Agreement:

(a) an “**affiliate**” of any person **means** another person **that** directly or indirectly, **through one or more intermediaries, controls**, is **controlled** by, or is under common control **with**, such **first person**;

(b) “**knowledge** of the **Company**” means the actual knowledge of **those** individuals **set** forth in Section **8.03(b)** of the Company Disclosure Schedule;

(c) “knowledge of Guarantor and Parent” means the actual knowledge of those individuals set forth in Section 8.03(c) of the Parent Disclosure Schedule;

(d) “material adverse effect” means any material adverse change or **effect** (i) on the business, assets, properties, condition (financial or **otherwise**) or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken **as** a whole, or (ii) which would reasonably be expected, directly or indirectly, to prevent or materially impede or delay the consummation of the Merger or the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement, except in the case of either (i) or (ii) for any change or effect (w) set forth in Section 8.03(d) of the Company Disclosure Schedule, (x) relating to financial **markets or the economy in general**, (y) affecting the water services or wastewater **services industries** generally and not specifically relating to the Company or its subsidiaries, or (z) to the **extent** attributable to or resulting **from** the public announcement of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement or the identity of Guarantor or Parent or their subsidiaries as the acquiring person in the Merger including **any loss** of customers or employees or condemnation proceedings resulting **therefrom**;

(e) “person” means an individual, corporation, partnership, joint **venture**, association, trust, limited liability company, Governmental Entity, unincorporated organization or other entity

(f) a “Significant Subsidiary” of any person means any subsidiary of such **person** that constitutes a significant subsidiary within the meaning of Rule 1-02 of Regulation S-X of the SEC;

(g) a “subsidiary” of any person means another person (i) of which 50% or more of the capital stock, voting **securities**, other voting ownership or voting partnership interests having voting power under ordinary circumstances to elect directors or similar members of the governing body of such corporation or other entity (or, if there are no such voting interests, 50% or more of the equity interests) are **owned** or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such first person or (ii) of which such **first** person is a general **partner**; and

(h) a “wholly owned **subsidiary**” of any person means a subsidiary of which 99% or more of the common equity securities having voting power under ordinary **circumstances** to elect directors or similar members of the governing body of such corporation or other entity (or, if there are no such equity securities having such voting power, 99% or more of the equity interests) are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by such **first person**.

SECTION 8.04. Interpretation. When a reference is made **in** this Agreement to a Section, Subsection or Schedule, such reference shall be to a Section or Subsection **of**, or a Schedule to, this **Agreement** unless otherwise indicated. The table of **contents** and headings contained in this Agreement are for reference **purposes only** and **shall not affect** in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. Whenever the words “include,” “includes” or

“including” are used in this **Agreement**, they shall be deemed to be followed by the words “without limitation.” The words “**hereof**,” “**herein**” and “**hereunder**” and words of similar import when used in this Agreement shall refer to this Agreement as a whole and not to any particular provision of this Agreement. The term “**or**” is not exclusive. The definitions contained in this **Agreement** are applicable to the singular as well as the plural **forms** of such terms. Any agreement or instrument **defined** or **referred** to herein or in any agreement or instrument that is **referred** to herein means such **agreement** or instrument as **from** time to time amended, modified or supplemented. References to a person are also to its permitted successors and assigns.

SECTION 8.05. **Guarantee.** In connection with the Merger and the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement, Guarantor hereby irrevocably, absolutely and unconditionally guarantees the due, punctual and complete performance and payment (and not merely collection) in **full** of all obligations and liabilities of Parent, **Sub** and the Surviving Corporation under this Agreement, and of any other person to whom any of their obligations shall be assigned in accordance with Section 8.09, as and when due and payable **or required** to be performed pursuant to any provisions of this Agreement, subject to the terms and conditions thereof (the “Guaranteed Obligations”) and agrees that the **Company** shall be entitled to enforce directly against Guarantor any of the Guaranteed Obligations. To the fullest extent **permitted** by Applicable Law, Guarantor waives presentment to, demand of payment **from** and protest to **any** other **person** of any of the Guaranteed Obligations, and **also** waives notice of acceptance of its guarantee and notice of protest for nonpayment. The obligations of Guarantor hereunder **shall** not be subject to any reduction, limitation, impairment or **termination** for any **reason**, including any claim of waiver, release, surrender, **alteration** or **compromise**, and shall not **be** subject to any **defense** or **setoff**, counterclaim, recoupment or **termination** whatsoever by reason of the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of the **Guaranteed** Obligations, or **otherwise**. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, nothing herein **shall** be **deemed** to waive or limit Guarantor’s ability to assert any claims, defenses or other rights that Parent or Sub may have under this **Agreement**.

SECTION 8.06. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, all of which shall be considered one and the same agreement and shall become **effective** when one or more counterparts have been signed by **each** of the parties and delivered to the other parties.

SECTION 8.07. **Entire Agreement: No Third-Party Beneficiaries.** This Agreement, together with the Company Disclosure Schedules, the Parent Disclosure Schedules and the Exhibits (a) constitutes the entire **agreement**, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings, both written and oral, (other than the Confidentiality Agreement), among the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and thereof and (b) except for the provisions of Section 5.05, are not intended to **confer** upon any person other than the parties hereto and thereto (and their respective successors and assigns) any rights or remedies.

SECTION 8.08. **Governing Law.** This **Agreement** shall be **governed** by, and **construed** in accordance with, the laws of the State of Delaware, regardless of the laws that might **otherwise** govern under applicable principles of conflicts of laws **thereof**.



SECTION 8.09. Assignment. Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests or obligations hereunder shall be assigned or delegated, in whole or in part (except by operation of law), by any of the parties hereto without the prior **written** consent of the other **parties** hereto, and any attempt to make any such assignment without such consent shall be **null and void**. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Parent or Sub may assign, in its sole discretion, any of or all its respective rights, interests and obligations under **this** Agreement to Guarantor or to any direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Guarantor with written **notice** to the Company **and** upon taking of any actions required by the DGCL **with** respect thereto (including amending **this Agreement** if necessary), provided that the Company agrees to provide reasonable **assistance** to parent with **any** such actions and agrees to execute any such amendments to **this Agreement**, but no such assignment **shall** relieve Parent or Sub of any of their **respective** obligations **hereunder**, provided, however, that Parent and such substitute subsidiary shall represent and warrant to **the** Company, on the day such substitution is to be effective, the representations and **warranties** set forth in Section 3.02; provided, further, that no action shall be taken that would require the Company to amend or supplement in any material respect the Proxy Statement **at any time after** the Proxy Statement has first been mailed to the Company's stockholders or **materially** delay or impede the **consummation** of the **Merger**. **Subject** to the preceding sentence, this Agreement shall be binding upon, inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by, the parties **hereto** and their respective successors and **assigns**.

SECTION 8.10. Enforcement. The parties agree that irreparable damage would occur in the **event** that any of the provisions of this Agreement **were** not **performed** in **accordance** with their specific terms **or** were otherwise breached. It is accordingly agreed that the **parties shall** be entitled to an injunction or injunctions to prevent breaches of this Agreement and **to** enforce specifically the terms and provisions of this Agreement in any court of the United **States** located in the State of Delaware or in any Delaware state court, this being in addition to any other remedy to which they are entitled at law or in equity. **In** addition, each of the parties hereto (a) consents to submit itself to the personal jurisdiction of any court of the United States located in the State of Delaware or of **any** Delaware state court in the event any dispute arises out of this Agreement or the transactions contemplated by **this** Agreement, (b) agrees that **it** will not attempt to deny or defeat such personal jurisdiction by motion or **other** request for leave **from** any **such** court and (c) agrees that it will **not bring** any action relating to **this Agreement** or the transactions contemplated by **this Agreement in any court other than a court** of the **United** States located in the State of Delaware or a Delaware state court. By the execution and delivery of this Agreement, each of **Guarantor** and **Parent** appoints **CT Corporation System, Corporation Trust Center**, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, as its agent upon which process may be **served** in any such legal action or proceeding. **Service** of process upon such **agent, together** with notice of such service given to **Guarantor or** Parent in the manner specified in Section 8.02 shall be deemed in every respect effective service of process upon Guarantor or Parent in any legal action or proceeding.

SECTION 8.11. Severability. If any **term** or other provision of **this Agreement** is invalid, **illegal** or incapable of being enforced by any **rule** or law, **or** public policy, **all other** conditions and provisions **of this Agreement** shall nevertheless remain in full **force and effect** so long as the economic or legal substance of the **transactions** contemplated hereby is not **affected** **in** any manner materially adverse to any party. Upon **such** determination that any term or other

**provision** is invalid, illegal or incapable **of being** enforced, the parties hereto shall negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement so as to effect the **original** intent of the parties as closely as **possible** in an **acceptable** manner to the end that transactions contemplated hereby are fulfilled to the extent possible.

SECTION 8.12. Waiver of **Jury** Trial. Each party waives, to the **fullest extent** permitted by law, any right it may have to a trial by jury in respect of any action, suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated by this **Agreement**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Guarantor, Parent, Sub and the Company have caused this Agreement to be signed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized, all as of the date first written above.

RWE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT,

By: 

Name:

Title:

By: 

Name: William John Alexander

Title:

THAMES WATER AQUA HOLDINGS GMBH,

By: 

Name:


Title:

By: 

Name: William John Alexander

Title:

APOLLO ACQUISITION COMPANY,

By: 

Name: Jim McQueen

Title:

AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC.,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Title:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Guarantor, Parent, Sub and the Company have caused this Agreement to be signed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized, all as of the date first written above.

RWE AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT,

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

THAMES WATER AQUA HOLDINGS GMBH,

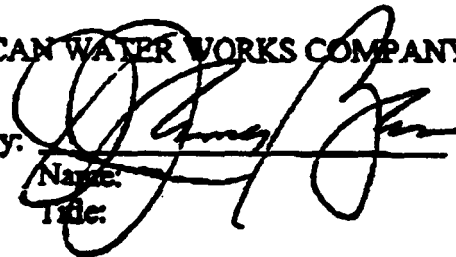
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

APOLLO ACQUISITION COMPANY,

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:

AMERICAN WATER WORKS COMPANY, INC.,

By:   
Name:  
Title:

## Exhibit B

### Post-Merger Corporate Structure

