

1981 WL 158248 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

April 24, 1981

***1 Re: Dorchester County Water Authority**

James A. Bell, Esquire
Attorney at Law, P.A.
P. O. Box 905
St. George, SC 29477

Dear Mr. Bell:

You have written to inquire whether or not the Dorchester County Water Authority is a public body which must comply with the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. The Dorchester County Water Authority was created by the General Assembly, pursuant to Act 588 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina in its regular session of 1965. In review of the Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-20 specifically defines a 'public body' as being any state authority or any public or governmental body or political subdivisions of the state or any organization supported in whole or in part by public funds or expending public funds. The definition goes on to include any political subdivisions of any quasi-governmental body including, without limitation, the South Carolina Public Service Authority and the South Carolina State Ports Authority. A review and perusal of the above definition makes mandatory the opinion that a legislatively-created authority must be held to be a public body within the meaning of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, the Dorchester County Water Authority, as a creature of legislative creation, must comply with all of the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, including those requirements relating to Notice of Meetings of Public Bodies, pursuant to Section 30-4-80, and the requirements that minutes of all meetings be kept, pursuant to [Code Section 30-4-90](#). The minutes of the meetings of this public body must be made available to the public as public record. You specifically inquired as to matters available under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act concerning the financial records of the Authority. [Section 30-4-50\(6\) of the South Carolina Code of Law](#) (1976) as amended, states that all 'Information in or taken from any account, voucher or contract dealing with the receipt or other funds by public bodies' is specifically made public information subject to certain restrictions found in Sections 30-4-20, 30-4-40 and 30-4-70.

I sincerely hope that this response will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Judith Evans Finuf
Assistant Attorney General

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