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TESTIMONY OF THOMAS CHERUKARA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

FILED ON BEHALF OF
THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEM: BURNT STORE WATER SYSTEM

COUNTIES: CHARLOTTE/LEE

DOCKET NO. 920199-WS - APPLICATION FOR A RATE INCREASE BY
SOUTHERN STATES UTILITIES, INC.

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF THOMAS CHERUKARA

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Thomas Cherukara, my business address is 2295 Victoria Avenue, Ft. Myers, Florida 33901.

Q. Please state a brief description of your educational background and experience.

A. I received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Ranchi University in Ranchi, India in 1978, and a Master of Science in Material Science and Engineering (M.S.E.) from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1984. I have 11 years experience in mechanical construction and 3 years in environmental engineering.

Q. By whom are you presently employed?

A. I am employed by the Department of Environmental Regulation.

Q. How long have you been employed with the Department of Environmental Regulation and in what capacity?

A. I have been employed 3 years as a Professional Engineer.

Q. What are your general responsibilities at the Department of Environmental Regulation?

A. I supervise permitting, compliance and enforcement in the drinking water section.

Q. Are you familiar with Southern States' Burnt Store water treatment system?

A. Yes.

Q. Does the utility have a construction permit(s) from the Department of Environmental Regulation?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Please state the issuance date of the construction permit(s).

3 A. WC08-180225 dated 1/14/91

4 Q. Is the plant in compliance with its permit(s)?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are the utility's treatment facilities and distribution system
7 sufficient to serve its present customers?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure
10 throughout the distribution system?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Does the utility have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event
13 of a power outage?

14 A. Yes

15 Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Section
16 17-555.312, Florida Administrative Code?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Chapter 17-602,
19 Florida Administrative Code?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
22 accordance with Section 17-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?

23 A. No.

24 Q. What is required to bring the utility into compliance with the cross-
25 connection control program?

1 | A. They must develop a cross-connection control plan and submit it to the
2 | department for approval.

3 | Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plant and distribution
4 | facilities satisfactory?

5 | A. Yes

6 | Q. Does the water produced by the utility meet the State and Federal
7 | maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?

8 | A. Yes, except the utility missed two reporting quarters, 5/92 and 8/92,
9 | for radiological analysis reports.

10 | Q. Does the utility monitor the organic contaminants listed in Section
11 | 17-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?

12 | A. Yes

13 | Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to
14 | regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment?

15 | A. No.

16 | Q. Does the utility maintain the required chlorine residual or its
17 | equivalent throughout the distribution system?

18 | A. Yes.

19 | Q. Has the water system of the Utility been the subject of any Department
20 | of Environmental Regulation enforcement action within the past two years?

21 | A. No, as far as this District office and the water facilities are
22 | concerned.

23 | Q. Do you have anything further to add?

24 | A. Yes, the water system is under enforcement through the Tampa office of
25 | DER for industrial wastewater violations. The Burnt Store treatment plant is

1 | a reverse osmosis (RO) facility. RO plants have a certain percentage (15% to
2 | 25%) of what is referred to as reject water. It is water that is left over
3 | from the treatment process that is laden with minerals. DER considers it
4 | industrial waste. The action of the Tampa office has been ongoing for about
5 | three years. Additionally, iron levels at one of the residences served by the
6 | utility exceeded the Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) for a period of time.
7 | However, now the results show full compliance in regard to iron at the
8 | residence.

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