

745  
2

ORIGINAL  
FILE COPY

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation Into the )  
Appropriate Rate Structure for )  
SOUTHERN STATES UTILITIES, INC. )  
for all Regulated Systems in )  
Bradford, Brevard, Citrus, Clay, )  
Collier, Duval, Hernando, )  
Highlands, Lake, Lee/Charlotte, )  
Marion, Martin, Nassau, Orange, )  
Pasco, Putnam, Seminole, St. )  
John's, St. Lucie, Volusia, and )  
Washington Counties. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

DOCKET NO. 950495-WS

FILED: February 12, 1996

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ALBERT E. BERTRAM  
ON BEHALF OF SUGARMILL WOODS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

- ACK \_\_\_\_\_
- AFA 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- APP \_\_\_\_\_
- CAF \_\_\_\_\_
- CMU \_\_\_\_\_
- CTR \_\_\_\_\_
- EAG \_\_\_\_\_
- LEG 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- LIN 3 + orig \_\_\_\_\_
- OPC \_\_\_\_\_
- RCH \_\_\_\_\_
- SEC 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- WAS Willie \_\_\_\_\_
- OTH \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENT NO.
0163796
2/12/96

1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS?

2 A. My name is Albert E. Bertram and my address is 17  
3 Begonias Court, Homosassa, Florida, 34446.

4 Q. WHAT IS PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

5 A. I have a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Union  
6 College, Schenectady, New York and a M.S. in  
7 Sanitary Engineering from the University of  
8 North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.  
9 I am a registered professional engineer in the  
10 State of Florida. I retired from the U.S.  
11 Public Health Service as a Captain with 30  
12 years of service. My assignments included  
13 water pollution control, sanitary engineer for  
14 the Territory of Guam, and public health and  
15 sanitation facilities with the Indian Health  
16 Program. In Florida, I have 12 years  
17 experience, including Administrator for  
18 Environmental Health in Jacksonville, Florida  
19 (Duval County), Utility Design Engineer for  
20 the Hillsborough County Utilities Department,  
21 Engineer with the County Health Department,  
22 and a consulting engineering practice.

23 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

1       A.    I want to briefly rebut some of SSU's claims  
2            that its capital expenditures are for  
3            "protecting the environment."  The idea of  
4            protecting the environment sounds great and it  
5            has my full support.  Unfortunately, a review  
6            of SSU's programmed as well as actual capital  
7            expenditures will show that very little, if  
8            any, funds have been spent for "protecting the  
9            environment."  In Citrus County over the past  
10           five years some funds were spent for system  
11           upgrading and growth, but most of the capital  
12           improvements that had been programmed for this  
13           purpose never even "happened."  A good example  
14           is a proposed 1996 expenditure of \$716,000 for  
15           a one-half million gallon water tank at  
16           Sugarmill Woods as being required by  
17           "regulatory mandate:  or  "environmental  
18           compliance."  This same tank had been  
19           repeatedly in SSU budgets since 1989.  In  
20           fact, at one time the tank had been programmed  
21           for a one million gallon size.  The tank is  
22           still needed for "growth" and not for  
23           "environmental compliance."

24       **Q.    HAS SSU SPENT ANY FUNDS FOR "PROTECTING THE**  
25       **ENVIRONMENT OR ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE?**

2 the casing was not deep enough or that the  
1 A. During the past ten years, SSU has spent some  
2 additional funds to meet state and federal  
3 water sampling requirements -- mostly for  
4 chemical analyses including organics,  
5 pesticides, radiation, lead and copper. The  
6 long standing bacteriological sampling  
7 requirements have been met on a continuing  
8 basis.

9 Q. SHOULD SSU HAVE A CONTINUING PROGRAM TO  
10 UPGRADE WELL WATER SOURCES WHERE HIGH IRON AND  
11 OTHER WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS MAY EXIST?

12 A. Yes. Wells that are improperly constructed  
13 represent a source of pollution of the fresh  
14 water aquifer. For example, an improperly  
15 sealed well casing that allows water from the  
16 upper, usually "iron bearing", formations to  
17 leak into the lower "non-iron bearing" water  
18 formations represents a source of pollution.  
19 In Eastern and Western Citrus County, this  
20 could be a problem with numerous SSU water  
21 well supplies where iron content exceeds  
22 standards and requires treatment. Six of the  
23 twelve SSU systems in the county have had iron  
24 problems necessitating iron removal filters.  
25 Many of these water supplies are obtained from

1 the shallower wells, suggesting that either  
2 the casing was not deep enough or that the  
3 casing was not adequately sealed into the  
4 limestone aquifer. SSU should investigate the  
5 possibility of drilling improved wells at  
6 these locations to eliminate the need to  
7 maintain iron removal equipment. Other  
8 alternatives might be for improved treatment  
9 or piping water from an alternate source.  
10 Such efforts would fall into the category of  
11 upgrading and not "environmental compliance."

12 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

13 A. Yes.