

STATE OF FLORIDA

Public Service Commission

THOMAS M. BEARD CHAIRMAN

April 1, 1992

101 EAST GAINES STREET TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0851 (904) 488-6943

URIGINAL FILE COPY

Mr. Kenneth A. Hoffman Messer, Vickers, Caparello, Madsen, Lewis, Goldman and Metz, P.A. P.O. Box 1876 Tallahassee, FL 32302

Re: Docket No. 920199-WS, Application of Southern States Utilities, Inc., Deltona Utilities, Inc. and United Florida Utilities Corporation for Increased Water and Wastewater Rates in Citrus, Nassau, Seminole, Osceola, Duval, Putnam, Charlotte, Lee, Lake, Orange, Marion, Volusia, Martin, Clay, Brevard, Highlands, Collier, Pasco, Hernando and Washington Counties - Test Year Approval

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

We have received your letter dated March 2, 1992, requesting approval to use an historic test year ended December 31, 1991, for a rate case covering 127 systems in the above named counties. Your test year request as outlined above is hereby approved.

Lastly, your letter requested that the full Commission be assigned to consider this rate request because of the complexity of the issues involved. Because of the current and expected caseload of the Commission, I must deny your request; however, subsection 350,01(6), Florida Statutes, provides that you may file a petition requesting that the full Commission be assigned to this proceeding. If you file such a petition, the full Commission will dispose of the request.

For administrative purposes only, Docket No. 920199-WS has been assigned to the <u>forthcoming</u> case. Your petition will not be deemed filed until we have received the <u>petition</u>, revised tariff sheets, the minimum filing requirements and the filing fee. To minimize any regulatory lag that may occur, we request that you file the above no later than <u>July</u> 1, 1992. Because of the difficulty in scheduling hearing dates it is not anticipated that Old = an extension of this filing date will be granted.

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Mr. Kenneth A. Hoffman

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Under the file and suspend law, the time period for processing the request will begin when all of the required data is filed and accepted as complete. If not complete, the official date of filing will be the filing date of the corrections to the deficiencies, if they are accepted. The utility is instructed to file all information it wishes the Commission to consider when arriving at a decision on its rate case application with its original filing. Because of the time limitations contained in section 367.081, Florida Statutes, and the lengthy auditing and investigation required, information not filed with the original application may not be considered and information filed after completion of the staff's investigation will not be considered. Lastly, the utility should be prepared to justify all increased operation and maintenance expenses, particularly those in excess of customer growth and inflation since the Utility's most recent rate case.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Beard Chairman

TMB:waw

cc: Commissioners Mr. Swafford Mr. Talbott Nanette Fisher Division of Records and Reporting Division of Legal Services Division of Water and Wastewater