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TESTIMONY OF PETER F. DENTICE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEMS: APPLE VALLEY, CHULUOTA, CITRUS PARK, DELTONA LAKES,
FLORIDA CENTRAL, HOLIDAY HAVEN, JUNGLE DEN, MEREDITH MANOR,
MORNINGVIEW, SALT SPRINGS, SOUTH FORTY, SUGAR MILL,
SUNSHINE PARKWAY, UNIVERSITY SHORES AND VENETIAN VILLAGE
WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

COUNTIES INVOLVED: LAKE, MARION, ORANGE, SEMINOLE, AND VOLUSIA

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

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF PETER DENTICE

1
2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is Peter F. Dentice. My address is Department of Environmental
4 Regulation, 3319 Maguire Blvd., Suite 232, Orlando, Florida 32714.

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

7 A. I received a B.A. in Biology from the State University of New York,
8 Potsdam N.Y., in May, 1975. I also completed 30 hours of graduate level study
9 in Environmental Engineering at Clarkston College of Technology in Potsdam.

10 Q. By whom are you presently employed?

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

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

14 A. I have been with the Department since December 12, 1977 in various
15 positions. My current title is Environmental Specialist II, in the Domestic
16 Waste section.

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

19 A. My responsibilities include performing enforcement reconnaissance
20 inspections, drafting reports, reviewing files to determine compliance, and
21 drafting enforcement correspondence and documents.

22 Q. Are you familiar with the Southern States Inc. Apple Valley, Florida
23 Central/Commerce Park, Chuluota, Meredith Manor, Deltona Lakes, Jungle Den,
24 Sugar Mill, Morningview, Citrus Park, Salt Springs, South Forty, Venetian
25 Village, Holiday Haven, Sunshine Parkway and University Shores wastewater

1 | systems in Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Marion, and Lake Counties?

2 | A. Yes, except for Meredith Manor which was permitted with a group under
3 | the name of Lake Brantley and is a collection system only. Apple Valley is
4 | a collection system only. All wastewater is pumped to the City of Altamonte
5 | Springs for treatment.

6 | Q. Does the utility have current and valid operating or construction
7 | permits from the Department of Environmental Regulation for the above listed
8 | systems?

9 | A. Yes, except for Sugar Mill. For Sugar Mill, the owner submitted the
10 | application for an operation permit in a timely manner and is authorized to
11 | operate under the conditions of permit No. DO 64-134622 until issuance of a
12 | currently valid operation permit.

13 | Q. Please state whether any of the permits are temporary, if so, please
14 | describe the permit terms.

15 | A. Sunshine Parkway and Holiday Haven are the only systems with temporary
16 | operating permits. The Sunshine Parkway compliance schedule allows for the
17 | construction of additional effluent disposal area to eliminate the discharge
18 | from the spray field at Sunshine Parkway to surface water.

19 | For Holiday Haven, the temporary operating permit is required to provide
20 | additional effluent disposal capacity to eliminate the existing effluent
21 | discharge to the St. John's River.

22 | Q. Are the facilities in compliance with their permits?

23 | A. Yes, except for Sunshine Parkway, Holiday Haven and the University
24 | Shores No. 1 and No. 2 facilities. The Sunshine Parkway system is in
25 | substantial compliance with its permits.

1 At Holiday Haven, the utility was to commence construction of the
2 additional effluent disposal capability prior to August 8, 1992 in accordance
3 with the compliance schedule contained in the permit DT35-148316. The utility
4 was unable to commence construction because the Astor/Astor Park Water
5 Association filed a petition against the issuance of the construction permit
6 to construct two additional percolation ponds. This matter should be resolved
7 in the near future. The utility proposes to modify the current percolation
8 pond design to a spray irrigation site.

9 The Utility was notified by the Department on April 13, 1992 of the
10 results of a bioassay of their effluent from the University Shores No. 1
11 facility. The effluent was determined to be acutely toxic. After meeting
12 with the Department, the Utility decided to rehabilitate the plant in hopes
13 of eliminating the toxicity problem and improving the nitrogen removal
14 results, which have exceeded the effluent limitations set forth in their
15 operation permit No. D048-187714. A recent inspection of University Shores
16 No. 2 plant indicates that effluent is ponding on the drainfields and two of
17 the percolation ponds are discharging to surface waters. The problems are
18 under investigation by the Department.

19 Q. Are the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities of
20 sufficient size to serve the present customers?

21 A. Yes, except for Holiday Haven. As I stated earlier, the effluent
22 disposal is inadequate until expanded effluent disposal can be permitted and
23 constructed.

24 Q. Are the treatment and disposal facilities located in accordance with
25 Chapter 17-600, Florida Administrative Code?

1 | A. Yes, except for the Morningview, Sunshine Parkway, and Holiday Haven
2 | systems.

3 | For Morningview, the treatment and disposal facilities are located in
4 | accordance with the requirements of the Department at the time the original
5 | construction permit DC 72466 was issued on November 8, 1978.

6 | For Sunshine Parkway, the facilities approved under DC 35-174231, when
7 | completed, will be in compliance with the rules and requirements of the
8 | Department.

9 | For Holiday Haven, the effluent disposal is inadequate until additional
10 | effluent disposal can be permitted and constructed.

11 | Q. Are the treatment plants located on the site so as to minimize adverse
12 | effects resulting from odors, noise, and lighting?

13 | A. Yes, except for Salt Springs. In response to an odor and hydraulic
14 | loading problem being experienced due to the volume and characteristic of
15 | wastewater received from Adventures Resorts Campground (an RV resort), the
16 | utility is in the process of installing a surge tank. The surge tank will
17 | equalize the flows and provide the volatilization of the formaldehyde present
18 | in the wastewater. This is the work which construction permit DC42-205369
19 | authorizes.

20 | Q. Do the pump stations and lift stations meet DER requirements with
21 | respect to location, reliability and safety?

22 | A. Yes, the pump stations and lift stations were constructed and located
23 | in accordance with the rules and regulations at the time of approval.

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

1 | A. Yes.

2 | Q. Do Department of Environmental Regulation rules require the utility to
3 | have certified operators if they only operate a collection system?

4 | A. No.

5 | Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment, collection and disposal
6 | facilities satisfactory?

7 | A. Yes, except for the Jungle Den and Holiday Haven systems. For Jungle
8 | Den the collection system has experienced periodic and excessive hydraulic
9 | loading due to high levels of infiltration.

10 | For Holiday Haven, the utility needs to address the following items:
11 | the catwalk supports are corroded and require replacement and the existing
12 | percolation pond requires removal of excessive vegetation and regular mowing.

13 | Q. Do the facilities meet the effluent disposal requirements of Rules 17-
14 | 600 and 17-610, Florida Administrative Code?

15 | A. Yes, except for the following systems.

16 | For Morningview, the facility's effluent disposal area was designed and
17 | constructed in accordance with the rules and regulations at the time of
18 | approval. The operation of the effluent disposal area is in compliance with
19 | Rule 17-600s, Florida Administrative Code.

20 | For Sunshine Parkway, when the construction authorized under DC 35-
21 | 174231 is completed it will meet the requirements.

22 | Holiday Haven is only allowed a temporary discharge to the St. John's
23 | River until construction of additional effluent disposal. WQBELS have not
24 | been developed and TBELS are not applicable.

25 | The problems of University Shores Nos. 1 and 2 were discussed

1 | previously.

2 | Q. Are the collection, treatment, and disposal facilities in compliance
3 | with all the other provisions of Chapter 17, Florida Administrative Code, not
4 | previously mentioned?

5 | A. Yes.

6 | Q. Have any of the systems of Southern States Utilities, Inc. been the
7 | subject of any Department of Environmental Regulation enforcement action
8 | within the past two years?

9 | A. No, except for Deltona Lakes. Deltona Lakes System of Southern States
10 | Utilities, Inc. has been the subject of DER enforcement within the past two
11 | years. On June 14, 1991, the Department issued a warning notice (No. DW-91-
12 | 0100) to Southern States Utilities, Inc. for failing to produce reclaimed
13 | water which would meet unrestricted public access treatment levels, releasing
14 | of substandard reclaimed water to a public access disposal site, and failing
15 | to notify the Department of the facilities' inability to meet treatment
16 | levels. All violations were corrected, therefore, the facility was returned
17 | to compliance operation. The enforcement action was resolved through the
18 | issuance of a consent order.

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

20 | A. Yes, the renovation of the University Shores Nos. 1 and 2 facilities is
21 | very important because failure to eliminate the toxicity and ponding problems
22 | may require the Utility to obtain additional effluent disposal sites.

23 | Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

24 | A. Yes.

25 |