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TESTIMONY OF NEAL SCHOBERT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEM: MARION OAKS WASTEWATER

COUNTY: MARION

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

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
11980 OCT 12 1992
EPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF NEAL SCHOBERT

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

3 | A. My name is Neal Schobert. My address is 3804 Coconut Drive, Tampa,
4 | Florida 33619-8318.

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

7 | A. I received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from FSU in 1976. I have
8 | worked in the environmental field for over 9 years.

9 | Q. By whom are you presently employed?

10 | A. Currently, I am employed by the Florida Department of Environmental
11 | Regulation (FDER).

12 | Q. How long have you been employed with the FDER and in what capacity?

13 | A. I have been employed with the FDER for 5 years as an Environmental
14 | Specialist.

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

17 | A. Currently, I conduct inspections of wastewater treatment plants and
18 | collections systems to ensure compliance with Chapter 17 of the Florida
19 | Administrative Code.

20 | Q. Are you familiar with Southern States Utilities, Inc.'s Marion Oaks
21 | wastewater system in Marion County?

22 | A. Yes.

23 | Q. Does the utility have current operating or construction permits from the
24 | FDER?

25 | A. Yes.

1 | Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the
2 | operating or construction permits.

3 | A. The operating permit, D042-178431, was issued on May 25, 1990 and
4 | expires on May 23, 1995.

5 | Q. Is this permit a temporary operating permit, and if so, please describe
6 | the permit terms?

7 | A. No.

8 | Q. Is the plant in compliance with its permits?

9 | A. Yes.

10 | Q. What is the permitted capacity of the wastewater treatment plant?

11 | A. The permitted capacity is 200,000 gpd.

12 | Q. Are the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities
13 | adequate to serve the present customers based on permitted capacity?

14 | A. Yes.

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

17 | A. Yes.

18 | Q. Has the Department of Environmental Regulation (DER) required the
19 | utility to take any action so as to minimize possible adverse effects
20 | resulting from odors, noise, aerosol drift or lighting?

21 | A. No.

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

24 | A. Yes.

25 | Q. Does the utility have certified operators as required by Chapter 17-602,

1 | Florida Administrative Code?
2 | A. Yes.
3 | Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment, collection, and disposal
4 | facilities satisfactory?
5 | A. Yes.
6 | Q. Does the facility meet all applicable technology based effluent
7 | limitations (TBELS) and water quality based effluent limitations (WQBELS)?
8 | A. Yes.
9 | Q. Does the facility meet the effluent disposal requirements of Chapter 17,
10 | Florida Administrative Code?
11 | A. Yes.
12 | Q. Are the collection, treatment and disposal facilities in compliance with
13 | all the other provisions of Chapter 17, Florida Administrative Code, not
14 | previously mentioned?
15 | A. Yes.
16 | Q. Has this system been the subject of any Department of Environmental
17 | Regulation enforcement action within the past two years?
18 | A. No.
19 | Q. Do you have anything further to add?
20 | A. Yes. On July 9, 1992 and July 16, 1992, I inspected the Marion Oaks
21 | wastewater treatment plant. Exhibit NS-1 summarizes the deficiencies which
22 | were noted at this plant and provides the utility's response to these
23 | deficiencies.
24 |
25 |

EXHIBIT NS-1

TITLE: COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

WITNESS: NEAL SCHOBERT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

FILED ON BEHALF OF

THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

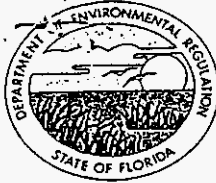
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COUNTY: MARION

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



Florida Department of Environmental Regulation

Southwest District • 4520 Oak Fair Boulevard • Tampa, Florida 33610-7349
Lawton Chiles, Governor 813-620-6100 Carol M. Browner, Secretary

July 28, 1992
Marion County

file

RECEIVED

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ADMINISTRATION
MAIL ROOM

Mr. Raphael Terrero, P.E.
Southern States Utilities Services, Inc.
1000 Color Place
Apopka, FL 32703

Fla. Public Service Commission
Division of Water and Sewer

Re: Marion Oaks STP
Permit No: DO42-178431
Compliance Evaluation Inspection

Dear Mr. Terrero:

The sewage treatment plant at the above-referenced location was inspected on July 9 and July 16, 1992. Based on these inspections and a review of the information on file with the Department, the following items under the various categories are being brought to your attention:

LABORATORY:

Review of laboratory procedures and records indicates results are unreliable to provide reasonable assurance for accuracy of results required pursuant to Rule 17-601.400(1) F.A.C. Therefore, the Department cannot accept results from this laboratory for purposes of self-monitoring. Please schedule a re-evaluation by the Department when reasonable assurance can be established.

FACILITY SITE REVIEW:

A Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) backflow preventer is required on the potable water supply line to the laboratory.

CLARIFIER:

1. The clarifier had an excessive layer of scum and plastics on the surface. A covered trash can should be kept available at all times for skimmings.
2. Several parts of the weir were obstructed with excessive algal growth.

DISPOSAL METHOD:

1. Accumulated sludge must be removed from the bottom of the percolation pond.

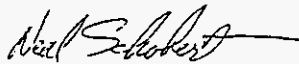
2. Only a limited area of the large pond was used for effluent disposal. The effluent must be dispersed to utilize the existing system.

The type inspection conducted was a compliance evaluation inspection and the overall rating of the facility was unsatisfactory.

The Department requests a written response within 20 days of receipt of this letter outlining action taken and plans made, including a schedule, to come into compliance. Be aware that due to the nature and extent of deviation from Department rules, enforcement action may be initiated to compel compliance.

If you have any questions please give me a call at (813)620-6100, extension 313.

Sincerely,



Neal Schobert
Environmental Specialist
Domestic Wastewater Section
Compliance/Enforcement

NS/cw

cc: Bill Yocum, SSU
MCPHU



D.E.R.

AUG 17 1992

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT TAMPA

General Offices

1000 Color Place
Apopka, FL 32703
(407) 880-0058

August 14, 1992

Via Fax - Hard Copy to Follow

Mr. Neal Schobert
Florida Department of Environmental Regulation
Southwest District
4520 Oak Fair Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33610-7347

Re: Marion Oaks STP
Permit No. DO42-178431

Dear Mr. Schobert:

This letter is written in response to your letter dated July 28, 1992 to Raphael Terrero, Southern States Utilities (SSU), regarding your recent compliance evaluation inspection of the Marion Oaks STP. I have received the following information from Bill Yocum, SSU Area Supervisor:

LABORATORY

Laboratory procedures are being improved with the assistance of the SSU Technical Services Department. Quality assurance aspects of the lab operations are being evaluated. All required monitoring samples are being sent to private certified laboratories until another evaluation is performed with the Department to be scheduled next month.

FACILITY SITE REVIEW

A Reduced Pressure Zone backflow preventer has been installed on the potable water supply line to the laboratory.

CLARIFIER

Clarifier scum seems to be caused at Marion Oaks by the lack of sufficient aeration in the aeration tanks. Our Engineering Division is performing a study to correct this concern.

As you suggested, a covered trash can has been placed for collection of skimmings, and the weirs have been scrubbed and cleaned.

Mr. Neal Schobert
August 14, 1992
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DISPOSAL METHOD

In the percolation pond, the small amount of sludge that had accumulated over a period of years has been removed. The percolation pond is being used as designed and permitted. Because of the excellent percolation capability, it appears that only a limited area of the pond is used.

Please call me if you need any additional information or clarification on the above items. Thank you for your cooperation in working with us to correct these concerns.

Sincerely,



Melvin E. Fisher
Environmental Compliance
Administrator

MF:dp

c: Marion County PHU