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TESTIMONY OF ROBERT BARKER  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEMS: PALM TERRACE, ELL-NAR  
COUNTY: PASCO

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

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ROBERT BARKER

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2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is Robert Barker and my business address is 3804 Coconut Palm  
4 Drive, Tampa, FL 33619.

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

7 A. I have a Bachelors degree in Geography, with a minor in Science from  
8 Florida State University and have worked for the State of Florida for 30  
9 years.

10 Q. By whom are you presently employed?

11 A. I am employed by the State of Florida, Department of Environmental  
12 Regulation (DER).

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

15 A. I have been employed with the State of Florida for 30 years, and with DER  
16 since its inception. I have worked in the Air Program for 16 years, Solid  
17 Waste for 4 years, and over 10 years in Drinking Water. I am currently an  
18 Environmental Specialist II.

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

21 A. My general responsibilities include monitoring compliance of public  
22 drinking water system, in my assigned areas by conducting sanitary surveys,  
23 inspections and complaint investigations and enforcement actions necessary to  
24 bring about compliance with the Department's rules and regulations.

25 Q. Are you familiar with the Palm Terrace system in Pasco County?

1 A. Yes, but at the DER we have two separate systems, one called Ell-Nar  
2 (C. L. Smith) and the other called Palm Terrace, which is the way these  
3 systems were originally permitted years ago.

4 Q. Do the systems have current permits from the DER?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are the plants in compliance with their permits?

7 A. Yes, the plants are in compliance with their permits, except as stated  
8 later in this testimony.

9 Q. Are the utility's treatment facilities and distribution systems sufficient  
10 to serve its present customers?

11 A. Yes, but it should be pointed out that Palm Terrace no longer has  
12 treatment facilities and purchases its water from a municipality. This makes  
13 Palm Terrace a consecutive system.

14 Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 PSI minimum pressure throughout  
15 the distribution systems?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Does the utility have an adequate power source in the event of a power  
18 outage?

19 A. Yes, for Ell-Nar.

20 Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Section 17-  
21 555.312, Florida Administrative Code?

22 A. Yes, for Ell-Nar. Palm Terrace has no wells.

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

25 A. Yes, the utility's plant staffing is sufficient.

1 Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in  
2 accordance with Section 17-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plant and distribution  
5 facilities satisfactory?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Does the water produced by the utility meet the state and federal maximum  
8 contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. Does the utility monitor the organic contaminants listed in Section  
11 17-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?  
12 A. Yes, for Ell-Nar. Palm Terrace requires no separate monitoring since the  
13 water is supplied by Pasco County.  
14 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to  
15 regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment?  
16 A. No.  
17 Q. Does the utility maintain the exemptions chlorine residual or its  
18 equivalent throughout the distribution system?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. Are the plant and distribution systems in compliance with all the other  
21 provisions of Title 17, Florida Administrative Code, not previously mentioned?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. Have any of the systems been the subject of any Department of  
24 Environmental Regulation enforcement action within the past two years?  
25 A. No.

1 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

2 A. Yes. Sampling and water quality analysis is due for the Ell-Nar system  
3 covering turbidity, primary organics, primary inorganics, secondary  
4 contaminants, unregulated contaminants and one more quarter of volatile  
5 organic contaminants. We are expecting the sample results any day. A non-  
6 compliance letter has been sent to Southern States Utilities.

7 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

8 A. No, I do not.

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