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TESTIMONY OF THOMAS R. HAMILTON
DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

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

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEMS: BEACON HILLS AND WOODMERE WATER SYSTEMS

COUNTY: DUVAL

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

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF THOMAS HAMILTON

2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is Thomas R. Hamilton and by business address is HRS Duval
4 County Public Health, 515 W. Sixth St., Jacksonville, FL 32206.

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

7 A. I have a B.S. Degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University.
8 I am a registered professional engineer, #24457. I have been employed by HRS
9 as an environmental engineer since January, 1972.

10 Q. By whom are you presently employed?

11 A. HRS Duval County Public Health Unit.

12 Q. How long have you been employed with the Duval County Public Health Unit
13 and in what capacity?

14 A. I have been employed with the Duval county public health since October
15 12, 1990 as a Professional Engineer Administrator

16 Q. What are your general responsibilities at the Duval County Public Health
17 Unit?

18 A. I oversee the planing and implementation of the environmental
19 engineering division programs. One of these programs is the Florida Safe
20 Drinking Water Act program.

21 Q. Are you familiar with the Southern States Utilities Water Systems in
22 Duval County, particularly the Beacon Hills, Cobblestone and Woodmere systems?

23 A. Yes. The Beacon Hills and Cobblestone systems are interconnected. I
24 understand that in the PSC filing both of these systems are referred to as the
25 Beacon Hills system.

1 Q. Do the utilities have current construction permits from the Department
2 of Environmental Regulation?

3 A. Yes. The systems have current permits for line extensions.

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

5 A. Yes. The limitation of 1546 ERCs for the Cobblestone system has been
6 exceeded. However, the system is interconnected to the Beacon Hills system and
7 this additional source is sufficient to satisfy the water demand.

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

10 A. Based on our information, all three plants have insufficient chlorine
11 contact times. Because these plants are old, it is not clear how DER and the
12 Duval County Public Health Unit will address this problem. Also, the
13 Cobblestone plant is supplying more water than its design capacity. In order
14 for the interconnection with the Beacon Hills system to suffice for meeting
15 demand, the Cobblestone plant production must be limited to the plant design.

16 Q. Does the utility maintain the required 20 psi minimum pressure
17 throughout the distribution systems?

18 A. Yes. There have not been any pressure complaints in the past two years.
19 However, there had been pressure complaints in previous years.

20 Q. Does each system have an adequate auxiliary power source in the event
21 of a power outage?

22 A. The Beacon Hills and Woodmere systems have adequate auxiliary power. The
23 Cobblestone system does not have adequate auxiliary power. An official notice
24 was sent to SSU regarding this matter. SSU engineers believe that, in the
25 event of a power outage, the Beacon Hills plant is capable of supplying enough

1 | water for both the Beacon Hills and Cobblestone systems. If this is correct,
2 | the Cobblestone plant may not be required to have an auxiliary power source.
3 | The Duval County Public Health Unit is studying this situation to determine
4 | is an auxiliary power source at the Cobblestone plant will be required.

5 | Q. Are the utility's water wells located in compliance with Section
6 | 17-555.312, Florida Administrative Code?

7 | A. Yes.

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

10 | A. Yes.

11 | Q. Has the utility established a cross-connection control program in
12 | accordance with Section 17-555.360, Florida Administrative Code?

13 | A. Yes.

14 | Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment plants and distribution
15 | facilities satisfactory?

16 | A. Yes. With the exception of a leaking ground storage tank at the Beacon
17 | Hills plant. SSU was sent an official notice regarding this matter. SSU has
18 | stated that the ground storage tank is a double walled tank, and that the leak
19 | is water that has spilled over the first wall and become trapped between the
20 | two walls. If this is correct the problem may be less severe than previously
21 | thought. We are currently reviewing this matter to determine if additional
22 | enforcement action will be required.

23 | Q. Does the water produced by the utilities meet the State and Federal
24 | maximum contaminant levels for primary and secondary water quality standards?

25 | A. Yes.

1 Q. Do the utilities monitor the organic contaminants listed in Section
2 17-550.410, Florida Administrative Code?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. Do recent chemical analyses of raw and finished water, when compared to
5 regulations, suggest the need for additional treatment at any of the systems?
6 A. No. However, as mentioned previously, retention time for hydrogen-
7 sulfide reduction limits the plant capacity and the chlorine contact time is
8 inadequate during peak flows.
9 Q. Do the utilities maintain the required chlorine residual or its
10 equivalent throughout the distribution systems?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. Are the plants and distribution systems in compliance with all the other
13 provisions of Title 17, Florida Administrative Code, not previously mentioned?
14 A. Yes.
15 Q. Have any of the SSU Duval County systems been the subject of any
16 Department of Environmental Regulation or Duval County Public Health Unit
17 enforcement action within the past two years?
18 A. Yes. As mentioned previously, an official notice was sent to SSU
19 regarding the leaking ground storage tank at the Beacon Hills plant and the
20 lack of auxiliary power at the Cobblestone plant. SSU has responded to both
21 of the problems and the problems are being reviewed.
22 Q. Do you have anything further to add?
23 A. No, I do not.
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