

**ORIGINAL  
FILE COPY**

TESTIMONY OF JOE SQUITIERI  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

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

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEMS: APACHE SHORES, CITRUS SPRINGS, POINT O' WOODS,  
SUGARMILL WOODS, AND SPRING HILL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

COUNTIES: CITRUS AND HERNANDO

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

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE  
11986 OCT 12 1992  
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1 DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JOE SQUITIERI

2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is Joe Squitieri and my business address is 3804 Coconut Palm  
4 Drive, Tampa, Florida 33619.

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

7 A. I have a B.S. degree (1979) in Environmental Biology from the University  
8 of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

9 Q. By whom are you presently employed?

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

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

14 A. From January, 1985 until July 1991, I was an Environmental Specialist,  
15 working in Enforcement of domestic and industrial wastewater plants. In July,  
16 1991, I was promoted to Environmental Supervisor and perform the same duties  
17 as stated, except with supervisory responsibilities now added.

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

20 A. My duties are to assure that all wastewater treatment plants in the  
21 Southwest district are in compliance with pertinent state regulations.

22 Q. Are you familiar with the Apache Shores, Citrus Springs, Point O' Woods,  
23 Sugarmill Woods and Spring Hill wastewater systems in Citrus and Hernando  
24 Counties?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Does the utility have current operating or construction permits from the  
2 Department of Environmental Regulation?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Please state the issuance date and the expiration date of the operating  
5 or construction permit.

6 A. The following permits exist:

7 Apache Shores: Operating permit number D009-16805, issued August 28,  
8 1989, with an expiration date of August 24, 1994; Construction permit number  
9 DC09-213217, issued June 1, 1992, with an expiration date of June 1, 1997;

10 Citrus Springs: Operating permit number D009-147228A, issued August 8,  
11 1988, with an expiration date of May 24, 1993;

12 Point O' Woods: Operating permit number D009-159336, issued on May 11,  
13 1989, with an expiration date of May 15, 1994;

14 Spring Hill: Operating permit number D027-137917, which expires  
15 September 30, 1992, and Construction permit number DC27-133904, which expires  
16 September 30, 1992;

17 Sugarmill Woods: Operating permit number D009-158879, expires September  
18 1, 1992; Construction permit number DC09-188699, expires December 31, 1992.

19 Q. Please state whether the permits are temporary operating permits, and  
20 if so, please describe the permit terms.

21 A. The permits are not temporary operating permits.

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

23 A. Not all the plants are in compliance with their permits. Point O'  
24 Woods, according to the Citrus County Health Department, has ponds which are  
25 overgrown with vegetation and need to be cleared from outside toe to outside

1 toe. Spring Hill was sent a letter on July 6, 1992, explaining deficiencies  
2 noted during a compliance evaluation inspection. Sugarmill Woods was observed  
3 during the last inspection on 07/12/92, to have violations of wastewater  
4 residuals, poor maintenance of effluent disposal, inadequate digester  
5 capacity, failure to report abnormal events, raw influent spills at bar  
6 screens and discharges of plant solids in the spray fields and groundwater  
7 monitoring area.

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

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are the treatment and disposal facilities located in accordance with  
12 Section 17-6.070(2), Florida Administrative Code?

13 A. Yes, except for Sugarmill Woods. The site is not enclosed with a fence  
14 which is required per Rule 17-6.070(2)(b), F.A.C.

15 Q. Has DER required the utility to take any action so as to minimize  
16 possible adverse effects resulting from odors, noise, aerosol drift or  
17 lighting?

18 A. No.

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

21 A. Yes, for the most part. At Point O' Woods, an inspection by the Citrus  
22 County Health Department on June 24, 1992, showed audible and visible alarms  
23 were not functioning.

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

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

2 Q. Is the overall maintenance of the treatment, collection, and disposal  
3 facilities satisfactory?

4 A. Yes, for the most part. It is noted at Spring Hill that there have been  
5 a number of overflows from the collection system and a number of odor  
6 complaints from certain lift stations in the recent past. At Sugarmill Woods,  
7 the Department has periodically received complaints from residents of odor and  
8 lift station failures.

9 Q. Do the facilities meet all applicable technology based effluent  
10 limitations (TBELS) and water quality based effluent limitations (WOBELS)?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do the facilities meet effluent disposal requirements of Sections 17-  
13 6.055 and 17-6.080, Florida Administrative Code?

14 A. All the plants discharge to land application and are in compliance with  
15 our regulations except at Sugarmill Woods where groundwater monitoring is  
16 sketchy and incomplete.

17 Q. Are the collection, treatment and disposal facilities in compliance with  
18 all the other provisions of Title 17, Florida Administrative Code, not  
19 previously mentioned?

20 A. Yes, for the most part. At Sugarmill Woods, some slopes of collection  
21 lines are inadequate to meet 2.0 ft/sec and requires periodic flushing.

22 Q. Have any of these system been the subject of any Department of  
23 Environmental Regulation enforcement action within the past two years?

24 A. A non-compliance letter was sent to Spring Hill on July 6, 1992, as  
25 already mentioned. At Sugarmill Woods, a letter of non-compliance was sent

1 on April 9, 1992, which was not responded to and if violations continue will  
2 result in the beginning of enforcement.

3 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

4 A. Yes. Sugarmill Woods has applied to increase its wastewater plant size  
5 from 0.5 to 2.5 mgd. Insufficient attention has been devoted to proper  
6 maintenance and care of the existing plant. Unless a major surge in  
7 population occurs, the current facility appears adequate to serve this  
8 community, but repairs and improvements are needed in the influent structure,  
9 digester capacity, and maintenance of the spray site.

10 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

11 A. Yes.

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EXHIBIT JS-1

TITLE: COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

WITNESS: JOE SQUITIERI

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

FILED ON BEHALF OF

THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FILED: OCTOBER 12, 1992

SYSTEM: SPRING HILL UTILITIES WASTEWATER SYSTEM

COUNTY: HERNANDO

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SOUTHERN STATES UTILITIES, INC.



Attachment I

Exhibit JS-1  
Page 1 of 2

*Florida Department of Environmental Regulation*

Southwest District • 4520 Oak Fair Boulevard • Tampa, Florida 33610-7347

Lawton Chiles, Governor

813-620-6100

Carol M. Browner, Secretary

July 6, 1992  
Hernando County-DW

**RECEIVED**

SEP 03 1992

Ralph Terrero, P.E.  
Southern State Utilities  
1000 Color Place  
Apopka, FL 32703

Re: Spring Hill Utilities Fla. Public Service Commission  
Permit No. DO27-137917 Division of Water and Sewer  
Compliance Evaluation Inspection

Dear Mr. Terrero:

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

PERMIT:

The permit to operate expires September 30, 1992. An application to operate the plant, along with the processing fee of \$5,000.00 should be submitted by July 30, 1992.

LABORATORY:

A cursory inspection of the laboratory found numerous deficiencies in the procedures used to assure good quality results for tests run at the plant and reported to the DER. It is recommended you consult with a professional in this field to review all procedures at the lab.

Some standard procedures are:

- No food in the refrigerator used to store samples. Temperature kept at 4°C (±1°C). Thermometer in refrigerator and read daily.
- Yearly calibration of the balance and flow meter by a certified technician
- Daily calibration of the pH meter
- Weekly calibration of the CL<sub>2</sub> meter against known standards
- TSS and BOD must be run in accordance with standard methods, including quality assurance/quality control checks.
- Chain of custody records must be kept for all samples sent out for analysis.
- All records must be accountable and trackable. When developing logs for the instruments, it is important to log in who, what, when, and any adjustments made.



Spring Hill Utilities  
July 6, 1992  
Page 2

SAMPLING:

1. Chlorine residual and pH must be read hourly during operator attendance, in lieu of continuous monitors.
2. BOD, TSS, and Nitrates should be sampled on a 16-hour, flow-proportioned basis.

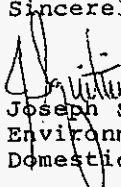
FACILITY SITE REVIEW:

1. Screenings from the plant are buried on site. Provisions should be made to dry this material on the screens then treat and dispose of it as sludge. Screenings must be stabilized prior to land application, or may be hauled to a landfill.
2. At present, effluent must flow through all ponds prior to being pumped to the spray field. It is recommended that provisions be made to rotate these ponds in order to properly maintain them and not be classified as a continuously loaded system.

The type inspection conducted was a Compliance Evaluation Inspection and the overall rating of the facility was unsatisfactory.

You are hereby requested to respond to this letter with the plans you have made to correct this situation. This response should be in writing and within twenty (20) days from receipt of this letter. Please indicate a time frame for compliance as the Department plans a follow-up verification inspection.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph Squitieri  
Environmental Supervisor  
Domestic Wastewater Section

JS/db

cc: Hernando County HRS