

State of Florida

SUSAN F. CLARK
Commissioner



FLETCHER BUILDING
101 EAST GAINES STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-8153
(904) 488-5573

Public Service Commission

October 16, 1992

920199

Ms. Connie Vassalli
7405 Executive Woods Court
Port Richey, Florida 34668

Dear Ms. Vassalli:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the pending Southern States Utilities, Inc. (SSUI) rate case. Because the matter is currently before the Commission, I cannot comment specifically on any aspect of the case. However, the Commission will carefully consider all of the evidence in the case before a final decision is made.


I would like to describe the process we will go through to evaluate SSUI's request. The Commission's staff is now in the process of discovery, where they are investigating and requiring SSUI to substantiate all of the facts, assertions and financial information that the company has filed to support its request. The next step will be to hear testimony from SSUI and any interested parties. The Commission has scheduled ten public hearings in SSUI's service territory, nine of which have already been held.

To conclude the process, formal hearings will be held in Tallahassee before the Commission on November 6-14, 1992. Following these hearings, the Commission's staff will file recommendations regarding SSUI's request. The Commission will make a final recommendation in this case on February 16, 1993.

Ms. Connie Vassalli
October 16, 1992
Page Two

I am placing a copy of your letter on the official record of this case so that your comments will be available to all interested parties.

Sincerely,


Susan F. Clark
Commissioner

SFC:wjs

cc: Division of Records and Reporting (Docket No. 920199-WS)
Division of Water and Wastewater

Gen S. States
Form Letter

7405 Executive Woods Court
Port Richey, Florida 34668
September 11, 1992

RECEIVED
SEP 11 1992

Ms. Susan F. Clark, Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Public Information
101 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0867

Dear Ms. Clark:

I attended the meeting held on Wednesday, September 9, 1992 at McKethan Civic Auditorium, in Hernando County regarding the increase requested by Southern States Utilities.

I would say most, if not all of the people who spoke that night were retired people who owned everything they had outright, living on a pension income, with investment income; no heavy mortgage payments or other liabilities.

I'd like to write on behalf of another segment of the population living in this area.

My husband and I, 61 years old, live in the Executive Woods area, a third section of Palm Terrace which was not mentioned. We have been here ten years, have a mortgage on our home, receive no pensions or any other kind of subsistence other than our salaries. My husband's job as a printer went out in January 1992 and he finally landed a job in August as a six hour per day custodian - pay just above minimum. I am a school secretary. My job has been cut to four hours a day - no benefits. You can easily figure out what shape we are in. I attended the meeting with two neighbors and wanted so much to address the panel. However, I did not want my neighbors to be aware of my situation.

But there are others. In the Palm Terrace area there are many homes being rented to younger couples, with children, also with low income. None of these people were represented at the meeting that evening. Was it because they could not afford to leave their children at home with a sitter; or could not afford the gas to travel so far from home; or was it ignorance of the fact that this raise - whether paid by them or their landlord would actually come from their pockets? When a landlord, many living out of state with realtors managing property affairs, sees utility bills go up they simply raise the rent. Can these already burdened low salaried people pay so high a price for the most important commodity in their lives? Water?

Part of my job at the school is working with needy children; soliciting food and clothing for these children. Here in Pasco County we have many children that go to bed hungry at night. I am certain that Southern States Utilities must touch quite a few in the 25 counties scattered around the state of Florida which they service.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

12298 OCT 20 1992

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Letter to: Susan F. Clark
September 11, 1992
Page 2.

How can we justify a 12% profit for this company at a time like this? All the other factors of our economy, you know better than I so we shall not go into any of that now.

Ms. Clark, I ask you please, before you make your decision, ask yourself and your colleagues to consider those who will be hurt the most. You are the only ones who can help us.

I apologize for the length of this letter. It was the briefest way I could explain our plight. If you wish to contact me for more information, I can be reached at 813-868-3472.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Connie Vassalli