BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Application for rate) DOCKET NO. 920199-WS) ORDER NO. PSC-93-0861-FOF-WS increase in Brevard, Charlotte/Lee, Citrus, Clay, ISSUED: June 8, 1993 Duval, Highlands, Lake, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Putnam, Seminole, Volusia, and Washington Counties by Southern States Utilities, Inc.; Collier County by Marco Shores Utilities (Deltona); Hernando County by Spring Hill Utilities (Deltona); and Volusia) County by Deltona Lakes Utilities (Deltona).

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD SUSAN F. CLARK

ORDER GRANTING STAY OF ORDER NO. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS

BY THE COMMISSION:

On March 22, 1993, the Commission issued a <u>Final Order Setting</u> <u>Rates</u>, Order No. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS, in this Docket. Several Motions for Reconsideration have been filed subsequently. On April 6, 1993, Southern States Utilities, Inc., filed a Motion for Stay of Order No. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS. Order No. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS provides for a refund of excess interim rates, with interest. Rule 25-22.060(c), Florida Administrative Code, states that a motion for reconsideration of an order does not serve to automatically stay the effectiveness of such order. Accordingly, SSU has filed its Motion for Stay. SSU asserts that it

would be senseless to require the temporary distribution of a refund pending reconsideration when the Commission is fully aware that the utility is entitled to an automatic stay and retention of the revenues should it seek judicial review.

SSU's assertion above is based on the provisions of Rule 25-22.061 stating that a utility may have an automatic stay if it requests

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one in the event it files an appeal of an Order requiring a refund to customers or a decrease in rates charged to customers. SSU also argues that Rule 25-30.360(2) indicates that stays may be granted for orders requiring refunds pending disposition of motions for reconsideration.

We find that SSU is not entitled to an automatic stay pursuant to Rule 25-30.360(2), Florida Administrative Code, because an appeal has not yet been filed. However, we find that a stay of Order No. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS pending the disposition of the several motions for reconsideration in this matter is appropriate because it would be wasteful to require a refund of monies prior to the disposing of all of the pending motions for Commission reconsideration, some of which, if granted, might affect the amount Further, we find that pursuant to Rule 25of such refund. 30.360(4), Florida Administrative Code, interest continues to accrue until the refunds are made; therefore, the customers of the utility are still protected during the pendency of the disposition of these motions for reconsideration. Based on the foregoing, SSU's Motion for Stay of Order No. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS pending the disposition of all motions for reconsideration is hereby granted.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the Motion for Stay of Order No. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS pending the disposition of all motions for reconsideration, filed by Southern States Utilities, Inc., is hereby granted.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 8th day of June, 1993.

STEVE TRIBBLE, Director Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.038(2), Florida Administrative Code, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; (2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or (3) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.