

ORIGINAL
FILE COPY

ST. GEORGE ISLAND UTILITY COMPANY, LTD.

DOCKET NO. [REDACTED]

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMES W. ABBOTT

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER

FILED: JUNE 8, 1994

[Faint vertical text and a handwritten signature are visible on the left side of the page.]

DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION DATE
05666 JUN-8 85
FPCD-FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1 Q. Please state your name and business address.
2 A. James W. Abbott, P. O. Box 682, Eastpoint, Florida 32328.
3 Q. Please state a brief description of your educational background and
4 experience.
5 A. I attended the minimum standards course for volunteer fire fighters
6 through Lively Technical Center in 1986, attended fire college in Ocala,
7 Florida in 1988 and undertook volunteer weekend training in Ocala relating
8 to gas fire, diesel fire, smoke tower, and burn building in 1988.
9 Q. Has anyone assisted you in the preparation of your testimony.
10 A. Yes. Mr. James C. Byrd, who is and has been a volunteer fire fighter
11 with the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department (SGIVFD) over the past
12 10 years, and who is a professional fire fighter with the City of
13 Tallahassee where he is a lieutenant and where he has been employed for 25
14 years, assisted me in the preparation of my testimony.
15 Q. Please describe your experience with the SGIVFD and state your
16 current status there.
17 A. I have been a fire fighter for the SGIVFD for the past 8 years, and
18 have held varying positions. I am currently the Fire Chief and have been
19 for the past 3 years. Other positions have included Training Officer,
20 Equipment Officer and Truck Driver/Engineer (pump operator).
21 Q. What are your general responsibilities with the SGIVFD?
22 A. As the Fire Chief, my responsibilities include handling the
23 managerial/administrative needs, overseeing all personnel for training,
24 overseeing fire ground operations, overseeing equipment purchases, and
25 fighting fires.

1 Q. Are you familiar with the St. George Island Utility Company, Ltd.
2 (utility) water system in Franklin County?

3 A. Yes, but only with respect to flows available at fire hydrants.

4 Q. What is the working relationship between the SGIVFD and the utility?

5 A. Mr. Garrett, who works for the utility, is very responsive to fire
6 department requests. SGIVFD provides money to the utility for hydrants,
7 and has been doing so since 1986. The dollar amounts have varied from \$635
8 per hydrant (in 1986) to \$2,000 per hydrant (in 1992). Please see EXH JWA-
9 1 which documents the fire department's contributions to the utility
10 through 1991. I have been unable to locate the cancelled checks for 1992,
11 but the amount for that year was \$4,000 for two hydrants. As stated in the
12 agreement between the SGIVFD and the utility which was approved by this
13 Commission, dated May 10, 1993, the fire department recognizes that the
14 utility is not accepting responsibility for fire protection on St. George
15 Island; however, it is the fire department's hopes that the utility and the
16 fire department can work together in achieving better fire flow
17 availability on the island.

18 Q. What is SGIVFD's ISO rating?

19 A. ISO ratings vary up to 10, with 10 being the least desirable. St.
20 George Island currently has a fire rating of 7/9 where 7 means that a
21 structure is within 1000' of a fire hydrant and within 5 miles of the fire
22 station. 9 means that there is fire fighting capability, communication
23 equipment, and trucks.

24 Q. Can St. George Island achieve a better ISO rating at this time?

25 A. No, because of the lack of water availability at the hydrants.

1 Q. Have you conducted testing, or are you familiar with, testing
2 conducted by the SGIVFD in order to determine the adequacy of fire
3 protection available on St. George Island?

4 A. Included as EXH JWA-2 is a letter dated July 16, 1992 and attachments
5 which discuss and summarize testing done that month of 32 fire hydrants
6 within the Plantation. Only the Plantation was tested at that time as the
7 St. George Plantation Owners' Association, Inc. specifically requested
8 testing. Attachment 1 to that letter specifies each hydrant location and
9 test result. At that time, the utility was not maintaining the fire
10 hydrants; I believe that the utility's current practice is to maintain its
11 hydrants. As can be seen on Attachment 1, of the 32 hydrants tested, 6
12 provided questionable adequate water. SGIVFD is undertaking flow testing
13 to achieve current standards for several hydrants in the Plantation as well
14 as flow testing at a few other points on the island. The results of such
15 testing will be filed in this docket as a late-filed exhibit to my
16 testimony. To be included in that late-filed exhibit will be a fire plan
17 for 300 Ocean Mile. 300 Ocean Mile consists of 99 wood, condominium units
18 towards the east end of the island. As the Plantation hydrants were tested
19 in 1992, and are representative of the west end of the island, 300 Ocean
20 Mile will provide representation for the east end of the island. The fire
21 plan for 300 Ocean Mile will include recommended standards for fire flow
22 for that type of structure along with results of what is available and how
23 the fire department would propose to fight a fire at that location.

24 Also, based on past experience, adequate water volumes were not
25 available for fire fighting in April 1992 when the SGIVFD responded to a

1 fire at Oyster Cove restaurant. The fire trucks, which were receiving
2 water in relay from a hydrant on East Gulf Beach Drive, had to be
3 intermittently shut down in order to refill the trucks' tanks without
4 drawing a vacuum on the utility's main which could have caused the main to
5 collapse. Drawing a vacuum on the main is only one of the inherent dangers
6 resulting from lack of adequate water availability at a hydrant. Another
7 danger is possible immediate personal injury to fire fighters as immediate
8 loss of water would eliminate the water boundary between the fire fighter
9 and the fire.

10 Q. In your opinion, what is needed in order to achieve adequate fire
11 protection?

12 A. Based on experience, 1000 gpm, continuously, would be necessary. It
13 is my understanding that the utility has requested the inclusion of \$30,000
14 in its request for a rate increase for the purpose of conducting a fire
15 protection study. It is my opinion that rather than conduct such a study,
16 it would be more beneficial to put that money towards additional elevated
17 storage on the island. Ideally, two additional elevated storage tanks, one
18 on the west end of the island and the other one on the east end of the
19 island, would improve fire flow availability. The main purpose of the
20 SGIVFD is to save lives in the event of a fire. The remaining priorities
21 are fighting fires and cooling surrounding structures in order to contain
22 any fire. Currently, the SGIVFD is in more of a defensive posture in that
23 containment is more likely to be achieved, rather than the saving of an
24 existing structure in the event of a major fire.

25 Q. Do you have anything further to add?

1 A. No.

Docket No. 940109-WU
Florida Public Service Commission
JWA-1

ST. GEORGE ISLAND
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

371

PAID
63-762-3
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELLA
FLORIDA

9/18 1986 \$ 635.59

PAY TO THE ORDER OF St. George Island Utility Co., Inc. \$ 635.59

Six Hundred Thirty Five Dollars & 59/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank
of Franklin County
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32320

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

fire department 11st. W L Gulf Bldg

Wardlaw Bean

⑈000371⑈

JR JD

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83

BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

71

PAID
63-762-3
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELLA
FLORIDA

Oct. 27 1986 \$ 1,500.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF St. George Island Utility Co., Inc. \$ 1,500.00

One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars & 00/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32320

Wardlaw Bean

fire department 11st. W L Gulf Bldg

⑈000713⑈

⑈000015000

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83

BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

71

PAID
63-762-3
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELLA
FLORIDA

Oct. 30 1986 \$ 1,500.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF St. George Island Utility Co. \$ 1,500.00

One thousand five hundred dollars & 00/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32320

Wardlaw Bean

fire department

⑈000716⑈

⑈000015000⑈

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

PAID
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELL
FLORIDA
63-762-

72

63-762
631

Nov. 6 19 86

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

St. George Island Utility

\$ 750.00

Seven hundred Fifty Dollars

DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank:

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32328

Fire Dept

⑈000720⑈

⑈000007500⑈

PAID
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELL
FLORIDA
63-762-3

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

PAID
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELL
FLORIDA
63-762-3

75

63-762
631

2/5 19 87

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

St. George Island Utility Co.

\$ 1,500.00

One thousand five hundred dollars

DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank:

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32328

Fire Dept - Corcoran

⑈000750⑈

⑈000015000⑈

PAID
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELL
FLORIDA
63-762-3

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

PAID
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELL
FLORIDA
63-762-3

77

63-762
631

April 9 19 87

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

St. George Island Utility Co.

\$ 900.00

Nine hundred dollars

DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank:

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32328

Fire Dept

⑈000773⑈

⑈000009000⑈

PAID
GULF STATE BANK
CARRABELL
FLORIDA
63-762-3

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 08-84
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

132

Date May 6 1987

63-762
631

63-762 3

Withdrawal NON-NEGOTIABLE

\$ 960.00

Nine Hundred dollars & no/100

Gulf State Bank

GOLD SAVINGS MONEY MARKET ACCT.

Signature Marilyn Beck

PAID GULF STATE BANK EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32328

0000090000

HARLAND V75

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

79

PAID

GULF TELLER
EP-2

May 26

19 87

63-762
631

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

St. George Island Utility Co

\$ 1500.00

One thousand five hundred & no/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32328

63-762-3

GULF STATE BANK

FLORIDA

Marilyn Beck

000796

0000150001

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

79

June 7

19 87

63-762
631

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

St. George Island Utility Co

\$ 750.00

Seven hundred fifty dollars & no/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32328

Fire Department 7th St. West

Marilyn Beck

000799

0000075001

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

762-
GULF STATE BANK
FLORIDA

8
63-7
63

July 20 1987

PAY TO THE ORDER OF St. George Island Utility \$ 1500.00
One thousand five hundred and no/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank:

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32320

Fire Hydrant - Leases #0008131#
#000015000

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

762-3
GULF STATE BANK
FLORIDA

8
63-7
63

5/20 1987

PAY TO THE ORDER OF St. George Island Utility \$ 1,000.00
One thousand & no/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank:

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32320

Fire Hydrant #000827#
#000010000

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 64, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

762-3
GULF STATE BANK
FLORIDA

8
63-7
63

Nov. 10 1987

PAY TO THE ORDER OF St. George Island Utility \$ 1500.00
One thousand five hundred & no/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32320

11th St. E Hydrant #000856#
#000015000

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT. 08-83
BOX 84, ST. GEORGE ISLAND
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

954

63-762
631

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

St George Island Utility

19 *88* \$ *1500.00*

One thousand Five hundred & no/100 DOLLARS

Gulf State Bank

EASTPOINT, FLORIDA 32328

Fire Dept. Station 300

Merle Bean

⑈000954⑈

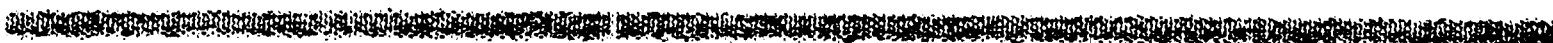
⑈0000150000

88-11-80
GULF STATE BANK
ST. GEORGE ISLAND
FLORIDA
EP-2

GULF STATE BANK
ST. GEORGE ISLAND
FLORIDA

88-11-80

MARKING 88



1187

11/13 '89

Jay Abbott

FOR food - Tampa Trip
(repair truck #1)

DEPOSIT 11/13/89 - Snack fund ✓ 9.00

DEPOSIT 5828.58

BALANCE

✓ AMOUNT THIS CHECK 60.00

BALANCE 5768.58

MARK AND 86

1188

11/13 '89

Holiday Inn

FOR repair
Motel - Tampa Trip - Truck #1

DEPOSIT

DEPOSIT

BALANCE

✓ AMOUNT THIS CHECK 118.64

BALANCE 5649.94

MARK AND 86

1189

11/15 '89

Wallace Pump &

FOR supply -

DEPOSIT 3 hydrants (COD)

DEPOSIT

BALANCE

AMOUNT THIS CHECK 9072

MARK AND 86

LET SOURCE OF DEPOSITS AND INFORMATION ABOUT EXEMPTIONS ON BACK OF RECEIVING SLIP

ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 6-89 12

MSBU FUND ACCOUNT
BOX 64 SGI
EASTPOINT, FL 32328

PAY TO THE ORDER OF St. George Island Utilities \$ 6000.00

Six thousand and 00/100 DOLL

Gulf State Bank
St. George Island, FL 32328

MEMO 4 Fire Hydrants - 9 Joannee Poles

6/13 1991

⑈000060000⑈

Docket No. 940109-WU
Florida Public Service Commission
JWA-2

St. George Plantation Owners' Association, Inc.

Box 228 • Phone: (904) 670-2312 • St. George Island, FL 32328

JULY 16, 1992

Mrs. Betty Easley, Commissioner
Public Service Commission
101
East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED

JUL 20 1992

F.A. Public Service Commission
Division of Water and Sewer

REF: St. George Plantation Fire Protection

Dear Mrs. Easley:

On July 13, 1992 during the period 7:20 to 8:45 PM, the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department conducted an inspection of all thirty two (32) fire hydrants on St. George Plantation. Tom Day and I, Nick LaSlavic, were invited to accompany the Volunteers and record the results of their inspection. One group of Volunteers accompanied by Tom Day started their inspection on the Bay side of the Plantation while the other group of Volunteers and I started on the Gulf side.

About one hour into the inspection, the Gulfside team was met by Hank Garrett of St. George Island Utility and advised that he had received calls of residents complaining of low water pressure or of no water. The Plantation Security on the gate verified that about 16 calls had been received voicing the same complaints. It was surmised that the test procedures followed by the Volunteers of flushing each hydrant 30 to 45 seconds to establish the adequacy of fire protection flow was causing the problem. Since only a few hydrants were left to be inspected, the Volunteers continued and the results are contained in Attachment #1 and summarized below:

1. Only 6 of the 32 fire hydrants provide what the Fire Chief termed "Questionable Adequate Water Pressure" for fire protection. See Attachment #2 for their location.

2. There is inadequate water pressure in 20 of the 32 fire hydrants for fire protection. See Attachment #2 for their location.

3. There is no water flow from 2 of the 32 fire hydrants for fire protection. See Attachment #2 for their location.

4. There are 3 of the 32 fire hydrants which are inoperable and provide no fire protection. See Attachment #2 for their location.



St. George Plantation Owners' Association, Inc

Box 228 • Phone: (904) 670-2312 • St. George Island, FL 32328

5. There is 1 of the 32 fire hydrants which is buried in sand. See Attachment #2 for its location. It should be noted that Attachment #1 also references fire hydrant discrepancies reported to the St. George Island Utility by the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department on August 20, 1991

Since the Public Service Commission holds the St. George Island Utility responsible for the ongoing maintenance and replacement of hydrants owned by the Utility, it is requested that the St. George Plantation Owner's Association be kept apprised of Commission actions to ensure the Utility's responsiveness. In particular, the inadequate water pressure for fire protection must be resolved and the Utility must be held responsible.

Sincerely,

Nicholas M. LaSlavic
Chairman, Plantation Fire Protection Task Force

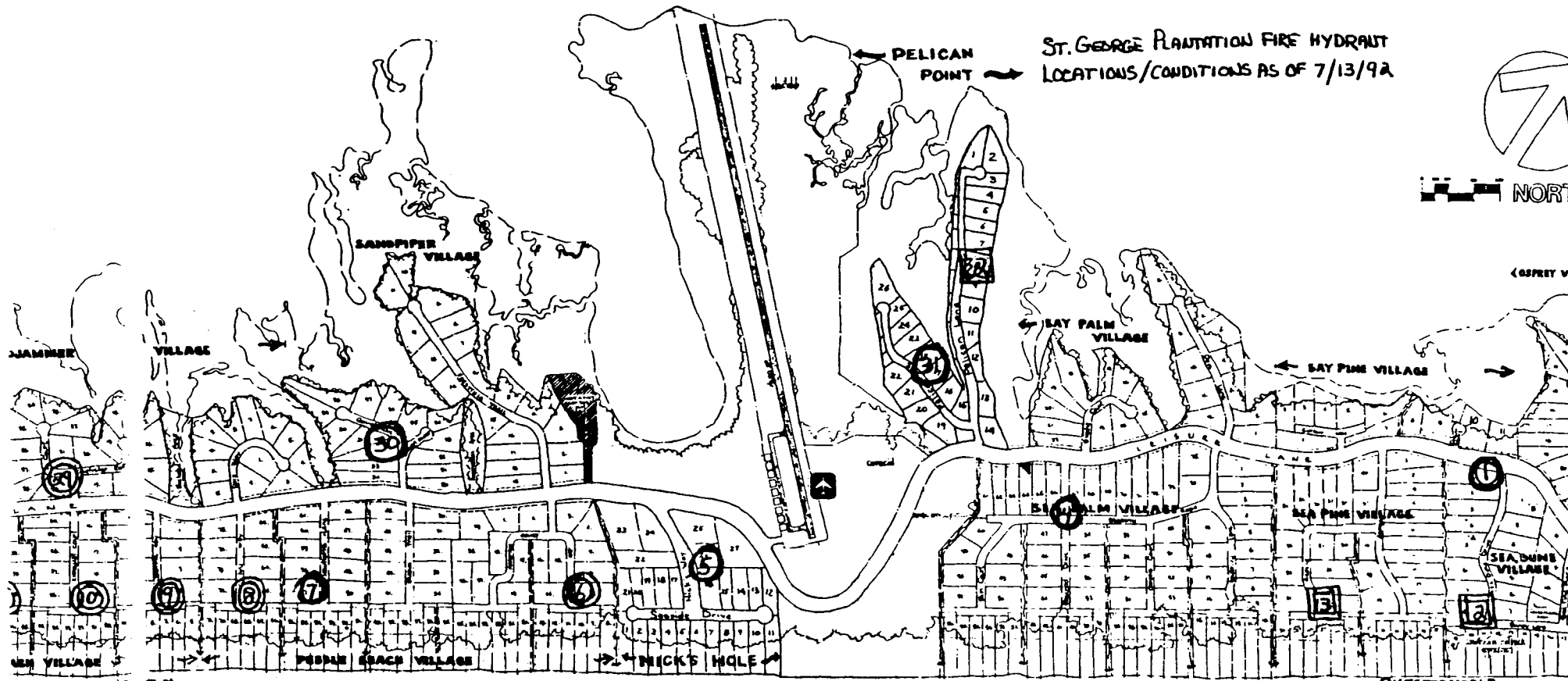
cc: Charles Hill, Director Public Service Commission
✓ Bob Crouch, P.E. Public Service Commission
Jay Abbott, Fire Chief St. George Island Volunteer
Fire Department
Tom Royal, President, St. George Plantation
Homeowner's Association
Hank Garrett, Manager, St. George Island
Utility Company



ST. GEORGE ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
 TEST RESULTS OF ST. GEORGE PLANATION FIRE HYDRANTS
 INSPECTION ON JULY 13, 1992 DURING THE PERIOD 7:20-8:45PM

FIRE HYDRANT LOCATION

	QUESTIONABLE ADEQUATE WATER PRESSURE	INADEQUATE WATER PRESSURE (PRESSURE DROP WITHIN 30 SECONDS OF TEST)	NO WATER FLOW	FLUSH VALVE DOES NOT SEAL	FLUSH VALVE FROZEN - NO TEST	HYDRANT BURIED - NO TEST	COVER MISSING	SAFETY DISCREPANCY REPORTED 7/20/91
1. LEISURE LANE & SEA DUNE DR	X							
2. T-AREA SEA DUNE DRIVE				X				
3. T-AREA ACACOA				X			X	X
4. BAYWOOD DRIVE & BLUEBERRY RD	X							
5. NICK'S WAY	X							
6. T-AREA FORSYTHIA WAY		X					X	
7. T-AREA HAWTHORNE LANE	X							
8. T-AREA IVY WAY		X		X				X
9. T-AREA JASMINE WAY		X						X
10. T-AREA KUMQUAT COURT		X						
11. T-AREA LILAC LANE		X						
12. T-AREA MAGNOLIA ROAD		X						
13. T-AREA DENISE DRIVE		X						
14. T-AREA CORAL WAY		X						
15. T-AREA REED WAY				X	X			
16. T-AREA PELICAN WAY						X		
17. T-AREA WHELK WAY		X						
18. T-AREA DOLPHIN DRIVE		X						
19. T-AREA TWISTED PINE DRIVE		X						
20. CONCH DRIVE		X						
21. TAREA BEACHWOOD DRIVE		X						
22. TAREA HAMMOCK LANE		X						
23. SEMINOLE LANE		X		X				
24. SMUGGLERS COVE ROAD		X		X				
25. INDIAN HARBOUR ROAD		X						
26. HARBOUR LIGHT LANE		X					X	X
27. BAYVIEW DRIVE		X						
28. LARK LANE			X					
29. KINGFISHER ROAD		X						
30. GANNET TRAIL	X							
31. PELICAN COURT	X							
32. PELICAN LANE			X					X
TOTAL								
QUESTIONABLE ADEQUATE WATER	6							6
INADEQUATE WATER PRESSURE		20						20
NO WATER			2					2
INOPERABLE UNIT NO PROTECTION				3				3
BURIED UNIT NO PROTECTION					1			1
TOTAL								32

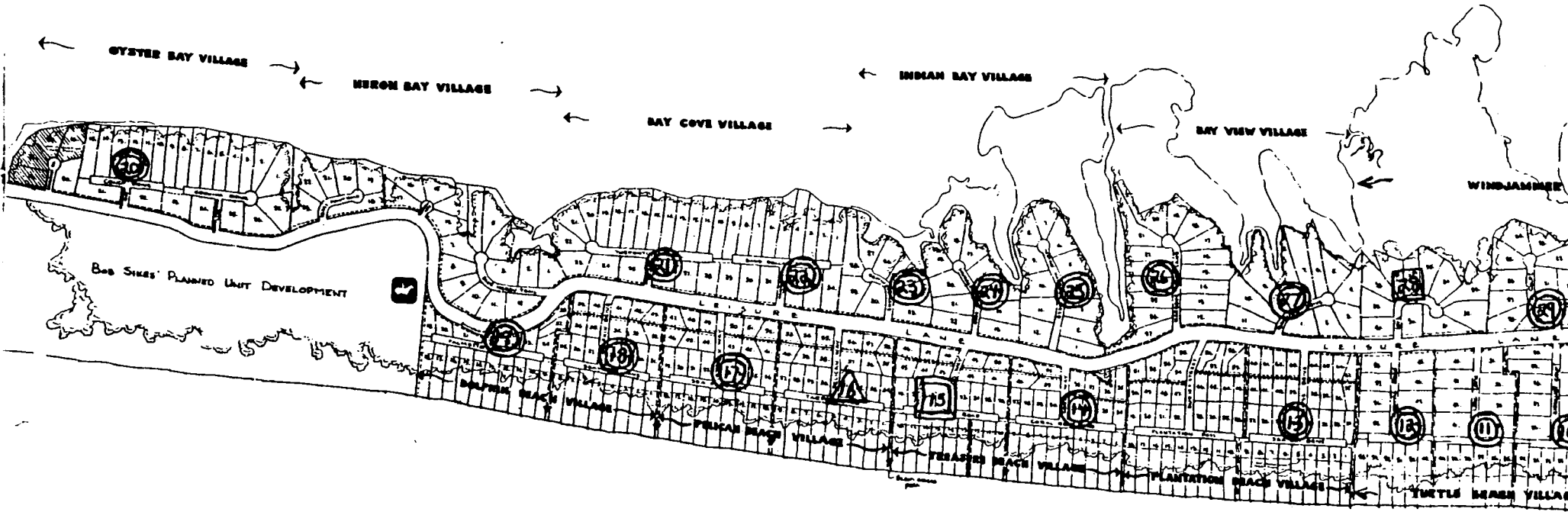


ST. GEORGE PLANTATION MASTER PLAN

- QUESTIONABLE ADEQUATE WATER
- ⊙ INADEQUATE WATER P.
- NO WATER FLOW
- INOPERABLE
- △ BURIED

ALL LAND SHOWN ON THIS MAP IS DEEMED TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE ENTITIES.

APALACHICOLA BAY



GULF OF MEXICO

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Petition for interim and) DOCKET NO. 940109-WU
permanent rate increase in) FILED: June 8, 1994
Franklin County by ST. GEORGE)
ISLAND UTILITY COMPANY, LTD.)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

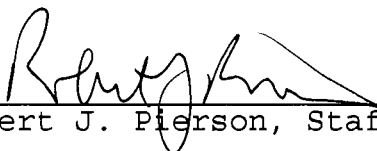
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the Prefiled Direct Testimony of James W. Abbott filed in this proceeding on behalf of the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission on this date, with attached exhibits, has been furnished to the following by U.S. Mail, this 8th day of June, 1994.

Steven Pfeiffer, Esquire
Apgar Law Firm
820 E. Park Avenue
Building F #100
Tallahassee, FL 32301,

Gene Brown, Esquire
St. George Island Utility
3848 Killearn Court
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Barbara Sanders, Esquire
St. George Island Water and
Sewer District
Post Office Box 57
Apalachicola, FL 32320

Harold McLean, Esquire
Office of Public Counsel
c/o The Florida Legislature
111 West Madison Street
Suite 812
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400



Robert J. Pierson, Staff Counsel

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
101 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0863
(904) 487-2740