

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application for rate increase for Orange-)
Osceola Utilities, Inc. in Osceola County,)
and in Bradford, Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay,)
Collier, Duval, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion,)
Martin, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Putnam,)
Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Volusia, and)
Washington Counties, by Southern States)
Utilities, Inc.)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 950495-WS
FILED: August 14, 1995

AMENDED PETITION OF SPRING HILL CIVIC
ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR FULL COMMISSION REVIEW
OF ORDER ESTABLISHING SERVICE HEARING
SCHEDULE AND REQUIRING NOTICE

The Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc., by and through its undersigned attorney, pursuant to Rule 25-22.038(2), Florida Administrative Code, moves the full commission to review Order No. PSC-95-0990-PCO-WS Second Order Establishing Service Hearing Schedule, issued August 11, 1995, and to reschedule the customer service hearing scheduled therein for Hernando County until such later date as will allow all customers time to adequately familiarize themselves with

Southern States Utilities, Inc.'s ("SSU") rate filing, MFR's and rate case synopsis and prepare objections for presentation to the commissioners at the scheduled "customer service" hearings. In support thereof Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc. states:

1. On June 28, 1995 SSU filed an application for increased water and wastewater rates, allowance for funds prudently invested, and service availability charges. The application is massive, involving in excess of 130 separate water and wastewater systems in numerous counties, and apparently comprising some 25,000 pages or more of petition, testimony and data. In addition to involving multiple systems, the application apparently requests interim rates based

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upon a projected test year, a rate structure involving the highly controversial and unlawful concept of uniform rates and other unusual or controversial issues to include weather normalization, price elasticity, a conservation adjustment clause, reuse issues, zero bills adjustment, and others. The initial application did not include SSU's Spring Hill water and wastewater plants located in Hernando County. However, based upon a PSC vote taken August 1, 1995, SSU, on August 2, 1995, filed an amended rate petition including its systems owned and operated in three additional counties: Hernando, Hillsborough, and Polk. This new filing, which includes SSU's Spring Hill water and wastewater plants, is necessarily larger and more complex than the initial rate petition.

2. It appears that PSC staff have issued a letter granting SSU an "official filing date" as of August 2, 1995.

3. Rule 25-22.0407(3), Florida administrative Code provides that within 30 days after the official date of filing established by the PSC, the utility shall place a copy of the rate petition and the MFR's at its business office within each service area, or the main county library if it does not have a business office within a given service area. Generally, Rule 25-22.0407, Florida Administrative Code, provides that the utility shall also, within 30 days of the official filing date, provide a copy of its "rate case synopsis" at all locations where copies of the petition and MFR's were placed as well as provide copies of the rate case synopsis to the chief executive officer of each concerned municipality and county. Subsection (5)(a) of the same rule provides that within 50 days of the official date of filing the utility shall provide, in writing, an initial customer notice to all customers within the service area and prescribes specific and detailed information to be included in the notice.

4. SSU has provided a copy of the amended rate case filing to the Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc., which copy was received on August 14, 1995. Whether a copy of SSU's amended petition, testimony and full MFR's are now also available to the general public at the Hernando County Public Library, as required by PSC rule, is not known.

5. Notwithstanding today's receipt of the SSU rate petition, testimony and MFR's, the Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc., does not have adequate time to study the complete filing and prepare comments before the just scheduled customer service hearing to be held in Hernando County on September 11, 1995.

6. The members of the Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc. must be allowed adequate time to properly examine the complete filing and testimony, ascertain the affects on them and prepare meaningful comments for presentation at the customer service hearing before the PSC.¹ There is now less than one month from today's date until September 11, 1995 and there is simply not adequate time to review the complete filing. It should be recalled that the renewed request for the illegal uniform rates puts the customers of all SSU systems, including those in Hernando County, at risk for imprudent and unnecessary expenditures at every SSU facility, not just at the facilities actually providing service and those associated with common costs. In short, SSU's

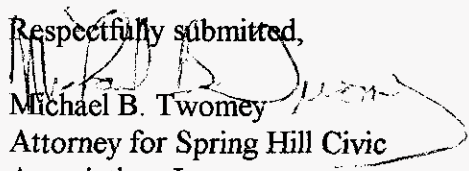
¹ Contrary to Chuck Hill's comment at the August 1, 1995 Agenda Conference, the customer service hearings are not merely an opportunity for customers to grouse about the quality of water and wastewater service they are receiving. Aside from the renewed attempt at "stealing" the CIAC of Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc. members through the renewed request for uniform rates, SSU's amended petition contains a number of new and highly controversial factors that require extensive examination. All SSU customers deserve and, indeed, are legally entitled to, adequate time to examine the complete utility filing, as well as the opportunity to address those issues at the customer hearings held in the local service areas. Anyone entertaining the notion that the customer service hearings are merely an opportunity for customers to "vent" quality of service complaints and voice generalized price objections would be well advised to avoid expressing that notion or otherwise suffer the political opportunity of defending them.

request for uniform rates has necessitated that the Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc. examine every aspect of SSU's massive, 25,000 page filing with a fine tooth comb.

7. If the customer service hearings to be held by the PSC are to be meaningful, the affected customers must have a reasonable opportunity to examine the complete SSU rate filing. If the service hearings are not to be rendered a meaningless sham and total waste of customers' time and money, the PSC must reset the hearings until such later dates as will allow the customers to both review the complete rate filing and meaningfully examine the same. Such a time, at a minimum, is 60 full days after August 14, 1995, when Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc. received its copy of the filing, or 60 days after SSU has met the rule requirements by placing its complete filing in the Hernando County Public Library, whichever date is later.

WHEREFORE, Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc. requests that the full commission review the Second Order Establishing Service Hearing Schedule and reschedule the customer service hearings to begin not sooner than 60 full days after August 14, 1995, when Spring Hill Civic Association, Inc. received its copy of the filing, or 60 days after SSU has met the rule requirements by placing its complete filing in the Hernando County Public Library, whichever date is later.

Respectfully submitted,


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Association, Inc.
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S.

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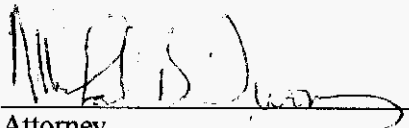
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