



Public Service Commission

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: August 6, 1996
TO: Blanca Bayo, Director, Division of Records and Reporting
FROM: Charles J. Rehwinkel, Assistant to Commissioner Deason *CR*
RE: Customer Correspondence Forwarded by Representative George Albright Relating to Docket No. 950495-WS

This office has received the attached letter from Representative George Albright passing along the correspondence of a residential customer. Please include the attached correspondence and Commissioner Deason's response in the docket file along with this memo. Because neither the Representative's letter nor the customer letter are ex parte communications within the meaning of Section 350.042, Fla. Statutes, this filing does not need to be distributed to the parties. Furthermore, the Baldwin letter was not shown to Commissioner Deason because it cannot be considered in this pending docket. Nevertheless, Commissioner Deason has requested that the docket file reflect the correspondence.

- ACK _____
- AFA _____
- APP _____
- CAF _____
- CMU _____
- CTR _____
- EAG _____
- LEG _____
- LIN _____
- OPC _____
- RCH _____
- SEC 1 _____
- WAS _____
- OTH _____

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

08213 AUG -6 88

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

State of Florida

J. Terry Deason
Commissioner



Gerald L. Gunter Building
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
(904) 413-6038
FAX (904) 487-1716

Public Service Commission

August 5, 1996

Representative George Albright
Florida House of Representatives
402 House Office Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Dear Representative Albright:

I am writing in response to your letter forwarding the correspondence from your constituents Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Baldwin regarding the pending Southern States Utilities rate case. As I understand your letter, you are forwarding it to me so that it may be given the attention that is appropriate under the circumstances.

The very day my office received this letter, the Commission spent 10 hours debating and voting on a 900 page staff recommendation in this case. On August 15, we will continue the deliberation process by voting on a rate structure for this company.

Although there is nothing improper about the Baldwin's writing me or any of the Commissioners regarding this case, we are forbidden by law from considering anything outside the record in reaching our decision. Likewise, I am specifically forbidden by law from commenting publicly on the merits of any pending case.

I can assure you that I will continue to diligently consider all of the evidence in this case and to give fair and impartial consideration to the concerns and positions of all affected parties to the best of my ability.

Representative Albright
August 5, 1996
Page Two

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Terry Deason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Terry Deason
Commissioner

JTD/mm

cc: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Baldwin
Docket No.950495-WS



Florida House of Representatives

GEORGE ALBRIGHT
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 24

111 S.E. 25th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471-9179
904-732-1313

402 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
904-488-0335

RECEIVED

JUL 31 1996
Florida Public Service Comm.
Commissioner Deason

July 30, 1996

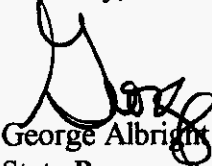
J. Terry Deason, Commissioner
Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Commissioner Deason:

Attached you will find a copy of a letter from a constituent in my district which is much like the correspondence I receive time and time again on this very issue. I would appreciate your attention to this matter and a reply to same.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


George Albright
State Representative
District 24

GA/sen

cc: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Baldwin
Public Service Commissioners

Enclosure

July 24, 1996

Page 1

Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Capitol Circle Office Bldg.
Tallahassee, FL. 32399
ATTN: Ms. Susan Clark, Chairwoman

REFERENCE: SOUTHERN STATES UTILITIES

Dear Ms. Clark:

As homeowners in Citrus Park subdivision which is serviced by Southern States Utilities, this letter is being written in vehement protest of the exorbitant charges this utility is now getting as well as proposing.

Ever since Southern States Utilities took over the water and sewer service for this subdivision, we have experienced one rate increase after another - whether is be an actual increase or an interim one. How much longer do we have to put up with price gouging from this company? They are the biggest pirates that ever came down the pike. During the time of all these increases we have never seen one improvement in the quality of their water and/or their service. There are times when when water run from the tap has such a foul, stenchy odor that it is absolutely nauseating and the taste of this water (at all times) is just plain disgusting. We have purchased bottled water for years for consumption purposes. Even our pets will not drink this water from the tap - does that tell you something?

Minnesota Power & Light Company who are the owners of Southern States Utilities is a huge conglomerate who obviously are not in the least bit concerned about their customers. We do not understand how the Public Service Commission can continually grant these price increases. It appears that the Commission is not acting in the best interests of the consumer who they are supposed to represent, but rather are acting solely in the interest of Southern States Utilities. We have yet to meet one person serviced by this utility who thinks they they are justified with their rate increases and/or their service.

Also, why would the final decision of the Public Service Commission possibly be determined by the profitability rate of the particular Utility company involved? This just does not make sense. We agree, every company is indeed entitled to make a profit, however, when that profit is obscene as in the case with Southern States Utilities, it certainly should not be condoned or permitted.

Yet another disturbing factor - over the years we have seen many homes in this area up for sale, many of which have been or currently are on the market in excess of one year - could it be that nobody wants to have to pay these grossly unfair utility charges?

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Baldwin
2060 S. E. 39th St.
Ocala, FL. 34480

Carbon Copies as noted on Page 2

cc: Gov. Lawton Chiles, Capitol, Tallahassee, FL. 32399
Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay, Capitol, Tallahassee, FL. 32399
Atty. General Robert L. Butterworth, Capitol, Tallahassee, FL. 32399
Rep. Bob Casey, M.D., 4401 N.W. 25th Place, Suite L, Gainesville, FL. 32606
Rep. George Albright, 111 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala, FL. 34471
Senator Bob Graham, 101 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 3270, Tampa, FL. 33602
Rep. Cliff Stearns, 115 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala, FL. 34471
Rep. Karen Thurman, 2224 Highway 44 West, Inverness, FL. 34453
County Administrator Jack Howley, 601 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala, FL. 34471
Ocala County Commissioners, 601 S.E. 25th Ave., Ocala, FL. 34471
Judge Susan H. Black, P.O. Box 53135, Jacksonville, FL. 32201
Citrus Park Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 71122, Ocala, FL. 34471