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STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

c/o The Florida Legislature
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March 7, 1997

Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 920199-WS

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket are the original and 15 copies of the Citizens' Response in Opposition to the Motion for Stay of Order No. PSC-97-0175-FOF-WS filed by Florida Water Services Corporation, f/k/a Southern States Utilities, Inc.

Please indicate the time and date of receipt on the enclosed duplicate of this letter and return it to our office.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Beck
Deputy Public Counsel

WCK	_____
WFA	<u>2</u>
WPP	<u>1</u>
WAF	_____
WML	_____
WTR	_____
WAG	_____
WEG	<u>1</u> Enclosures
WPI	<u>5</u>
WPS	_____
WPH	_____
WAS	_____

CJB:bsr

Enclosures

WAS *Willis*

RECEIVED & FILED
[Signature]
DIVISION OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

02501 MAR-7 003987

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Application for rate increase in)
Brevard, Charlotte/Lee, Citrus, Clay,)
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))
/

Docket no. 920199-WS

Filed: March 7, 1997

**CITIZENS' RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION FOR STAY OF ORDER
NO. PSC-97-0175-FOF-WS FILED BY FLORIDA WATER SERVICES
CORPORATION, F/K/A SOUTHERN STATES UTILITIES, INC.**

The Citizens of Florida ("Citizens"), by and through Jack Shreve, Public Counsel, file this response in opposition to the motion for stay of order no. PSC-97-0175-FOF-WS pending disposition of a motion for reconsideration filed by Florida Water Services Corporation, f/k/a Southern States Utilities, Inc. ("Southern States" or "Florida Water") on February 28, 1997.

1. Over one year ago the Commission issued an order that placed all of Southern States' systems except one -- Spring Hill -- on modified stand alone rates. Southern States readily acceded to that order. The order granted Southern States an interim rate increase simultaneously with the implementation of modified stand alone

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rates for all of those systems. The order, however, inadvertently failed to address the Spring Hill system. Spring Hill was not part of the interim rate increase order in docket 950495-WS.

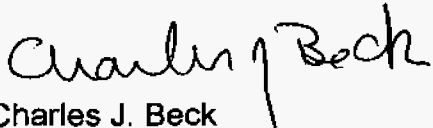
2. Commission order PSC-97-0175-FOF-WS recognizes that the Commission had intended to place all systems on modified stand alone rates at the same time. The order corrects this matter by finally placing Spring Hill on modified stand alone rates, just like all of the other systems, and makes the change from uniform rates to modified stand alone rates a revenue neutral matter for Southern States.

3. The Commission's order is correct, and Southern States is unlikely to prevail on an appeal of the order. The Commission should deny the request for a stay.

WHEREFORE, the Citizens request the Commission to deny the motion for stay filed by Southern States on February 28, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Shreve
Public Counsel


Charles J. Beck
Deputy Public Counsel

Office of Public Counsel
c/o The Florida Legislature
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Attorney for the Citizens
of the State of Florida

DOCKET NO. 920199-WS
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail or hand-delivery* to the following party representatives on this 7th day of March, 1997.

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