

500 Bayfront Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32520

Tel 904.444.6000



July 29, 1997

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee FL 32399-0870

960835-ET

Dear Ms. Bayo:

RE: Notice of Intent to Request Confidential Classification
The Southern Company and Southern Communications Services, Inc.
Certificate of Notification - File No. 70-8233

Enclosed for filing in the matter referred to above is the Request for Confidential Classification by Gulf Power Company. This request covers information for the period ending March 31, 1997.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me.

Please mark the enclosed extra copy of this letter with the date and time the material was accepted in your office for filing and return same to the undersigned.

ACK _____ Sincerely,
AFA _____
APP _____ *Susan D. Cranmer*
CAF _____ Susan D. Cranmer
CMU _____ Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer

CTR _____ lw
EAG _____
LEG _____ Enclosures
LIR _____
OPR _____ cc: Beggs and Lane
RCL _____ Russell A. Badders, Esquire
SEC _____ 1
WAS _____
OTH _____

This Notice of Intent was filed with Confidential Document No. 07697-97. The document has been placed in the confidential files pending receipt of a request for confidential treatment.

RECEIVED & FILED

all to Matilda
EPSC BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

07696 JUL 30 5

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE: The Southern Company
and Southern Communications
Services, Inc.
Certificate of Notification-
File Nos. 70-8233 under Rule 24
with the Securities and Exchange
Commission (SEC) for the
period ending March 31, 1997

Docket No.: Undocketed
Date: July 30, 1997

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

The Southern Company and Southern Communications Services, Inc., an associate company of Gulf Power Company, by and through its undersigned attorney and pursuant to Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, hereby gives notice that it intends to request confidential classification for certain information, hereafter the Certificate, submitted to the Florida Public Service Commission Staff pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 53(a)(4), C.F.R. §250.53(a)(4). A copy of the Certificate is attached hereto as exhibit "A". Rule 53 requires that every registered holding company submit certain specified categories of filings to each state commission in which the affiliates of the registered holding company operate. Gulf Power is an affiliate of the Southern Company, a registered holding company.

The Certificate contains proprietary and commercially sensitive information regarding the Southern Company and Southern Communications Services, Inc. and certain of its unregulated, non-utility, businesses and investments which would cause irreparable harm to the Companies if disclosed to the general public. A formal request for confidential classification will be filed within the time period specified in Rule 25-22.006(3)(a), Florida Administrative Code, if at such time the

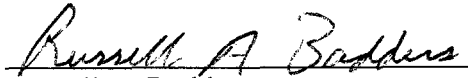
DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

07696 JUL 30 97

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Staff determines that the information will be retained by the Commission and not returned to the Companies. This Certificate is the subject of a claim of confidentiality under the Freedom of Information Act.

Respectfully submitted,

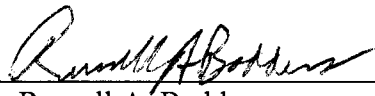


Russell A. Badders
Florida Bar No. 7455
Beggs & Lane
Post Office Box 12950
Pensacola, Florida 32576-2950
(904) 432-2451
Counsel for The Southern Company and
Southern Communications Services, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was furnished without exhibit "A" by U.S. Mail on the 29th day of July, 1997, on the following:

Richard Bellak, Esq., Esq.
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850



Russell A. Badders

Southern Company Services, Inc.
64 Perimeter Center East
Atlanta, Georgia 30346-6401
Telephone (770) 393-0650



Southern Company Services

a subsidiary of The Southern Company

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED**

June 13, 1997

Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, DC 20549

Re: *The Southern Company and
Southern Communications Services, Inc.
Certificate of Notification - File No. 70-8233
Request for Confidential Treatment*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Rule 104 under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as amended, The Southern Company (SOUTHERN), a registered holding company, and Southern Communications Services, Inc. (SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS), hereby request confidential treatment of the attached certificate of notification for the period March 31, 1997. This certificate contains information which is proprietary and competitively sensitive. The public disclosure thereof would materially harm SOUTHERN and SOUTHERN COMMUNICATIONS.

As permitted by Rule 101(c)(1) of the General Rules and Regulations for Electronic Filings, 17 CFR 232.101(c)(1) the aforementioned confidential information is filed herewith in paper format only.

SOUTHERN hereby requests a hearing before any part thereof is made public to third parties requesting its disclosure.

Yours very truly,


Wayne Boston

Enclosures

cc: Freedom of Information Act Officer (w/enc.)
Robert Wason, Chief Financial Analyst (w/enc.)