

State of Florida



## Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

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

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**DATE:** May 23, 2018

**TO:** Office of Commission Clerk (Stauffer)

**FROM:** Division of Economics (Doherty) *RD EJD PA*  
Office of the General Counsel (Mapp) *JCO*

**RE:** Docket No. 20180086-EI – Petition for approval of revised underground residential distribution tariffs, by Tampa Electric Company.

**AGENDA:** 06/05/18 – Regular Agenda – Tariff Filing – Interested Persons May Participate

**COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED:** All Commissioners

**PREHEARING OFFICER:** Administrative

**CRITICAL DATES:** 06/12/18 (60-Day Suspension Date)

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** None

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### Case Background

On April 2, 2018, Tampa Electric Company (TECO or utility) filed a petition for approval of its revised underground residential distribution (URD) tariffs. The proposed tariffs and associated charges are shown in legislative format in Attachment A of the recommendation. TECO's current URD tariffs were approved in Order No. PSC-2017-0293-TRF-EI.<sup>1</sup>

Rule 25-6.078, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), defines investor-owned utilities' (IOU) responsibilities for filing updated URD tariffs. TECO has filed the instant petition pursuant to subsection (3) of the rule, which requires IOUs to seek Commission approval of updated URD tariff charges if the utility's per-lot cost differentials between overhead and underground service based on current material and labor costs vary by more than 10 percent from the existing

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<sup>1</sup>Order No PSC-2017-0293-TRF-EI, issued August 1, 2017, in Docket NO. 20170073-EI, *In re: Petition for approval of revised residential distribution tariffs, by Tampa Electric Company.*

Docket No. 20180086-EI

Date: May 23, 2018

Commission-approved differentials. All IOUs are required to file supporting data and analyses for URD tariffs at least once every three years.

The URD tariffs provide standard charges for underground service in new residential subdivisions and represent the additional costs, if any, the utility incurs to provide underground service in place of overhead service. The cost of standard overhead construction is recovered through base rates from all ratepayers. In lieu of overhead construction, customers have the option of requesting underground facilities. Typically, the URD customer is the developer of the subdivision.

Staff issued one data request and in its response TECO provided certain corrections to the cost support. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 366.03, 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, Florida Statutes.

### Discussion of Issues

**Issue 1:** Should the Commission approve TECO's proposed URD tariffs and associated charges?

**Recommendation:** Yes, the Commission should approve TECO's proposed URD tariffs and associated charges as shown in Attachment A, effective June 5, 2018. (Doherty)

**Staff Analysis:** TECO's URD charges are based on two standard model subdivisions: (1) a 210-lot low density (LD) subdivision, and (2) a 176-lot high density (HD) subdivision. While actual construction may differ from the model subdivisions, the model subdivisions are designed to reflect average overhead and underground subdivisions.

Costs for underground construction have historically been higher than for standard overhead construction and the additional cost is paid by the customer as a contribution-in-aid-of-construction (CIAC). However, as shown on proposed tariff sheet No. 5.510, TECO's proposed URD differential charges are \$0 for both model subdivisions. Therefore, the URD customer will not be assessed a CIAC charge for underground service in a new residential subdivision.

Table 1-1 presents a comparison between the currently approved and proposed URD differentials for the LD and HD subdivision. The charges shown are per-lot charges.

**Table 1-1**  
**Comparison of URD Differential per Lot**

	<b>Current Differential</b>	<b>Proposed Differential</b>
Low Density	\$247.69	\$0.00 <sup>2</sup>
High Density	\$0.00	\$0.00

Source: Petition page 2; paragraphs 6 and 7

As shown in Table 1-1 above, the proposed differential for the LD subdivision decreases to \$0 per lot and the proposed differential for the HD subdivision remains at \$0. The decrease in the LD differential is primarily attributable to the overhead operational costs increasing at a higher rate than the underground operational costs. The calculations of the proposed URD charges include updated labor and material costs and updated operational costs. The costs are discussed below.

#### Updated Labor and Material Cost

The installation costs of underground and overhead facilities include the labor and material costs to provide primary, secondary, and service distribution lines as well as transformers. The costs of poles are specific to overhead service while the costs of trenching and backfilling are specific to underground service. TECO's current URD charges are based on 2016 labor and material costs and the proposed charges are based on 2017 costs. Table 1-2 compares the per-lot 2016 and 2017

<sup>2</sup> The calculation is as follows: \$793 (rounded Table 1-2) - \$1,284 (Table 1-3) = -\$491; the proposed URD differential per lot is \$0 as the URD differential can not be less than zero.

underground and overhead labor and material costs (rounded to whole dollars) for the two subdivisions.

**Table 1-2  
 Labor and Material Costs per Lot**

	2016 Costs	2017 Costs	Difference from 2016 – 2017
<b>Low Density</b>			
Underground labor/material costs	\$2,156	\$2,082	(\$74)
Overhead labor/material costs	\$1,379	\$1,289	(\$90)
Per lot differential	\$777	\$793	\$16
<b>High Density</b>			
Underground labor/material costs	\$1,640	\$1,596	(\$44)
Overhead labor/material costs	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$0
Per lot differential	\$639	\$595	(\$44)

Source: Petition Exhibit pages LD 1 and HD 1 and revised LD 1 filed on May 4, 2018.

As indicated in Table 1-2 above, the overhead labor and material cost for the LD model subdivision decreased at a higher rate than the underground labor and material cost, resulting in a minor increase in the differential (\$16). For the HD model subdivision, underground labor and material costs decreased, while overhead labor and material cost remained the same, resulting in a decrease in the differential (\$44).

Documentation provided by TECO shows that material costs for both underground and overhead construction increased. Specifically, for the LD subdivision model, underground material cost increased by 3.63 percent and overhead material cost increased by one percent. TECO explained that the utility has seen more volatility in material costs as a result of hurricane restoration work in recent years. However, labor costs decreased by 8.55 percent for underground construction and by 12.61 percent for overhead construction resulting in the overall decrease in total labor/material costs shown in Table 1-2. TECO explained that labor costs mainly decreased because of a decrease in contract labor rates. The HD subdivision model has similar changes in material and labor costs.

**Updated Operational Costs**

Rule 25-6.078(4), F.A.C., provides that the differences in Net Present Value (NPV) of actual operational costs between overhead and underground systems, including average historical storm restoration costs over the life of the facilities, be included in the URD charge. Operational costs include operations and maintenance (O&M) costs and capital costs. The inclusion of the operational costs is intended to capture the longer term costs and benefits of undergrounding.

TECO used its actual historical O&M and capital expenses to calculate the operational cost difference for overhead and underground facilities. Table 1-3 below compares 2016 and 2017 NPV calculations of operational cost differentials (rounded to whole dollars) between overhead and underground systems on a per-lot basis.

**Table 1-3  
 NPV of Operational Costs Differential per Lot**

	<b>2016 Calculation</b>	<b>2017 Calculation</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Low Density</b>			
Underground NPV – Operational Costs	\$1,025	\$1,247	\$222
Overhead NPV – Operational Costs	\$1,554	\$2,531	\$977
Per lot Differential	(\$529)	(\$1,284)	(\$755)
<b>High Density</b>			
Underground NPV – Operational Costs	\$484	\$590	\$106
Overhead NPV – Operational Costs	\$1,157	\$1,871	\$714
Per lot Differential	(\$673)	(\$1,281)	(\$608)

Table 1-3 shows that the NPV of operational costs for overhead service increased at a significantly higher rate than the NPV of operational costs for underground service. This has the effect of reducing the URD differentials shown on Table 1-1 to \$0. TECO explained that the inclusion of the 2017 overhead storm restoration costs as a result of Hurricane Irma contributed to the significant increase in the overhead operational costs.<sup>3</sup> The operational costs are based on the three-year average of TECO’s operational costs for the years 2015 through 2017.

The methodology used by TECO in its 2017 filing for calculating the NPV of operational costs was approved in Order No. PSC-09-0784-TRF-EI.<sup>4</sup> In response to a staff data request, TECO stated that it used the same approved methodology in the instant docket. TECO’s NPV calculation uses a 35-year life for the facilities and a 6.81 percent discount rate. Staff notes that operational costs may vary among IOUs as a result of differences in size of service territory, miles of coastline, regions subject to extreme winds, age of the distribution system, or construction standards.

**Other Proposed Tariff Changes**

In addition to the proposed tariff changes discussed above, TECO proposed to revise its non-refundable deposits for estimates of CIAC for conversion of existing overhead distribution facilities to underground facilities. To develop the proposed deposits, TECO adjusted its current deposit amounts by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.1 percent.<sup>5</sup> TECO also proposed modifications to the charges and credits for customers requesting new underground service laterals from overhead distribution systems and for the conversion of existing service laterals from overhead to underground based on current material and labor costs.

<sup>3</sup> TECO provided similar comments in its slide presentation (page 16) at the workshop held on May 2-3, 2018, and in its responses to Staff’s First Data Request No. 36, and to Staff’s Third Data Request No. 4. in Docket No. 20170215-EU, *In re: Review of electric utility hurricane preparedness and restoration actions*.

<sup>4</sup> Order No. PSC-09-0784-TRF-EI, issued November 19, 2009, in Docket No. 090164-EI, *In re: Petition for approval of revised tariff sheets for underground residential distribution service, by Tampa Electric Company*.

<sup>5</sup> Table 24 of the CPI Detailed Report published by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Conclusion**

Staff has reviewed TECO's proposed changes to its URD tariffs and associated charges, the accompanying work papers, and responses to staff's data requests. Documentation provided by TECO supports the utility's assertion that the per-lot cost differentials for the model LD and HD subdivisions is \$0. Staff believes TECO's proposed URD tariffs and associated charges are reasonable and recommends approval of the tariffs shown in Attachment A, effective June 5, 2018.

**Issue 2:** Should this docket be closed?

**Recommendation:** If Issue 1 is approved and a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the order, the tariffs should remain in effect, with any revenues held subject to refund, pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order. (Mapp)

**Staff Analysis:** If Issue 1 is approved and a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the order, the tariffs should remain in effect, with any revenues held subject to refund, pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order.



~~NINTH-TENTH~~ REVISED SHEET  
NO. 5.510  
CANCELS ~~EIGHTH-NINTH~~  
REVISED SHEET NO. 5.510

Continued from Sheet No. 5.500

**3.6.5.1 Single Meter Commercial Service**

Mobile Home Parks will be supplied single-meter commercial service only where park owner or operator supplies (furnishes) electrical service as a part of his rental and/or general service charge to tenants. Resale of electric energy through park owned meters will not be permitted (See 2.2.1)

**3.6.5.2 Individual Company Metered Service**

Mobile Home Parks will be supplied through company installed individual meters for individual tenants and other types of service required in park under the provisions required on 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 and the subparts appertaining thereto.

**3.6.6 Miscellaneous Types of Electric Service**

Certain other types of electric service are available from the company. Information on such services not specifically covered in this Tariff may be obtained at the nearest company office. Such special cases will be given individual consideration.

**3.7 SCHEDULE OF STANDARD CHARGES AND NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSITS FOR COST ESTIMATES FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS**

**3.7.1 Standard Charges**

The Standard Charges listed here are Contributions In Aid of Construction (CIAC) which are referenced by other sections of these rules and regulations.

**3.7.1.1 Residential Subdivision**

Low Density Subdivisions per service lateral or dwelling unit...	<u>\$247.690.00</u>
High Density Subdivisions per service lateral or dwelling unit...	\$0.00

**3.7.1.2 New Single-phase UG Service Laterals from Overhead Distribution Systems**

Fixed Charge for 2/0 service lateral	\$71.5536
Fixed Charge for 4/0 service lateral	<u>\$103.92106.53</u>
Per trench foot charge for 2/0 service lateral	<u>\$41.0610.02</u>
Per trench foot charge for 4/0 service lateral	<u>\$10.929.91</u>
Credit for service pole if otherwise required for overhead service	<u>\$642.53592.39</u>

Continued to Sheet No. 5.515

ISSUED BY: G. L. Gillette N. G. Tower,  
President

DATE EFFECTIVE: July 13, 2017



~~FIFTEENTH~~ ~~SIXTEENTH~~ REVISED  
SHEET NO. 5.515  
CANCELS ~~FOURTEENTH~~  
~~FIFTEENTH~~ REVISED SHEET NO.  
5.515

Continued from Sheet No. 5.510

**3.7.1.3 Single-phase UG Service Laterals Converted from Existing Overhead Service Drops**

Removal charge for overhead service with no service pole	<del>\$142.75</del> <u>167.70</u>
Removal charge for overhead service with a service pole	<del>\$550.49</del> <u>752.94</u>
Fixed Charge for 2/0 service lateral	\$71. <del>55</del> <u>36</u>
Fixed Charge for 4/0 service lateral	<del>\$103.92</del> <u>106.53</u>
Per trench foot charge for 2/0 service lateral	<del>\$11.06</del> <u>10.02</u>
Per trench foot charge for 4/0 service lateral	<del>\$10.92</del> <u>9.91</u>
Credit for service pole if otherwise required for overhead service	<del>\$612.53</del> <u>592.39</u>

Continued to Sheet No. 5.516

ISSUED BY: ~~G. L. Gillette~~ N. G. Tower,  
President

DATE EFFECTIVE: July 13, 2017



~~NINTH-TENTH~~ REVISED SHEET  
NO. 5.516  
CANCELS ~~EIGHTH-NINTH~~  
REVISED SHEET NO. 5.516

Continued from Sheet No. 5.515

**3.7.2 Non-refundable Deposits for Estimates of CIAC for Conversion of Existing Overhead Distribution Facilities to Underground Facilities**

Qualified applicants can request, upon payment of a non-refundable deposit as listed below, the conversion of overhead distribution facilities to underground in accordance with these Rules and Regulations for conversion areas of not less than one (1) city block in length along both sides of the main distribution system, or in the absence of city blocks, not less than five (5) contiguous building lots along both sides of the main distribution system, or in the absence of both, not the less than 600 pole-feet of the main distribution system, including all customers served along both sides of the main distribution system, and so as to result in a decrease in the number of non-lighting poles in the system.

Requests for conversions, except for individual residential service covered under Section 3.4.3.3, will be accompanied by a non-refundable amount as follows:

<b>Density Class</b>	<b>Deposit Amount</b>
Urban Commercial or Residential.....	\$9, <del>626-896</del> per mile*
Rural Commercial or Residential.....	\$5, <del>630-657</del> per mile*
High or Low Density Subdivision.....	\$ <del>46-47</del> per lot

\* As measured along the existing overhead primary and secondary distribution system.

ISSUED BY: ~~G. L. Gillette~~ N. G. Tower,  
President

DATE EFFECTIVE: ~~July 13, 2017~~