

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request by Florida Power) DOCKET NO. 961229-EI
& Light Company to require) ORDER NO. PSC-96-1451-FOF-EI
social security numbers on third) ISSUED: December 2, 1996
party guarantor agreements.)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

SUSAN F. CLARK, Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
JOE GARCIA
JULIA L. JOHNSON
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

DECISION

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) filed proposed modifications to Tariff Sheets 9.400 and 9.401, Unconditional Guaranty contract, requiring both the customer and the guarantor to provide social security numbers in order to take advantage of the third party guarantor option. FPL also proposed some additional wording to clarify the tariff.

Rule 25-6.097, Florida Administrative Code, establishes the minimum criteria for establishing credit. One option is for a third party in good standing to sign as a guarantor. The guarantor is responsible for the account in the event the customer defaults on the payments. Specifically, 25-6.097(a) Florida Administrative Code, states that at a minimum, a satisfactory guarantor shall be a customer of the utility with a satisfactory payment record.

Like many utilities, FPL uses a commercial credit company to verify the customer's credit worthiness when making deposit decisions. Credit companies typically require a social security number in order to verify credit history. Utility representatives state that FPL has always requested social security numbers from customers applying for the third-party guarantor option even though the existing form did not have a specific line item for the number.

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Also, FPL maintains that the proposed modification codifies existing practice and makes clear that social security numbers are required when a customer chooses to establish credit through a guarantor. If either a customer or guarantor refuses to provide their social security number, FPL will not recognize the third party as a satisfactory guarantor. Consequently, the customer would be required to establish credit by some other method.

Based on the foregoing, it is

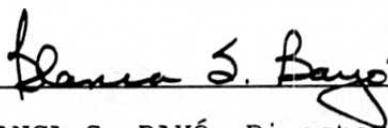
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Florida Power & Light Company's proposed Tariff for Sheets 9.400 and 9.401 are approved. It is further

ORDERED that the tariff shall be effective November 12, 1996. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirement set forth below, the tariff shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 2nd day of December, 1996.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on December 23, 1996.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this Order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date this Order becomes final, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.