

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for declaratory statement or other relief regarding the expiration of the Vero Beach electric service franchise agreement, by the Board of County Commissioners, Indian River County, Florida.

DOCKET NO. 140142-EM
ORDER NO. PSC-14-0420-PCO-EM
ISSUED: August 19, 2014

ORDER GRANTING TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO APPEAR AS AMICUS CURIAE
AND TO FILE COMMENTS

On August 14, 2014, Tampa Electric Company filed a Motion for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Comments addressing legal issues raised in the Petition for Declaratory Statement (Petition) filed in this docket by the Board of County Commissioners, Indian River County (Board). TECO states that it is an investor-owned electric public utility regulated by the Commission pursuant to Chapter 366, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and, as such, has a significant interest in the manner in which Chapter 366, F.S., is construed and implemented and the precedent which may be established through the disposition of petitions like the one presented in this docket. Given the foregoing, TECO wishes to be heard regarding the legal interpretations addressed in the Petition and believes that its input may assist the Commission in disposing of the Petition.

Ruling

It is within the Commission's jurisdiction to allow amicus curiae participation in Commission proceedings.¹ An amicus curiae is not a party, but participates only for the benefit of the Commission.² Because TECO's participation as an amicus curiae will be beneficial to the Commission in analyzing the issues raised in the Board's Petition for Declaratory Statement, I find it appropriate to grant its Motion to Appear as an Amicus Curiae and its Motion for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Comments. TECO filed its comments on the Petition on August 14, 2014, along with its Motion for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Comments.

TECO's request to address the Commission as such time as it takes up consideration and argument regarding the Petition will be determined at the agenda conference at which the Commission will consider the Petition.

¹ E.g. Order No. PSC-13-0508-PCO-EQ, issued October 28, 2013, Docket No. 130235-EQ, In re: Petition for declaratory statement regarding co-ownership of electrical cogeneration facilities in Hendry County by Southeast Renewable Fuels, LLC.

² See id.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Eduardo E. Balbis, as Prehearing Officer, that Tampa Electric Company's Motion for Leave to Appear as Amicus Curiae and to File Comments is hereby granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that all parties to this proceeding shall furnish copies of all documents which may hereinafter be filed in this proceeding, to:

JAMES D. BEASLEY
J. JEFFRY WAHLEN
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By ORDER of Commissioner Eduardo E. Balbis, as Prehearing Officer, this 19th day
of August, 2014.



EDUARDO E. BALBIS
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
Florida Public Service Commission
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Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), 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.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.