

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Tampa
Electric Company.

DOCKET NO. 130040-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-16-0087-CFO-EI
ISSUED: February 25, 2016

ORDER GRANTING TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S REQUEST
TO EXTEND CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION AND
MOTION FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER
(DOCUMENT NO. 03794-13 X-REF. DOCUMENT NO. 04196-13)

On February 23, 2015, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Tampa Electric Company (TECO) filed a request to extend confidential classification for the Florida Public Service Commission Staff's (Staff) audit work papers (audit work papers), Audit Control No. 13-105-2-1, Bates stamp pages 1-17, 32-33, and 47-48 (Document No. 03794-13, x-ref. Document No. 04196-13). This Commission originally granted this material confidential status by Order No. PSC-13-0358-CFO-EI, issued in this docket on August 6, 2013.

Request for Confidential Classification

TECO contends that information contained in Staff's audit work papers, Audit Control No. 13-105-2-1, Bates stamp pages 1-17, 32-33, and 47-48, continues to fall within these categories and, thus, continues to constitute proprietary confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. TECO asserts that this information is intended to be and is treated by TECO as private and has not been publicly disclosed.

Specifically, TECO claims that Bates stamp pages 1-3 are minutes and summaries of Board of Directors' meetings containing information regarding TECO's strategic plans, the disclosure of which could harm the competitive interests of TECO and possibly trigger Securities and Exchange Commission reporting obligations. Bates stamp pages 4-7 are PricewaterhouseCoopers's work papers containing their audit procedures, techniques and methodologies, the disclosure of which PricewaterhouseCooper asserts would harm its competitive interests. Further, PricewaterhouseCooper contends that the disclosure of this information would violate its contractual agreement with TECO to keep such information confidential. Bates stamp pages 8 and 9 contain projected information about the capital structure of the affiliated and consolidated companies of TECO, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive interests of the provider of the information and may trigger Security and Exchange Commission reporting obligations. Bates stamp pages 10-17 contain proprietary, third party, privately negotiated and contractual information regarding TECO Plaza lease payments, the disclosure of which TECO argues would harm TECO's ability to renegotiate lease payments in the future with current and potential tenants. Bates stamp pages 32-33 and 47-48 are portions of TECO's service agreements with third parties for the operation of its generating units. TECO

asserts that disclosure of this information would negatively affect its ability in the future to negotiate and contract with other companies on favorable terms for these services.

Ruling

Section 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records that the Commission has found to contain proprietary confidential business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from Chapter 119, F.S. Section 366.093(3), F.S., defines proprietary confidential business information as information that is intended to be and is treated by the company as private, in that disclosure of the information would cause harm to the company's ratepayers or business operations, and that has not been voluntarily disclosed to the public. Section 366.093(3), F.S., provides, in pertinent part, that proprietary confidential business information includes, but is not limited to:

(d) Information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms. .

(e) Information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.

Upon review, it appears the above-referenced information continue to satisfy the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The information at issue appears to be information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms and information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information. Thus, the information identified in Document No. 03794-13, x-ref. Document No. 04196-13, shall be granted a continuation of confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 366.093(4), F.S., the information for which confidential classification is granted herein shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. At the conclusion of the 18-month period, the confidential information will no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless TECO or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.

Motion for Temporary Protective Order

TECO also seeks to continue the protection of the documents as provided in Section 366.093(2), F.S., and Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C., while the material is in the possession of the Office of Public Counsel (OPC). Section 366.093(2), F.S., directs that all records produced pursuant to a discovery request for which proprietary confidential status is requested shall be treated by any party subject to the public records law as confidential and exempt from the public records law. Section 119.07(1), F.S. Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C., codifies the Commission's

policy regarding the protection of confidential information from public disclosure during the discovery process in a manner that is not overly burdensome to both parties. Rule 25-22.006(6)(a), F.A.C., in pertinent part, states:

In any formal proceeding before the Commission, any utility or other person may request a protective order protecting proprietary confidential business information from discovery. Upon a showing by a utility or other person and a finding by the Commission that the material is entitled to protection, the Commission shall enter a protective order limiting discovery in the manner provided for in Rule 1.280, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

In addition, Rule 25-22.006(6)(c), F.A.C., states that if a party allows OPC to inspect or take possession of utility information, then that “utility may request a temporary protective order exempting the information from section 119.07(1), F.S.”

Upon consideration of TECO’s assertions of the continued confidential nature of the information contained in the Commission staff audit work papers, Audit Control No. 13-105-2-1, Bates stamp pages 1-17, 32-33, and 47-48, Document No. 03794-13, x-ref. Document No. 04196-13, TECO’s Motion for Temporary Protective Order is hereby granted. As a result, this information shall be protected from disclosure pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Commissioner Julie I. Brown, as Chairman and Prehearing Officer, that Tampa Electric Company’s Request for Continued Confidential Classification of Document No. 03794-13, x-ref. Document No. 04196-13, specifically Bates stamp pages 1-17, 32-33, and 47-48, is granted, as set forth herein. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 03794-13, x-ref. Document No. 04196-13, for which confidential classification has been granted shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be the only notification by the Commission to the parties of the date of declassification of the materials discussed herein. It is further

ORDERED that the Motion for Temporary Protective Order filed by Tampa Electric Company is granted. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of Chairman Julie I. Brown, as Prehearing Officer, this 25th day of February, 2016.



JULIE I. BROWN

Chairman and Prehearing Officer
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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.

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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.