

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Fuel and purchased power cost recovery  
clause with generating performance incentive  
factor.

DOCKET NO. 20200001-EI  
ORDER NO. PSC-2020-0465-CFO-EI  
ISSUED: November 23, 2020

ORDER GRANTING GULF POWER COMPANY'S REQUEST  
FOR EXTENDED CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION  
(DOCUMENT NO. 03751-2018)

On January 22, 2020, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Gulf Power Company (Gulf) filed a Request for Extended Confidential Classification of information provided pursuant to Audit No. 2018-019-1-1 (Request) (Document No. 03751-2018). This information was originally granted confidentiality by Order No. PSC-2018-0363-CFO-EI, issued on July 24, 2018.

Request for Confidential Classification

Gulf contends that the information provided pursuant to Audit No. 2018-019-1-1 contains information of a confidential nature, which is proprietary confidential business information within the meaning of Subsection 366.093(3), F.S.

Gulf contends that the information is proprietary and confidential business information within the meaning of Subsection 366.093(3), F.S. This information is intended to be and is treated by Gulf as private, and its confidentiality has been maintained. This information includes pricing information for negotiated purchase power agreements, coal, oil, and natural gas transportation and storage. Disclosure of this information would adversely impact Gulf's ability to negotiate the best prices for these commodities and may discourage counterparties from entering into contracts with Gulf at all. Thus, Gulf contends that this information is protected by Subsections 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S. Also included is bank routing information and private account numbers for Gulf's vendors which, if disclosed, would impair these vendors' ability to protect themselves from fraudulent banking transactions. For this reason, Gulf argues that this information is also protected by Subsection 366.093(3)(e), F.S.

Ruling

Subsection 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records the Commission has found to contain proprietary business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from Chapter 119, F.S. Subsection 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 has not been voluntarily disclosed to the public. Subsection 366.093(3), F.S., provides 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 service 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 information and data provided in this request satisfies the criteria set forth in Subsection 366.093(3), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The transportation pricing data for coal 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. 03751-2018, shall be granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Subsection 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 Subsection 119.07(1), F.S., unless Gulf or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Andrew Giles Fay, as Prehearing Officer, that Gulf Power Company’s Request for Confidential Classification for portions of Audit No. 2018-019-1-1 (Document No. 03751-2018), is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 03751-2018, for which confidential classification has been granted, shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 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.

By ORDER of Commissioner Andrew Giles Fay, as Prehearing Officer, this 23rd day of November, 2020.



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ANDREW GILES FAY  
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 413-6770  
www.floridapsc.com

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

SBr

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.