

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of direct current microgrid pilot program and for variance from or waiver of Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C., by Tampa Electric Company.

DOCKET NO. 20200234-EI  
ORDER NO. PSC-2023-0378-CFO-EI  
ISSUED: December 20, 2023

ORDER GRANTING TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S REQUEST  
FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION (DOCUMENT NO. 05186-2023)

On September 12, 2023, 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 for Confidential Classification for portions of its Microgrid Pilot Annual Report, June 7, 2022 through May 31, 2023 (Document No. 05186-2023).

Request for Confidential Classification

TECO contends that portions of the information contained in its Microgrid Pilot Annual Report, June 7, 2022 through May 31, 2023, 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.

The information contained in portions of TECO's Microgrid Pilot Annual Report, June 7, 2022 through May 31, 2023, for which confidentiality is requested consists of the operating costs incurred by BlockEnergy during the first year of the Microgrid Pilot, e.g., labor, materials, operation and maintenance, project requests, and outage expenses. TECO argues that this information, if disclosed, would be harmful to its competitive interests and is protected by Paragraphs 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S.

Ruling

Subsection 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records the Florida Public Service Commission (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 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 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 information regarding the costs necessary to operate and maintain the direct current microgrid that is the subject of this Pilot 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. 05186-2023) 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 TECO 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 Commissioner Andrew Giles Fay, as Chairman, that Tampa Electric Company’s Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 05186-2023, is granted, as set forth herein. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 05186-2023), 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 Chairman Andrew Giles Fay, as Chairman, this 20th day of December, 2023.



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ANDREW GILES FAY

Chairman

Florida Public Service Commission

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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.