

Commissioners:
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DIVISION OF APPEALS
DAVID E. SMITH
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(904) 413-6245

ORIGINAL
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Public Service Commission

July 25, 1997

Mr. Carroll Webb
Joint Administrative Procedures
Committee
120 Holland Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Docket No. **961378-EG** - Proposed Amendment of Rule 25-17.015, F.A.C., Energy Conservation Cost Recovery

Dear Mr. Webb:

Enclosed are an original and two copies of the following materials concerning the above referenced proposed rule:

1. A copy of the rule and the form incorporated by reference into the rule.
2. A copy of the F.A.W. notice.
3. A statement of facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule.
4. A federal standards statement.
5. A statement of estimated regulatory costs.

ACK _____
 AFA _____
 APP _____
 CAF _____
 CMU _____
 CTR _____
 EAG _____
 LEG _____
 LIN _____
 OPC _____
 RCH _____
 SEC 1 _____
 WAS _____
 OTH _____

If there are any questions with respect to this rule, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Helton
Associate General Counsel

ADM17015.MRD
Enclosures
cc: Division of Records & Reporting

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

07537 JUL 25 97

25-17.015 Energy Conservation Cost Recovery.

1 (1) The Commission shall conduct annual energy conservation
2 cost recovery (ECCR) proceedings during the first quarter of each
3 calendar year. Each utility over which the Commission has
4 ratemaking authority may seek to recover its costs for energy
5 conservation programs ~~as provided in s. 366.82(5), F.S.~~ Each To
6 ~~do so,~~ a utility seeking cost recovery shall file the following at
7 the times directed by the Commission: ~~a petition setting forth~~
8 ~~estimates of those reasonable and prudent unreimbursed costs~~
9 ~~projected to be incurred, by specific program, less any estimated~~
10 ~~revenues, in the same manner and for the same periods as provided~~
11 ~~for the fuel cost recovery clause in Order No. 9273 issued by the~~
12 ~~Commission on March 7, 1980.~~ ~~The time limitations applicable to~~
13 ~~the fuel cost recovery clause shall also apply and the Commission~~
14 ~~shall dispose of the petition in the same manner and within the~~
15 ~~times applicable to the fuel cost recovery clause.~~

16
17 (a) An annual final true-up filing showing the actual common
18 costs, individual program costs and revenues, and actual total ECCR
19 revenues for the most recent 12-month historical period from April
20 1 through March 31 that ends prior to the annual ECCR proceedings.
21 As part of this filing, the utility shall include a summary
22 comparison of the actual total costs and revenues reported to the
23 estimated total costs and revenues previously reported for the same
24 period covered by the filing in paragraph (1)(b). The filing shall
25 also include the final over- or under-recovery of total

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~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1 conservation costs for the final true-up period.

2 (b) An annual estimated/actual true-up filing showing eight
3 months actual and four months projected common costs, individual
4 program costs, and any revenues collected. Actual costs and
5 revenues should begin April 1 immediately following the period
6 described in paragraph (1)(a). The filing shall also include the
7 estimated/actual over- or under-recovery of total conservation
8 costs for the estimated/actual true-up period.

9 (c) An annual projection filing showing 12 months projected
10 common costs and program costs for the period beginning April 1
11 following the annual hearing.

12 (d) An annual petition setting forth proposed energy
13 conservation cost recovery factors to be effective for the 12-month
14 period beginning April 1 following the hearing. Such proposed cost
15 recovery factors shall take into account the data filed pursuant to
16 paragraphs (1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(c).

17 (e) Within the 90 days that immediately follow the first six
18 months of the reporting period in paragraph (1)(a), each utility
19 shall report the actual results for that period on Form PSC/EAG/44
20 (X/97), entitled, Energy Conservation Cost Recovery Annual Short
21 Form, which is incorporated by reference in this rule, and may be
22 obtained from the Director, Division of Electric and Gas, Florida
23 Public Service Commission.

24 (2) Each utility shall establish separate accounts or
25 subaccounts for each conservation program for purposes of recording

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1 the costs incurred for that program, ~~together with subaccounts~~
2 ~~under the appropriate accounts contained in the Uniform System of~~
3 ~~Accounts prescribed by the Commission which will ultimately be~~
4 charged. Each utility shall also establish separate subaccounts
5 ~~appropriate under the account for Other Electric Revenues or Other~~
6 ~~Gas Revenues,~~ for revenues derived from each specific customer
7 ~~charges in any program and any costs recovered.~~

8 (3) A complete list of all account and subaccount numbers
9 used for conservation cost recovery shall accompany each filing in
10 paragraph (1)(a). ~~The petition shall indicate the amounts recorded~~
11 ~~in the Clearing Account or such other account as appropriate for~~
12 ~~each conservation program together with the subaccounts ultimately~~
13 ~~charged. Similarly, the petition shall indicate the amount of~~
14 ~~revenues derived from specific customer charges in any programs and~~
15 ~~any costs recovered, which revenues and costs have been recorded in~~
16 ~~the appropriate revenues subaccounts.~~

17 (4) New programs or program modifications must be approved
18 prior to cost recovery. New incentives or rebates may not be
19 recovered if paid before their approval as part of a new program or
20 program modification. Other program implementation costs
21 associated with new programs or program modifications may be
22 recovered if the program modification or new program is approved
23 before cost recovery and the Commission determines that the
24 expenditure of such costs was prudent. ~~Each utility shall report~~
25 ~~the actual costs and specific revenues and recovered costs~~

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1 ~~attributed to each program to the Commission in the same manner and~~
2 ~~within the time limits applicable to the fuel cost recovery clause.~~
3 ~~The Commission shall dispose of the matter in the same manner as~~
4 ~~fuel cost recovery clause proceedings to reflect the actual~~
5 ~~conservation costs and conservation revenues of the preceding~~
6 ~~period.~~

7 (5) Advertising expense recovered through energy conservation
8 cost recovery shall be ~~When a utility seeks to recover advertising~~
9 ~~expenses through Energy Conservation Cost Recovery, then the~~
10 ~~expense must be~~ directly related to an approved conservation
11 program, shall not mention a competing energy source, and shall not
12 be company image enhancing. When the advertisement makes a
13 specific claim of potential energy savings or states appliance
14 efficiency ratings or savings, all data sources and calculations
15 used to substantiate these claims must be included in the filing
16 required by paragraph (1)(a). In determining whether an
17 advertisement is "directly related to an approved conservation
18 program", the Commission shall consider, but is not limited to,
19 whether the advertisement or advertising campaign:

- 20 (a) Identifies a specific problem;
21 (b) States how to correct the problem; and
22 (c) Provides direction concerning how to obtain help to
23 alleviate the problem.

24 ~~(6) If a cost for any utility has been expressly disallowed~~
25 ~~for cost recovery by a Commission order, each utility is prohibited~~

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1 ~~from thereafter seeking recovery of a cost of a substantially~~
2 ~~similar nature unless the utility specifically identifies the cost~~
3 ~~it is seeking to recover as being similar to previously disallowed~~
4 ~~costs. Each willful violation of the provisions of this subsection~~
5 ~~by a utility shall subject the utility to a penalty as described by~~
6 ~~s. 366.095, Florida Statutes. In order to implement this~~
7 ~~subsection, the Commission will issue an order describing the types~~
8 ~~of costs that it has previously disallowed.~~

9 Specific Authority: 350.127(2), 366.05(1), F.S.

10 Law Implemented: 366.04(2)(f), 366.06(1) ~~366.095~~, 366.82(3) & (5),
11 F.S.

12 History: New 1/27/81, Amended 12/30/82, 3/27/86, formerly
13 25-17.15, Amended 8/21/90, _____.

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ENERGY CONSERVATION COST RECOVERY
ANNUAL SHORT FORM

October 199_ through March 199_

Actual Conservation Revenue Applicable to the period:

\$ _____

Actual Conservation Expense:

\$ _____

Actual True-up this period:

\$ _____

Original Projected True-up:
(from c-3, page 6, line 8 (columns 1-6))

\$ _____

Difference between Actual True-up this period,
and Original Projected True-up (excluding interest):

\$ _____

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 961378-EG

RULE TITLE:

RULE NO.:

Energy Conservation Cost Recovery 25-17.015

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The primary purpose of the proposed amendments to Rule 25-17.015 is to codify the decision in Order No. PSC-93-0709-FOF-EG to move from semi-annual to annual conservation cost recovery proceedings. In re: Conservation Cost Recovery Clause, 93 F.P.S.C. 5:189 (1993). In addition, the proposed amendments change the filing times for Energy Conservation Cost Recovery (ECCR) filings, require a new "short form" to be filed annually, limit conservation cost recovery to programs pre-approved by the Commission, require utilities to substantiate advertising claims with data sources and calculations, disallow recovery for advertisements that mention a competing energy source, and repeal the prohibition against seeking recovery for previously disallowed costs.

SUMMARY: Subsection (1): The proposed amendments codify the decision to conduct energy conservation cost recovery proceedings annually. In addition, the proposed amendments change the time line for filing the following ECCR pleadings.

Paragraph (1)(a): This paragraph requires utilities to file an annual true-up filing for the period specified.

Paragraph (1)(b): This paragraph requires utilities to file an annual estimated/actual true-up filing for the period specified.

Paragraph (1)(c): This paragraph requires utilities to file an

annual projection filing for the period specified.

Paragraph (1)(d): This paragraph requires utilities to file an annual petition to specify the cost recovery factors requested for the 12-month period following the hearing.

Paragraph (1)(e): This paragraph requires utilities to file the "Energy Conservation Cost Recovery Annual Short Form" that is incorporated into the rule by reference.

Subsection (2): The proposed amendments clarify the accounting requirements mandated by this subsection.

Subsection (3): The proposed amendments require utilities to include in their annual true-up filings a list of all conservation cost recovery account and sub-account numbers.

Subsection (4): The proposed amendments make it clear that prior approval is required before a utility can seek cost recovery for new or modified conservation programs. Although utilities cannot recover rebates or incentives paid out prior to program approval, utilities may recover prudent program implementation costs incurred prior to program approval.

Subsection (5): The proposed amendments prohibit cost recovery for advertisements that mention a competing energy source and require utilities to file data sources and calculations to substantiate any claims of energy savings stated in advertisements.

Subsection (6): The proposed amendments repeal this subsection.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COST: The

recommended amendments should not add significant additional costs, other than some additional labor costs associated with the initial restructuring of the filing periods. Transactional costs should be minimal. No impact is foreseen for small businesses, counties, or cities. There are no alternative methods available that would achieve the purpose of the proposed amendments.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: 350.127(2), 366.05(1) FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 366.04(2)(f), 366.06(1), 366.82(3) & (5), FS.

WRITTEN COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE PROPOSED RULE MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE FPSC, DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING, WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE FOR INCLUSION IN THE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING.

HEARING: IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: 9:30 A.M., October 1, 1997

PLACE: Room 152, Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

Director of Appeals, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0862.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

25-17.015 Energy Conservation Cost Recovery.

(1) The Commission shall conduct annual energy conservation cost recovery (ECCR) proceedings during the first quarter of each calendar year. Each utility over which the Commission has ratemaking authority may seek to recover its costs for energy conservation programs ~~as provided in s. 366.82(5), F.S.~~ Each to do so, a utility seeking cost recovery shall file the following at the times directed by the Commission: a petition setting forth estimates of those reasonable and prudent unreimbursed costs projected to be incurred, by specific program, less any estimated revenues, in the same manner and for the same periods as provided for the fuel cost recovery clause in Order No. 9273 issued by the Commission on March 7, 1980. The time limitations applicable to the fuel cost recovery clause shall also apply and the Commission shall dispose of the petition in the same manner and within the times applicable to the fuel cost recovery clause.

(a) An annual final true-up filing showing the actual common costs, individual program costs and revenues, and actual total ECCR revenues for the most recent 12-month historical period from April 1 through March 31 that ends prior to the annual ECCR proceedings. As part of this filing, the utility shall include a summary comparison of the actual total costs and revenues reported to the estimated total costs and revenues previously reported for the same period covered by the filing in paragraph (1)(b). The filing shall also include the final over- or under-

recovery of total conservation costs for the final true-up period.

(b) An annual estimated/actual true-up filing showing eight months actual and four months projected common costs, individual program costs, and any revenues collected. Actual costs and revenues should begin April 1 immediately following the period described in paragraph (1)(a). The filing shall also include the estimated/actual over- or under-recovery of total conservation costs for the estimated/actual true-up period.

(c) An annual projection filing showing 12 months projected common costs and program costs for the period beginning April 1 following the annual hearing.

(d) An annual petition setting forth proposed energy conservation cost recovery factors to be effective for the 12-month period beginning April 1 following the hearing. Such proposed cost recovery factors shall take into account the data filed pursuant to paragraphs (1)(a), (1)(b), and (1)(c).

(e) Within the 90 days that immediately follow the first six months of the reporting period in paragraph (1)(a), each utility shall report the actual results for that period on Form PSC/EAG/44 (X/97), entitled, Energy Conservation Cost Recovery Annual Short Form, which is incorporated by reference in this rule, and may be obtained from the Director, Division of Electric and Gas, Florida Public Service Commission.

(2) Each utility shall establish separate accounts or

subaccounts for each conservation program for purposes of recording the costs incurred for that program, ~~together with subaccounts under the appropriate accounts contained in the Uniform System of Accounts prescribed by the Commission which will ultimately be charged.~~ Each utility shall also establish separate subaccounts ~~appropriate under the account for Other Electric Revenues or Other Gas Revenues,~~ for revenues derived from each specific customer charges in any program and any costs recovered.

(3) A complete list of all account and subaccount numbers used for conservation cost recovery shall accompany each filing in paragraph (1)(a). ~~The petition shall indicate the amounts recorded in the Clearing Account or such other account as appropriate for each conservation program together with the subaccounts ultimately charged. Similarly, the petition shall indicate the amount of revenues derived from specific customer charges in any programs and any costs recovered, which revenues and costs have been recorded in the appropriate revenues subaccounts.~~

(4) New programs or program modifications must be approved prior to cost recovery. New incentives or rebates may not be recovered if paid before their approval as part of a new program or program modification. Other program implementation costs associated with new programs or program modifications may be recovered if the program modification or new program is approved

~~before cost recovery and the Commission determines that the expenditure of such costs was prudent. Each utility shall report the actual costs and specific revenues and recovered costs attributed to each program to the Commission in the same manner and within the time limits applicable to the fuel cost recovery clause. The Commission shall dispose of the matter in the same manner as fuel cost recovery clause proceedings to reflect the actual conservation costs and conservation revenues of the preceding period.~~

(5) Advertising expense recovered through energy conservation cost recovery shall be ~~When a utility seeks to recover advertising expenses through Energy Conservation Cost Recovery,~~ then the expense must be directly related to an approved conservation program, shall not mention a competing energy source, and shall not be company image enhancing. When the advertisement makes a specific claim of potential energy savings or states appliance efficiency ratings or savings, all data sources and calculations used to substantiate these claims must be included in the filing required by paragraph (1)(a). In determining whether an advertisement is "directly related to an approved conservation program", the Commission shall consider, but is not limited to, whether the advertisement or advertising campaign:

- (a) Identifies a specific problem;~~+~~
- (b) States how to correct the problem; and~~+~~

(c) Provides direction concerning how to obtain help to alleviate the problem.

~~(6) If a cost for any utility has been expressly disallowed for cost recovery by a Commission order, each utility is prohibited from thereafter seeking recovery of a cost of a substantially similar nature unless the utility specifically identifies the cost it is seeking to recover as being similar to previously disallowed costs. Each willful violation of the provisions of this subsection by a utility shall subject the utility to a penalty as described by s. 366.095, Florida Statutes. In order to implement this subsection, the Commission will issue an order describing the types of costs that it has previously disallowed.~~

Specific Authority: 350.127(2), 366.05(1) FS.

Law Implemented: 366.04(2)(f), 366.06(1) ~~366.095~~, 366.82(3) & (5) FS.

History: New 1-27-81, Amended 12-30-82, 3-27-86, formerly 25-17.15, Amended 8-21-90, _____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: David Ging, Division of Electric and Gas.

NAME OF SUPERVISOR OR PERSONS WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Florida Public Service Commission.

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED: July 15, 1997.

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAW: December 13, 1996.

If any person decides to appeal any decision of the Commission with respect to any matter considered at the rulemaking hearing, if held, a record of the hearing is necessary. The appellant must ensure that a verbatim record, including testimony and evidence forming the basis of the appeal is made. The Commission usually makes a verbatim record of rulemaking hearings.

Any person requiring some accommodation at this hearing because of a physical impairment should call the Division of Records and Reporting at (904) 413-6770 at least five calendar days prior to the hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Public Service Commission using the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at: 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

**STATEMENT OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
JUSTIFYING RULE**

Pursuant to Sections 366.06(1) and 366.82(3) and (5), Florida Statutes, the Commission conducts annual proceedings to allow electric and natural gas utilities to seek recovery for eligible conservation expenses. Section 366.82(5) specifically authorizes the Commission to add to a utility's authorized rates "[r]easonable and prudent unreimbursed [conservation] costs projected to be incurred, or any portion of such costs" The primary purpose behind the proposed amendments to Rule 25-17.015 is to codify the decision in Order No. PSC-93-0709-FOF-EG to move from semi-annual to annual conservation cost recovery proceedings. In re: Conservation Cost Recovery Clause, 93 F.P.S.C. 5:189 (1993).

In addition, the proposed amendments change the filing times for Energy Conservation Cost Recovery (ECCR) filings. The proposed time line will give utilities more time to prepare the filings and staff more time to review them. Under this change, the Commission will consider three distinct periods at each annual proceeding: the final true-up period, the estimated/actual true-up period, and the projection period. Data from these three periods will be used to establish the cost recovery factors for the 12-month period following each ECCR proceeding. In addition, the change will make it easier to compare data between the three periods under consideration to data for the same periods in prior proceedings. The hearing date will not move from the end of the first quarter of each year and the effective dates of resulting cost recovery factors will not change. What will change is the relationship between the original projection period and both the estimated/actual true-up and final true-up periods.

To comply with the semi-annual reporting requirement in Section 364.82(5), Florida Statutes, paragraph (1)(e) was proposed to require utilities to file the "Energy Conservation Cost Recovery Annual Short Form" that is incorporated into the rule by reference.

Amendments were also proposed to clarify the accounting requirements mandated by subsection (2).

In addition, amendments were proposed to subsection (3) to require utilities to include in its annual true-up filing a list of all conservation cost recovery account and sub-account numbers. This information, which should be only one or two pages, will make it easier for staff auditors to perform their function.

Amendments were also proposed to subsection (4) to make it

clear that prior approval is required before a utility can seek cost recovery for new or modified conservation programs. Although utilities cannot recover rebates or incentives paid out prior to program approval, utilities may recover prudent program implementation costs incurred prior to program approval.

Pursuant to Section 366.82(5), the Commission may allow utilities to recover reasonable and prudent unreimbursed conservation costs. Moreover, the Legislature has specifically stated "the commission shall not allow the recovery of the cost of any company image-enhancing advertising or of any advertising not directly related to an approved conservation program." *Id.* So that the Commission's implementation of this statutory mandate is clear, an amendment has been proposed to subsection (5) to prohibit cost recovery for advertisements that mention a competing energy source.

This proposed amendment is supported by the Commission's Division of Research and Regulatory Review's "Review of Commercial/Industrial Demand-Side Management Programs of Six Florida Utilities" published in September of 1996. The report concluded that certain Florida Power and Light advertisements that compared the use of electricity to natural gas

may have some educational value, [but] they also imply to customers that gas is not a viable alternative to electricity. Rather than specifically comparing costs and performance differences, the debate pits one fuel against another. Staff believes this use of conservation programs as a competitive tool was not intended by FEECA or the Commission.

The prohibition against mentioning a competing energy source is also necessary because the Commission has found in the past that

[w]hen making fuel-savings comparisons in advertisements, the utilities rely on different input data to determine the amount of savings. Therm usage levels, kWh consumption, efficiency levels, and unit costs all vary from one utility to another.

In re: Conservation Cost Recovery Clause, Order No. PSC-95-0398-FOF-EG, 95 F.P.S.C. 3:557, 562 (1995). The differences in the published information have led to customer confusion when consumers compare ads. Since it would be almost impossible to develop advertising standards for competing energy sources because of the many variables involved, such as geographic location, Btu content, current rates, varying fuel charges, and appliance efficiencies, the best approach is simply to deny cost recovery for advertisements that mention competing energy sources. *Id.*

In addition, an amendment has been proposed to subsection

(5) to require utilities to file data sources and calculations to substantiate any claims of energy savings stated in advertisements. The data and calculations will allow staff and other interested persons to verify advertising claims.

These proposed amendments concerning utility conservation advertising should ensure accountability and truth in utility advertising.

Finally, the Commission proposed repealing subsection (6). The decision to disallow costs should be made on a case-by-case basis.

Although Section 120.80(13)(a), Florida Statutes, exempts Commission "statements that relate to cost-recovery clauses, factors, or mechanisms implemented pursuant to Chapter 366" from the Administrative Procedures Act's rulemaking requirements, the above amendments were proposed so the Commission's ECCR procedures will be readily available to all interested persons.

STATEMENT ON FEDERAL STANDARDS

There is no federal standard on the same subject.

MEMORANDUM

May 19, 1997

TO: DIVISION OF APPEALS (HELTON)

FROM: DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND REGULATORY REVIEW (HEWITT) *CBH* *Q* *BMJ*

SUBJECT: REVISED STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS FOR DOCKET NO. 961378-EG, PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULE 25-17.015, FAC, CONSERVATION COST RECOVERY

SUMMARY OF THE RULE

Currently, Rule 25-17.015, FAC, sets forth the information that must be included in a utility's petition to recover costs for energy conservation programs. Each utility must have an appropriate account for each conservation program and separate subaccounts for revenues derived from specific customer charges and any costs recovered.

The proposed rule changes would codify Order No. PSC-93-0709-FOF-EG that established an annual Energy Conservation Cost Recovery (ECCR) proceeding during the first quarter of each calendar year, rather than semi-annually. Utilities would still be required, by statute, to submit actual and forecasted semi-annual filings in order to recover energy conservation costs. A clarification would be added that only those conservation programs which have been approved by the Commission would be allowed recovery. Also clarified would be requirements for the reporting accounts, plus a prohibition to mention a competing energy source. The utility would be required to substantiate any claims it makes in conservation program advertising with supporting data sources and calculations.

ESTIMATED NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES REQUIRED TO COMPLY

Investor owned electric and gas utilities (IOUs) are required to submit filings to recover energy conservation program costs. There are five electric and nine gas utilities regulated by the Commission in Florida.

DIRECT COSTS TO THE AGENCY AND OTHER STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

There should be no significant additional costs to the Commission since utilities must currently submit filings to justify recovery of conservation costs. The Commission would have one proceeding each year, rather than two, to consider the utilities' petitions. There may be some labor associated with the initial restructuring of the filing periods. No other government entities should have additional costs.

ESTIMATED TRANSACTIONAL COSTS TO INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES REQUIRED TO COMPLY

There should be minimal transactional costs to comply with the proposed rule changes with the shift from semi-annual hearings to an annual hearing for energy conservation cost recovery. There may be some additional labor required, with associated costs, to submit copies and substantiate advertising claims (and to initially prepare and submit the new requirements for the semi-annual Filings). However, by statute, estimated costs, revenues, and actual results are currently required semi-annually, while filings and petitions are currently required by the Commission for recovery of conservation costs.

IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES, SMALL COUNTIES, OR SMALL CITIES

No impact on small businesses is foreseen, as none of the affected utilities qualify as a small business as defined by s. 288.703, F.S. No impact is foreseen on small counties and cities as defined in s. 120.52, F.S. Therefore, there would be no need for tiered rule requirements.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE METHODS

There are no alternative methods available to achieve the purpose of reducing the number of proceedings and still meet the statutory requirements of semi-annual filings of data. An alternative time line was submitted by an affected utility, and incorporated into the proposed rule.

CBH:tf/e-eccr2