#### BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition of Florida Power and Light Company for a Determination of Need For a power plant proposed to be located

In Martin County

In re: Petition of Florida Power and Light Company for a Determination of Need

For a power plant proposed to be located

In Manatee County

Docket No. 020262-EI

Docket No. 020263-EI

Filed: September 24, 2002

# FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR AFFORDABLE COMPETITIVE ENERGY'S REOUEST FOR ORAL ARGUMENT

The Florida Partnership for Affordable Competitive Energy (PACE), pursuant to rules 25-22.058 and 28-106.204, Florida Administrative Code, files this Request for Oral Argument in regard to its Response to Florida Power & Light Company's (FPL) Motion to Compel and PACE's Motion for Protective Order. As grounds therefore, PACE states:

## **Introductory Statement**

1. Based on conversations with counsel for FPL, as well as representations of FPL counsel at the Prehearing Conference held on September 23, 2002, it is PACE's understanding that while FPL filed a motion to compel, it does not intend to pursue it at this time. Thus, PACE files this Request for Oral Argument as a contingency, in the event that FPL determines at a later time to pursue its motion.

### **Request for Oral Argument**

On August 29, 2002, FPL served its first set of discovery on PACE. On 2. September 9, 2002, PACE objected to a number of the discovery requests, though as to many stated that notwithstanding its objections, it would provide responses. PACE responded to FPL's

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discovery on September 18, 2002. On September 17, 2002 (prior to the receipt of PACE's responses). FPL filed a motion to compel.

3. As noted in PACE's response to FPL's motion, many of FPL's grounds to compel

are now moot, as PACE has provided answers. However, a number of requests to which PACE

maintains its objections relate to matters which PACE contends are outside the bounds of any

permissible inquiry as to PACE's right to participate in this proceeding. Such improper requests

go, for example, to matters concerning PACE's funding. As set out more fully in PACE's

response to FPL's motion, FPL is attempting to graft onto the test for associational standing

criteria that do not exist. Adoption of such a standard would be contrary to case law, diminish

the ability of associations to provide valuable information to the Commission in proceedings, and

punish parties who seek to protect their interest through oppressive and irrelevant inquiries into

financial matters that have no relevance to the issues in the case.

4. Oral argument will aid the Commission in understanding and evaluating the

issues described above which are related to the proper scope of inquiry as to an association.

WHEREFORE, PACE requests that the Commission conduct oral argument on FPL's

motion to compel and PACE's motion for protective order.

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of Florida Partnership for Affordable Competitive Energy's Motion for Oral Argument was on this 24th day of September 2002 served via (\*) Hand delivery, (\*\*) electronically and U.S. Mail to the following:

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