



Public Service Commission
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MAR -6 AM 9:51
COMMISSION CLERK

DATE: March 6, 2003
TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF THE COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (BAYÓ)
FROM: DIVISION OF ECONOMIC REGULATION (BAXTER) OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL (RODAN) *DPW JAR MWT JDS*
RE: DOCKET NO. 030122-EI - PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF REVISED LIGHTING TARIFFS BY TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY.
AGENDA: 03/18/03 - REGULAR AGENDA - TARIFF FILING - INTERESTED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE
CRITICAL DATES: 60-DAY SUSPENSION DATE: 4/3/2003
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: NONE
FILE NAME AND LOCATION: S:\PSC\ECR\WP\030122.RCM

CASE BACKGROUND

On February 3, 2003, Tampa Electric Company (TECO) filed a Petition For Approval of Revised Lighting Tariffs. The Commission has jurisdiction under Section 366.06(1), Florida Statutes.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

ISSUE 1: Should the Commission approve TECO's proposed changes to its General Outdoor Lighting Service (OL-1), Premium Outdoor Lighting Service (OL-3), and Street Lighting (SL-2) rate schedules?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. (BAXTER)

STAFF ANALYSIS: TECO has proposed a number of revisions to its street and outdoor lighting rate schedules. The changes include closing its OL-1 70-Watt HPS Nema, cobra, and coach post-top fixtures to new customers. TECO states that low to negative customer growth and customers desiring to switch to luminaires of 100 watts or greater are the reasons for closing the fixtures to new service. In response to a staff data request, TECO indicated that the total number of installed 70-Watt Nema/cobra fixtures declined from 13,584 in 2000 to 13,280 in 2002, and that the total number of installed 70-Watt coach post-top fixtures declined from 3,501 in 2000 to 3,448 in 2002.

TECO is proposing to close its SL-2 70-Watt HPS cobra fixture to new customers for the same reasons stated for the OL-1 fixtures. TECO provided data showing that the total number of installed fixtures has declined from 4,462 in 2000 to 4,454 in 2002. TECO stated that it anticipates a further reduction of at least 1,710 70-Watt HPS cobra fixtures over the next three to five years.

TECO is also proposing to close its OL-1 100 Watt-HPS Nema fixture to new customers due to service issues associated with light trespass and vandalism. TECO states that it is beginning to see an increase in customer complaints due to light trespass, which TECO defines as an unintentional and annoying intrusion of light onto a neighboring property. TECO further states that the fixture's design prevents the installation of vandal and light trespass shields. TECO represents that it offers a comparably sized and priced cobra fixture that can be fitted with both vandal and light trespass shields.

TECO proposes to close its OL-1 250-Watt HPS floodlight to new business for service quality reasons. TECO states that the design of the dual-wattage fixture (which can be used for 250-Watt and 400-Watt HPS floodlights) includes a ballast that is too small, resulting in overheating and lighting outages. TECO states it has found a reliable replacement fixture for the 400-Watt floodlight,

but not the 250-Watt floodlight. TECO states that for those customers requesting the 250-Watt HPS floodlight, a 250-Watt HPS shoebox fixture can be used instead.

TECO proposes to close the OL-1 inaccessible pole (defined as a 30-foot wood pole installed in areas inaccessible to a bucket truck) and the 16-foot fiberglass post-top pole to new business. The inaccessible pole can only be fitted with the 70-Watt Nema or 250-Watt floodlight, both of which the company has proposed to close to new business. The 16-foot fiberglass post-top pole is only available with the 70-Watt coach post-top fixture, which TECO is proposing to close to new business.

Finally, TECO proposes to close the OL-3 175-Watt metal halide shoebox fixture to new business due to a lack of customer interest. In response to a staff data request, TECO stated that only 15 such fixtures were installed at year-end 2002, all of which were billed to a single customer.

For all of the above fixtures and poles closed to new customers, TECO has stated that it will continue to relamp and service existing fixtures, to the extent that product is available for maintenance. When the fixtures themselves fail, TECO will require their replacement with another fixture type. Staff believes that TECO has adequately justified the closure of its lighting fixtures and poles to new service, and recommends that the proposed changes be approved.

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ISSUE 2: Should this docket be closed?

RECOMMENDATION: Yes. If Issue 1 is approved, the revised Tariff Sheets Nos. 6.260, 6.261, 6.270, 6.271, and 6.305 should become effective on March 18, 2003. If a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the order, these tariffs should remain in effect with any increase held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order. (RODAN)

STAFF ANALYSIS: If Issue 1 is approved, the revised Tariff Sheets Nos. 6.260, 6.261, 6.270, 6.271, and 6.305 should become effective on March 18, 2003. If a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the order, these tariffs should remain in effect with any increase held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order.