VOTE SHEET

APRIL 6, 2004

RE: Docket No. 031135-EI - Petition for approval to implement consolidated fuel adjustment surcharge by Florida Public Utilities Company.

<u>Issue 1</u>: Should the Commission approve Florida Public Utilities Company's (FPUC) petition to implement a consolidated fuel adjustment surcharge?

<u>Recommendation</u>: No. The Commission should deny Florida Public Utilities Company's petition to implement a consolidated fuel adjustment surcharge. FPUC's proposal results in significant cost shifting with minimal benefits. Also, FPUC Northeast division's ratepayers oppose FPUC consolidating its rates and charges.

APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: Full Commission

REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

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Issue 2: What is the appropriate regulatory treatment for the true-up balances that exist for FPUC's Northeast and Northwest divisions on the day prior to the effective date of a consolidated fuel cost recovery factor? Recommendation: If the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, this issue is moot and no decision is necessary. If the Commission decides in Issue 1 to consolidate the fuel rates for FPUC's two divisions, FPUC should continue to refund 0.38363¢ per kilowatt-hour (kwh) to its Northeast (Fernandina Beach) division ratepayers and collect 0.11373¢ per kilowatt-hour from its Northwest (Marianna) division ratepayers for the remainder of 2004 as directed by Order No. PSC-03-1461-FOF-EI. In addition, FPUC should refund (collect) any over- (under-) recovery balance accrued from July 2003, through the day prior to the effective date of the consolidated fuel cost recovery factor on an energy basis during calendar year 2005.

APPROVED

<u>Issue 3</u>: If the Commission approves FPUC's petition, in whole or in part, to consolidate its two divisions' fuel cost recovery factors, what should be the effective date of the consolidation?

<u>Recommendation</u>: If the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, this issue is moot and no decision is necessary. If the Commission decides in Issue 1 to consolidate the fuel rates for FPUC's two divisions for costs incurred for wholesale energy purchases on a going-forward basis, the Commission should set the effective date to consolidate FPUC's two divisions' fuel cost recovery factors as the first billing cycle for May 2004 (i.e., April 29, 2004).

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Issue 4: Should this docket be closed?

<u>Recommendation</u>: Yes. If no timely protest is received from a substantially affected person within 21 days of the date of the Proposed Agency Action (PAA) Order, the PAA Order will become final upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

APPROVED