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JULIE I. BROWN

STATE OF FLORIDA



GENERAL COUNSEL
S. CURTIS KISER
(850) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

December 5, 2014

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14 DEC -8 AM 11:22
COMMISSION
CLERK

Ms. Brenda Rodriguez
185 Anzio Drive
Kissimmee, Florida 34758

Re: Docket No. 140024-EI - Initiation of formal proceedings on Complaint No. 11009752E of Brenda Rodriguez against Duke Energy Florida, Inc. for alleged improper billing.


Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Order Establishing Procedure issued in your case today. Please note that you will have to file a written Prehearing Statement with the Commission Clerk on or before January 8, 2015 following the format stated in Section V of the order. The issues that have been proposed to be litigated in your case are stated on the last page of the order.

Should you find it necessary to use information which is confidential please be advised that you need to follow the procedures outlined in Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, a copy of which has been attached for your convenience.

Please feel free to contact me at (850) 413-6218 if you have any questions or need any additional information regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,


Suzanne Brownless
Senior Attorney

cc: Commission Clerk

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Initiation of formal proceedings on
Complaint No. 1109752E of Brenda Rodriguez
against Duke Energy Florida, Inc. for alleged
improper billing.

DOCKET NO. 140024-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-14-0674-PCO-EI
ISSUED: December 5, 2014

ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE

I. Case Background

On May 7, 2013, Brenda Rodriguez filed Complaint No. 1109752E against Duke Energy Florida, Inc. (Duke or Company). In that complaint, Ms. Rodriguez contested Duke's assertion that she had tampered with her meter causing it to register zero kilowatt hours (kWh) and further contested the amount of the investigation and back-billing charges Duke imposed upon her. The Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) by Order PSC-14-0303-PAA-EI, issued on June 12, 2014, denied Ms. Rodriguez's complaint and approved a backbilled amount of \$7,974.44. On July 1, 2014, Ms. Rodriguez filed a timely protest of this proposed agency action order issued by the Commission and thereby requested an evidentiary hearing. This docket has been scheduled for hearing on February 3, 2015. Jurisdiction is vested in this Commission pursuant to Sections 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

This Order is issued pursuant to the authority granted by Rule 28-106.211, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which provides that the presiding officer before whom a case is pending may issue any orders necessary to effectuate discovery, prevent delay, and promote the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of all aspects of the case.

II. General Filing Procedures

All filings pertaining to this docket shall identify the assigned docket number and may be accomplished electronically as provided in the Commission's Electronic Filing Requirements, posted on the Commission's website at www.floridapsc.com under the Commission Clerk's Office tab, or by submitting the original document and the appropriate number of copies, as provided by Rule 25-22.028, F.A.C., to the Office of Commission Clerk via mail, hand delivery, or courier service addressed to:

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

The Commission strongly encourages web-based electronic filing, which is available from the Commission's Home Page by selecting the Clerk's Office link and FPSC Electronic Filing. This application accepts documents in Adobe PDF format only. The e-mail attachment method of e-filing remains available until further notice and is subject to certain filing requirements and/or

restrictions listed on the Commission Clerk's Electronic Filing link. The filing party is responsible for ensuring that no information protected by privacy or confidentiality laws is contained in any document that would be posted to the Commission's website in the regular course of business. To the extent possible, an electronic copy of all filings shall be provided to parties and Commission staff in Microsoft Word format and all schedules shall be provided in Microsoft Excel format with formulas intact and unlocked.

III. Tentative List of Issues

A list of the issues identified thus far in this proceeding is attached hereto as Attachment A. The scope of this proceeding will be based upon these issues as well as other issues raised by the parties up to and during the Prehearing Conference, unless modified by the Commission.

IV. Discovery Procedures

A. General Requirements

Discovery shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 120, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and the relevant provisions of Chapter 366, F.S., Rules 25-22, 25-40, and 28-106, F.A.C., and the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure (as applicable), as modified herein or as may be subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer.

Unless subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer, the following shall apply:

- (1) Discovery shall be completed by close of business on January 22, 2015.
- (2) Discovery requests and responses shall be served by e-mail, hand delivery, or overnight mail; and electronic service is encouraged. Discovery served via e-mail shall be limited to 5 MB per attachment, shall indicate how many e-mails are being sent related to the discovery (such as 1 of 6 e-mails), and shall be numbered sequentially. Documents provided in response to a document request may be provided via a CD, DVD, or flash drive, if not served electronically.
- (3) Sets of interrogatories, requests for admissions, requests for production of documents, or other forms of discovery shall be numbered sequentially in order to facilitate identification.
- (4) Within each set, discovery requests shall be numbered sequentially, and any discovery requests in subsequent sets shall continue the sequential numbering system.
- (5) Discovery responses shall be served within 20 calendar days (inclusive of mailing) of receipt of the discovery request.
- (6) Copies, whether hard copies or electronic, of discovery requests and responses shall be served on all parties and staff. In addition, copies of all responses to requests for production of documents shall be provided to the Commission staff at its Tallahassee office unless otherwise agreed upon.

Unless subsequently modified by the Prehearing Officer, the following shall apply:

- (1) Interrogatories, including all subparts, shall be limited to 75.
- (2) Requests for production of documents, including all subparts, shall be limited to 75.
- (3) Requests for admissions, including all subparts, shall be limited to 50.

When a discovery request is served and the respondent intends to seek clarification of any portion of the discovery request, the respondent shall request such clarification within 5 days of service of the discovery request. This procedure is intended to reduce delay in resolving discovery disputes.

V. Prehearing Procedures

A. Prehearing Statements

All parties and Commission staff in this docket shall file a prehearing statement pursuant to the schedule set forth in Section VIII of this Order. Each prehearing statement shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the date due. A copy, whether paper or electronic, of the prehearing statement shall be served on all other parties and Commission staff no later than the date it is filed with the Commission.

Each party's prehearing statement shall set forth the following information in the sequence listed below:

- (1) The name of all known witnesses who may be called by the party, along with subject matter of each such witness' testimony;
- (2) A description of all exhibits that may be used by the party in presenting its direct case (including individual components of a composite exhibit) and the witness sponsoring each;
- (3) A statement of the party's basic position in the proceeding;
- (4) A statement of each question of fact, question of law, and policy question that the party considers at issue, along with the party's position on each issue, and, where applicable, the names of the party's witness(es) who will address each issue. Parties who wish to maintain "no position at this time" on any particular issue or issues should refer to the requirements of subsection C, below;
- (5) A statement of issues to which the parties have stipulated;
- (6) A statement of all pending motions or other matters the party seeks action upon;
- (7) A statement identifying the party's pending requests or claims for confidentiality;
- (8) Any objections to a witness' qualifications as an expert. Failure to identify such objection will result in restriction of a party's ability to

conduct voir dire absent a showing of good cause at the time the witness is offered for cross-examination at hearing; and

- (9) A statement as to any requirement set forth in this order that cannot be complied with, and the reasons therefore.

Failure of a party to timely file a prehearing statement shall be a waiver of any issue not raised by other parties or by the Commission.

Each exhibit identified in a parties' prehearing statement shall be attached to the prehearing statement and conform to the filing requirements stated in Section VI below.

B. Attendance at Prehearing Conference

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.209, F.A.C., a Prehearing Conference will be held on January 22, 2015, at the Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida. Unless excused by the Prehearing Officer for good cause shown, each party (or designated representative) shall personally appear at the Prehearing Conference. Failure of a party (or that party's representative) to appear shall constitute waiver of that party's issues and positions, and that party may be dismissed from the proceeding.

C. Waiver of Issues

Any issue not raised by a party either before or during the Prehearing Conference shall be deemed waived by that party, except for good cause shown. A party seeking to raise a new issue after the Prehearing Conference shall demonstrate each of the following:

- (1) The party was unable to identify the issue because of the complexity of the matter.
- (2) Discovery or other prehearing procedures were not adequate to fully develop the issue.
- (3) Due diligence was exercised to obtain facts touching on the issue.
- (4) Information obtained subsequent to the Prehearing Conference was not previously available to enable the party to identify the issue.
- (5) Introduction of the issue would not be to the prejudice or surprise of any party.

Specific reference shall be made to the information received and how it enabled the party to identify the issue.

Unless a matter is not at issue for that party, each party shall take a position on each issue by the time of the Prehearing Conference or by such later time as may be permitted by the Prehearing Officer. If a party is unable through diligence and good faith efforts to take a position on a matter at issue for that party, it shall explicitly state in its prehearing statement why it cannot take a position. If the Prehearing Officer finds that the party has acted diligently and in good faith to take a position, and further finds that the party's failure to take a position will not prejudice other parties or confuse the proceeding, the party may maintain "no position at this

time" prior to the hearing and thereafter identify its position in a post-hearing statement of issues. In the absence of such a finding by the Prehearing Officer, the party shall have waived the entire issue, and the party's position shall be shown as "no position" in the Prehearing Order. When an issue and position have been properly identified, any party may adopt that issue and position in its post-hearing statement. Commission staff may take "no position at this time" or a similar position on any issue without having to make the showing described above.

D. Official Recognition

Parties seeking official recognition of materials pursuant to Section 120.569(2)(i), F.S., shall notify all other parties and Commission staff in writing no later than two business days prior to the first scheduled hearing date. Such notification shall identify all materials for which the party seeks official recognition, and to the extent such materials may not be readily available to all parties, such materials shall be provided along with the notification.

VI. Hearing Procedures

A. Attendance at Hearing

Unless excused by the Presiding Officer for good cause shown, each party (or designated representative) shall personally appear at the hearing. Failure of a party, or that party's representative, to appear shall constitute a waiver of that party's issues.

B. Witnesses

Each party is required to produce its witnesses at the hearing who will be sworn and present oral testimony. No written testimony will be prefiled in this case.

C. Cross-Examination

Each witness shall be subject to cross examination by all parties and Commission staff at hearing.

D. Exhibits

Each exhibit sponsored by a witness in support of his or her testimony shall be:

- (1) Sequentially numbered beginning with 1;
- (2) Identified in the upper right-hand corner of each page by the docket number, a brief title, and the witness' initials followed by the exhibit's number; and
- (3) Paginated by showing in the upper right-hand corner of each page the page number followed by the total number of pages in the exhibit.

An example of the information to appear in the upper right-hand corner of the exhibit is as follows:

Docket No. 012345-EI
Foreign Coal Shipments to Port of Tampa
Exhibit BLW-1, Page 1 of 2

After an opportunity for opposing parties to object to introduction of the exhibits and to cross-examine the witness sponsoring them, exhibits may be offered into evidence at the hearing.

VII. Post-Hearing Procedures

If the Commission (or assigned panel) does not render a bench decision at the hearing, it may allow each party to file a post-hearing statement of issues and positions pursuant to the schedule set forth in Section VIII of this Order. In such event, a summary of each position, set off with asterisks, shall be included in that statement. If a party's position has not changed since the issuance of the prehearing order, the post-hearing statement may simply restate that party's prehearing position. If a post-hearing statement is required and a party fails to file in conformance with the rule, that party shall have waived all issues and may be dismissed from the proceeding.

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.215, F.A.C., a party's proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, if any, statement of issues and positions, and brief, shall together total no more than 20 pages and shall be filed at the same time, unless modified by the Presiding Officer.

VIII. Controlling Dates

The following dates have been established to govern the key activities of this case:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Prehearing Statements | January 8, 2015 |
| (2) Prehearing Conference | January 22, 2015 |
| (3) Discovery deadline | January 22, 2015 |
| (4) Hearing | February 3, 2015 |
| (5) Briefs, if necessary | February 26, 2015 |

In addition, all parties should be on notice that the Prehearing Officer may exercise the discretion to schedule additional prehearing conferences or meetings of the parties as deemed appropriate. Such meetings will be properly noticed to afford the parties an opportunity to attend.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Commissioner Julie I. Brown, as Prehearing Officer, that the provisions of this Order shall govern this proceeding unless modified by the Commission.

By ORDER of Commissioner Julie I. Brown, as Prehearing Officer, this 5th day of
December, 2014.



JULIE I. BROWN
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 413-6770
www.floridapsc.com

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

SBr

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.

ATTACHMENT A
DOCKET NO. 140024-EI
TENTATIVE ISSUES LIST

- ISSUE 1. Is there sufficient evidence that meter tampering occurred at the Rodriguez residence at 185 Anzio Drive, Kissimmee, Florida 34758 to permit Duke Energy Florida to back-bill the Rodriguez account for unmetered kilowatt hours?
- ISSUE 2. If the answer to Issue 1 is yes, what is the appropriate back-billing period to be used in this case?
- ISSUE 3. If the answer to Issue 1 is yes, what is the appropriate amount of back-billed charges?
- ISSUE 4. If the answer to Issue 1 is yes, should investigative costs be charged, and if so, what is the appropriate amount?
- ISSUE 5. If the answer to Issue 1 is yes, what are the total costs to be billed?
- ISSUE 6. Are there any mitigating factors that should be taken into account in this case?
- ISSUE 7. Should this docket be closed?

should be prepared to proceed with oral argument on all issues pertaining to the dispositive motion or recommended order, whether raised in the request for oral argument or not. Notice that such a request will be taken up is provided at www.psc.state.fl.us/agendas, as explained in subsection 25-22.0021(1), F.A.C.

(d) This rule does not restrict the scheduling of oral arguments to agenda conferences. Oral arguments can be scheduled at any time, in which case the parties will be directly notified of the time and place.

Rulemaking Authority 350.01(7), 350.127(2) FS. Law Implemented 120.569(1), 120.57(1), (2)(a) FS. History—New 1-1-07.

25-22.003 Emergency Meeting.

Rulemaking Authority 120.53 FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History—New 12-21-81, Formerly 25-22.03, Repealed 5-3-99.

25-22.004 Commission Forms.

Rulemaking Authority 120.53(1)(b) FS. Law Implemented 120.53(1)(b) FS. History—New 6-7-84, Formerly 25 22.04, Amended 4-16-90, 8-21-90, 8-23-90, Repealed 5-3-99.

25-22.005 Noticing Address Files.

Rulemaking Authority 120.53 FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History—New 8-21-84, Formerly 25-22.05, Amended 7-11-96, Repealed 5-3-99.

25-22.006 Confidential Information.

(1) Definitions.

(a) “Confidential information” means material that has been determined, pursuant to this rule, to be proprietary confidential business information under Section 350.121, 364.183, 366.093 or 367.156, F.S.

(b) “Formal proceeding” means a proceeding docketed in the Commission’s Office of Commission Clerk.

(c) “Inquiry” means an investigation pursuant to Section 350.121, F.S. An inquiry is set in motion by the Commission Chairman, the Executive Director, or the General Counsel to evaluate a complaint, allegation, or develop information as a basis to initiate action on or dispose of any matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction.

(d) “Material” means all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, or other recorded information regardless of physical form or characteristics.

(e) “Obtaining material” means receiving material pursuant to filing or taking physical control of material by removing the original material or a copy of it from the utility’s or other person’s premises. Obtaining material also means the extraction of data from material for inclusion in working papers or memoranda.

(2) Material obtained during an inquiry.

(a) All material obtained incident to an inquiry by the Commission, its staff, or any consultant employed by the Commission is exempt from the public access requirements of Section 119.07(1), F.S., and will be accorded stringent procedural safeguards against public disclosure during the pendency of the inquiry. When the Commission or its staff is requesting information incident to an inquiry, the source shall be informed in writing that the request is made incident to an inquiry.

(b) An inquiry will terminate 40 days after the transmittal of a notice of termination by the Office of Commission Clerk. This notice will be sent to all sources from whom material was obtained during the inquiry and will include a list of all materials obtained from the source during the inquiry and any portions of staff work papers, analyses, and reports containing materials obtained from the source during the inquiry. The notice will indicate whether the Commission intends to retain, destroy, or return the materials listed. A source may, within 30 days after issuance of the notice, file with the Office of Commission Clerk a written request that the material the Commission intends to retain be classified as confidential and exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S. Requests filed in response to the notice of termination shall meet the same criteria and be processed in the same manner as other requests for confidential classification under subsection (4) of this rule. If no timely request for confidential classification is filed, confidentiality is waived and the material becomes subject to inspection and examination pursuant to Section 119.01(7), F.S.

(3) Material obtained outside of an inquiry. Material obtained by the Commission or its staff outside of an inquiry shall be subject to inspection and examination pursuant to Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless the utility or other person requests that it be classified as confidential information.

(a)1. If the utility or other person believes information requested by staff is confidential, the utility or other person may require

that the staff request be in writing. Prior to the staff obtaining any material, a utility or other person may receive temporary exemption from Section 119.07(1), F.S., by filing a notice of intent to request confidential classification. The notice of intent to request confidential classification shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk and shall have appended thereto a copy of any written request for the material to which it relates. A copy of the notice shall be provided to the division requesting the material. To maintain continued confidential handling of the material the utility or other person must, within 21 days after the staff has obtained the material, file a request for confidential classification with the Office of Commission Clerk. Absent good cause shown, failure to file such a request within 21 days shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality.

2. In the case of material obtained by the Commission's auditors, the utility shall indicate on the document request Form PSC/APA 6 (2/95) whether the information is believed by the utility to be confidential. To maintain continued confidential handling of the material, the utility must, within 21 days after the audit exit conference or, if waived, the date the audit exit conference would have taken place, file a request for confidential classification with the Office of Commission Clerk. Absent good cause shown, failure to file such a request within 21 days shall constitute a waiver of confidentiality.

(b) When the material is obtained incident to a formal proceeding, the utility or other person requesting confidential classification shall also serve a copy or summary of its request on all parties of record and on Public Counsel. The summary shall describe the material in sufficient detail so as to reasonably inform the reader of the nature of the material. Any party to a formal proceeding may file an objection to the request for confidential classification within 14 days after service of the copy or summary.

(c) Requests for confidential classification, including motions for protective orders under paragraph (6)(a), and any objections filed in response thereto shall be ruled on expeditiously by the prehearing officer assigned to the docket. The Commission panel assigned to the case will hear any motion for reconsideration filed regarding the prehearing officer's ruling. If a request is received outside a docketed proceeding, the request itself will be docketed.

(d) All material that has been classified as confidential, for which a ruling on confidentiality is pending, is subject to a notice of intent to request confidential classification, or is subject to a claim of confidentiality as provided for in Section 364.183(1), F.S., shall be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., and will be accorded stringent internal procedural safeguards against public disclosure. Any staff or consultant reports or work products containing confidential information extracted from material having been classified as confidential, or which has been claimed to be confidential or for which a ruling on confidentiality is pending, shall be handled in the same manner as the material so classified. The Commission shall have discretion to retain any confidential material in its possession. Upon the consent of the Department of State, the Commission may return or, after consulting with the source, destroy any material that is no longer needed.

(4) Requests for confidential classification.

(a) A request for confidential classification of material shall be filed in writing with the Office of Commission Clerk. All such requests, including motions for protective orders based on confidentiality, shall be styled to clearly indicate on their face that confidentiality is being requested. The utility or other person shall file with the request one copy of the material for which confidential treatment is requested. On this copy, the specific information asserted to be confidential shall be highlighted. Along with the highlighted copy, the utility or other person shall file two or more edited copies as required by the type of proceeding, which will be made available for public inspection. In the edited copies, the specific information asserted to be confidential shall be blocked out by the use of an opaque marker or other masking device. The utility or other person shall identify the page and line at which the confidential material is found and shall correlate the page and line identified with the specific justification proffered in support of the classification of such material.

(b) In the case of electronically stored material, one unedited version shall be submitted along with a written identification of the specific data fields for which confidential classification is requested along with a field-by-field justification for the confidential classification.

(c) In the line-by-line or field-by-field justification for confidential classification, the utility or other person must demonstrate how the information asserted to be confidential qualifies as one of the statutory examples listed in Section 364.183(3), 366.093(3) or 367.156(3), F.S. If no statutory example is applicable, then the utility or other person shall include a statement explaining how the ratepayers or the person's or utility's business operations will be harmed by disclosure.

(d) The request shall include an affirmative statement that the material for which confidential classification is sought is intended to be and is treated by the utility or other person as private and has not been disclosed.

(e) The burden of proof shall be on the utility or other person to show that the material in question contains bona fide proprietary confidential business information. A request for confidential classification that fails to identify the material for which

confidential classification is sought in sufficient detail to permit a reasoned analysis or which fails to provide the required justification for classification may be denied as insufficient on its face.

(f) The Office of Commission Clerk shall make available for public inspection a listing of daily filings with the Commission requesting confidentiality.

(g) The Commission shall have the discretion to modify the requirements of this subsection in order to alleviate the financial burden of entities qualifying as small businesses under Section 288.702, F.S.

(h) A utility may petition the Commission for a waiver of the justification for particular sections of certain routinized for filings. The Commission may require conditions to be met by the utility that may include, but not be limited to:

1. Filings which are routine, filed periodically, and which have been filed for a minimum of six months;
2. Information which has regularly been classified as confidential in the past; and
3. While the utility must identify material to be classified by line-by-line reference, the utility may cite to a previous order for justification. If the waiver is approved, the Commission will issue an order referencing the appropriate previous order stating the relevant justification. No party will be denied the opportunity to object to a request for confidentiality made pursuant to this subparagraph.

(5) Claim of confidential treatment pursuant to Section 364.183(1), F.S.

(a) Telecommunications companies or other persons claiming confidential treatment for materials pursuant to Section 364.183(1), F.S., shall file with the Office of Commission Clerk one copy of all such materials and include a cover letter stating that confidentiality is being claimed. The telecommunications company or other person also shall file one copy of the material on which the specific information claimed as confidential shall be highlighted. Along with the highlighted copy, the telecommunications company or other person shall file two edited copies which will be made available for public inspection. In the edited copies, the specific information claimed to be confidential shall be blocked out by the use of an opaque marker or other masking device.

(b) In the case of electronically stored material, one unedited version shall be submitted along with a written identification of the specific data fields for which confidentiality is claimed, along with a field-by-field justification for the confidential classification.

(c)1. The materials claimed to be confidential shall be kept confidential until returned to the provider pursuant to paragraph (6)(d) of this rule, unless the materials will be used in a Commission proceeding or are the subject of a request pursuant to Section 119.07(1), F.S.

2. Any person may file a petition to inspect and examine any material which has been claimed confidential pursuant to Section 364.183(1), F.S. A copy of the petition must be served on the affected telecommunications company or person which shall have 10 days to file a response as to why the material should remain exempt. The petitioner shall have 7 days to file a reply to the filed response. The Commission may set the matter for hearing or issue a ruling on the pleadings.

(6) Discovery.

(a) In any formal proceeding before the Commission, any utility or other person may request a protective order protecting proprietary confidential business information from discovery. Upon a showing by a utility or other person and a finding by the Commission that the material is entitled to protection, the Commission shall enter a protective order limiting discovery in the manner provided for in Rule 1.280, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. The protective order shall specify how the confidential information is to be handled during the course of the proceeding and prescribe measures for protecting the information from disclosure outside the proceeding.

(b) The Commission's protective orders shall exempt proprietary confidential business information from Section 119.07(1), F.S. While a request for a protective order is pending, the information asserted to be confidential shall also be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S. Such exemption shall apply whether the information is in the possession of an entity, individual, or state agency, including the Office of Public Counsel.

(c) When a utility or other person agrees to allow Public Counsel to inspect or take possession of utility information for the purpose of determining what information is to be used in a proceeding before the Commission, the utility may request a temporary protective order exempting the information from Section 119.07(1), F.S. If the information is to be used in a proceeding before the Commission, then the utility must file a specific request for a protective order under paragraph (a) above. If the information is not to be used in a proceeding before the Commission, then Public Counsel shall return the information to the utility in accordance with the record retention requirements of the Department of State.

(d) Confidential information which has not been entered into the official record of the proceeding shall be returned to the utility or person who provided the information no later than 60 days after the final order, unless the final order is appealed. If the final order

is appealed, the confidential information which has not been made a part of the record shall be returned no later than 30 days after the decision on appeal.

(7)(a) Any person may file a petition to inspect and examine any material which the Commission has ruled exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., or which is exempted under paragraph (3)(d) pending the Commission's ruling or as the result of the filing of a notice of intent to request confidentiality. A copy of the petition must be served on the affected utility or person which shall have 10 days to file a response as to why the material should remain exempt. The petitioner shall have 7 days to file a reply to the filed response. The Commission may set the matter for hearing or issue a ruling on the pleadings. Material obtained by the Commission in connection with an inquiry shall not be subject to requests for inspection and examination until after the inquiry is terminated.

(b) A finding of confidentiality notwithstanding, a source may consent to inspection or examination by any person. Such consent shall not constitute a waiver of confidentiality and only the person specified in the consent may inspect or examine the material. The Commission may be requested to issue a protective order to recognize the terms and conditions of the consent. All persons are urged to seek mutual agreement regarding access prior to bringing a controversy to the Commission.

(8) Use of confidential information during formal proceedings.

(a) The Commission may rely upon confidential information during a formal proceeding and such information, if otherwise admissible, will be received in evidence. In such event, reasonable precautions will be taken to segregate confidential information in the record and otherwise protect its integrity.

(b) When information subject to a claim of confidentiality pursuant to Section 364.183(1), F.S., or a request is admitted into the evidentiary record of a hearing, if such information is not otherwise subject to a request for confidentiality filed with the Commission, the parties to the case and the Commission shall treat the information as confidential pending a ruling on the confidentiality of the information. To maintain continued confidentiality, the party to whom the information belongs shall file a request for confidential classification within 21 days of the conclusion of the hearing.

(c) When information subject to a claim of confidentiality pursuant to Section 364.183(1), F.S., or a request is contained in a party's brief or other post hearing filing filed with the Commission, the party filing such information shall notify the owner of the information at least three working days prior to the date that the filing will be made. To maintain continued confidential treatment, the party to whom the information belongs shall file, on the same date the brief or other post-hearing filing is filed, either a notice of intent to request confidentiality treatment pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection, a request for confidential treatment, or a statement that the information is already subject to a request for confidentiality that has been filed with the Commission and the date that the request was filed.

(9) Duration of Confidential Classification.

(a) Orders of the Commission granting confidential classification shall limit the duration of such classification to a period not exceeding 18 months. The Commission may approve a longer period if it finds, for good cause, that such longer period is necessary to protect the ratepayers or the business operations of the utility or affected person.

(b) When confidential information is no longer needed for the Commission to conduct its business, the Commission shall order all persons holding such information to return it to the utility or person providing the information.

(c) Confidential information not returned at the conclusion of the period established under paragraph (a) of this subsection, shall no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless the utility or affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the information continues to be confidential. Upon such finding, the duration of confidential classification may be extended for a period of up to 18 months, or for a longer period if the Commission finds, for good cause, that such longer period is necessary to protect the business operations of the utility or affected person. While the Commission is considering an extension under this paragraph, the information in question shall remain exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S.

(10) Judicial Review. When the Commission denies a request for confidential classification, the material will be kept confidential until the time for filing an appeal has expired. The utility or other person may request continued confidential treatment until judicial review is complete. The request shall be in writing and filed with the Office of Commission Clerk. The material will thereafter receive confidential treatment through completion of judicial review.

Rulemaking Authority 350.127, 364.183(4), 366.093(4), 367.156(4), 368.108(4) FS. Law Implemented 350.121, 364.183, 366.093, 367.156, 368.108 FS. History—New 7-1-85, Formerly 25-22.06, Amended 4-26-90, 4-21-96.

25-22.008 Practitioners.

Rulemaking Authority 120.53 FS. Law Implemented 120.53 FS. History—New 9-24-81, Formerly 25-22.08, Amended 3-21-94, Repealed 5-3-99.