

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**In re: Petition for Rate Increase by Florida Power & Light Company** ) **Docket No. 160021-EI**  
)  
)  
) **Date Filed: April 25, 2016**

**PETITION TO INTERVENE  
OF AARP**

COMES NOW **AARP**<sup>1</sup>, pursuant to Sections 120.569, 120.57 of the Florida Statutes and Rules 25-22.039, 28- 106.201, and 28-106.205 of the Florida Administrative Code, by and through its qualified representative, and respectfully petitions the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") for permission to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding.

In support thereof, AARP states as follows:

1. AARP, with its nearly 38 million members in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. AARP has more than **2.8 million members in the state of Florida**, a substantial number of which are residential electric customers served by FP&L.

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<sup>1</sup> In 1999, the "American Association of Retired Persons" changed its name to simply "AARP", in recognition of the fact that people do not have to be retired to become members.

2. Mr. John B. Coffman is authorized to accept service of papers in this proceeding on behalf of AARP. All notices, orders, and correspondence should be directed to AARP's qualified representative<sup>2</sup>:

John B. Coffman  
John B. Coffman, LLC  
871 Tuxedo Blvd.  
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AARP also requests that Mr. Jack McRay be added to the service list.

Jack McRay, Advocacy Manager  
AARP Florida  
200 W. College Ave., #304  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Phone: (850) 228-7295  
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3. On March 15, 2016, Florida Power & Light Company ("FP&L") filed a Petition requesting a general base rate increase of approximately \$1.337 billion, one of the largest ever requested. In its Petition, FP&L also proposes an increase to its allowable return on equity to 11.50 percent over a three-year rate plan.

4. Statement of Substantial Interest: AARP's interest in this matter and its grounds for intervention relate to the substantial increase in electric rates proposed by FP&L for the residential customer class. AARP desires to advocate on behalf of the residential electric customers of FP&L in order to ensure that their rates are no higher than a level that is just and reasonable. More specifically, AARP's interest relates to how FP&L's proposal may directly and adversely impact those customers who are aged 50

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<sup>2</sup> A request to name John B. Coffman as AARP's Qualified Representative was filed with the Commission simultaneously with this Petition to Intervene.

and over. People aged 50 and over are more vulnerable to increases in energy prices. These consumers also devote a higher percentage of their total spending than do other age groups towards residential energy costs. Many older consumers also have special needs and safety concerns with regard to their access to electric service. AARP's specific and substantial interest in this proceeding cannot be adequately represented by other parties.

5. AARP interest in protecting residential electric consumers in this rate case proceeding meets the two-prong standing test set forth in *Agrico Chemical Company v. Department of Environmental Regulation*, 406 So. 2d 478, 482 (Fla. 2nd DCA 1981). If a multi-year rate increase is granted as it is proposed by FP&L: (1) residential electric consumers will suffer injury in fact which is of sufficient immediacy to entitle a hearing, and (2) this substantial injury is of a type or nature which the proceeding is designed to protect. As to the first prong, AARP has explained above the direct and sufficient injury in fact that would occur to residential consumers. As to the second prong, the purpose of this rate case proceeding is to determine "just and reasonable" electric rates to be charged by FPL, and thus the Commission has the authority to prevent unjust and unreasonable FP&L rate increases from impacting residential consumers.

6. AARP intends to offer expert witness testimony in this matter regarding the structure and potential impact of FP&L's proposed multi-year rate plan, and to be an active participant in revenue requirement and rate design issues that impact residential electric consumers. AARP has been granted intervention by the Commission in previous rate cases, and believes that its participation in those cases assisted in developing a full and adequate record.

7. AARP believes that its intervention and participation in this proceeding would serve the public interest, and wishes to become a party to this case for all purposes. Moreover, AARP can assure that its intervention would not unduly delay the proceedings nor prejudice the rights of any other party.

WHEREFORE, AARP respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Petition to Intervene, entitling it to fully participate in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John B. Coffman \_\_\_\_\_

John B. Coffman

Mo Bar #36591

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Attorney for AARP

Dated: April 25, 2016

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that a copy of the foregoing documents have been furnished by electronic mail and/or U. S. Mail on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016, to the following:

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Attorney for AARP

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