BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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| In re: Natural gas conservation cost recovery. | DOCKET NO. 20230004-GU  ORDER NO. PSC-2023-0346-FOF-GU  ISSUED: November 16, 2023 |

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

ANDREW GILES FAY, Chairman

GARY F. CLARK

MIKE LA ROSA

GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

FINAL ORDER APPROVING NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION COST RECOVERY AMOUNTS AND ESTABLISHING NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION COST RECOVERY FACTORS FOR JANUARY 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 2024

APPEARANCES:

BETH KEATING, ESQUIRE, Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A., 215 South Monroe St., Suite 601, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1804; and CHRISTOPHER T. WRIGHT, ESQUIRE, 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida 33408-2863

On behalf of FLORIDA CITY GAS (FCG).

BETH KEATING, ESQUIRE, Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A., 215 South Monroe St., Suite 601, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1804

On behalf of FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY (FPUC), and on behalf of SEBRING GAS SYSTEM (SEBRING).

J. JEFFRY WAHLEN, MALCOLM N. MEANS, and VIRGINIA PONDER, ESQUIRES, Ausley McMullen, 123 S. Calhoun St., Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1517

On behalf of PEOPLES GAS SYSTEM, INC. (PGS).

WALT TRIERWEILER, CHARLES J. REHWINKEL, PATRICIA A. CHRISTENSEN, MARY A. WESSLING, and OCTAVIO PONCE, ESQUIRES, 111 West Madison Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400

On behalf of OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL (OPC).

TIMOTHY SPARKS, and CARLOS MARQUEZ II, ESQUIRES, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

On behalf of the FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (Staff).

MARY ANNE HELTON, ESQUIRE, Deputy General Counsel, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Advisor to the FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

KEITH C. HETRICK, ESQUIRE, General Counsel, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION General Counsel

BY THE COMMISSION:

BACKGROUND

As part of the Commission’s continuing natural gas conservation cost recovery clause proceedings, an administrative hearing was held on November 1, 2023. The clause proceedings allow natural gas companies to seek recovery of their costs for approved natural gas conservation programs on an annual basis, pursuant to Sections 366.80-366.83, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 25-17, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Florida City Gas (FCG), Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC), Peoples Gas System, Inc. (PGS), Sebring Gas System (Sebring), and St. Joe Natural Gas Company, Inc. (SJNG) submitted testimony and exhibits in support of their proposed final and estimated true-up amounts and their conservation cost recovery factors. Prior to the hearing, the parties reached an agreement concerning all issues identified for resolution at the hearing. OPC took no position. SJNG was excused from participating at the hearing. We have jurisdiction over this subject matter by the provisions of Chapter 366, F.S., including Sections 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, F.S.

DECISION

Prior to the hearing, the parties reached Type 2 stipulations[[1]](#footnote-1) on all issues identified for resolution at hearing, with the utilities agreeing to proposed stipulations to the final and estimated true-up amounts and purchased gas cost recovery factors appropriate for each utility, and with OPC taking no position on these proposed stipulations. The OPC position on each Type 2 stipulation is as follows:

OPC takes no position on these issues nor does it have the burden of proof related to them. As such, the OPC represents that it will not contest or oppose the Commission taking action approving a proposed stipulation between the Company and another party or staff as a final resolution of the issue. No person is authorized to state that the OPC is a participant in, or party to, a stipulation on these issues, either in this docket, in an order of the Commission, or in a representation to a Court.

The proposed stipulations were presented to us for approval. We accept and approve the proposed stipulations as reasonable and supported by competent, substantial evidence of record, as set forth below.

Conservation Cost Recovery Amounts and Factors

We find the appropriate final conservation cost recovery true-up amounts for the period January 2022 through December 2022 are as follows:

FCG $246,333 Over-recovery

FPUC $956,051 Over-recovery

PGS $1,970,805 Under-recovery

Sebring $10,132 Over-recovery

SJNG $6,053 Over-recovery

We find the appropriate conservation cost adjustment actual/estimated true-up amounts for the period January 2023 through December 2023 are as follows:

FCG $75,243 Over-recovery

FPUC $555,104 Over-recovery

PGS $10,460,672 Under-recovery

Sebring $14,160 Under-recovery

SJNG $19,101 Over-recovery

We find the appropriate total conservation adjustment true-up amounts to be collected/refunded from the period January 2023 through December 2023 are as follows:

FCG $336,206 Over-recovery

FPUC $1,511,155 Over-recovery

PGS $12,431,477 Under-recovery

Sebring $4,028 Under-recovery

SJNG $25,154 Over-recovery

We find the total conservation cost recovery amounts to be collected during the period January 2024 through December 2024 are as follows:

FCG $6,471,483

FPUC $3,304,245

PGS $44,755,074

Sebring $40,061

SJNG $141,596

We find the appropriate conservation cost recovery factors for the period January 2024 through December 2024 are as follows:

FCG

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| **Rate Schedule** | **Conservation Recovery Factor ($/therm)** |
| RS1 | 0.29484 |
| RS-100 | 0.14192 |
| RS-600 | 0.08522 |
| GS-1 | 0.05856 |
| GS-6K | 0.04196 |
| GS-25K | 0.03873 |
| Gas Lights | 0.04635 |
| GS-120K | 0.02624 |
| GS-1250K | 0.01500 |
| GS11M | 0.00000 |
| GS-25M | 0.00000 |

FPUC

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| **Rate Schedule** | **Conservation Recovery Factor ($/therm)** |
| Residential-1; Residential Transportation-1 (< 100 therms) | 0.13035 |
| Residential-2; Residential Transportation-2 (>100 and < 250 therms) | 0.06657 |
| Residential-3; Residential Transportation-3 (>250 therms) | 0.03655 |
| Residential Standby Generator | 0.14743 |
| General Service-1; GS Transportation-1 (< 1,000 therms) | 0.06735 |
| General Service-2; GS Transportation-2 (> 1,000 and < 5,000 therms) | 0.03100 |
| General Service-3; GS Transportation-3 (> 5,000 and < 10,000 therms) | 0.02701 |
| General Service-4; GS Transportation-4 (> 10,000 and < 50,000 therms) | 0.02392 |
| General Service-5; GS Transportation-5 (> 50,000 and < 250,000 therms) | 0.01808 |
| General Service-6; GS Transportation-6 (> 250,000 and < 500,000 therms) | 0.01680 |
| General Service-7; GS Transportation-7 (> 500,000 and < 1,000,000 therms) | 0.01377 |
| General Service-8A; GS Transportation-8A (> 1,000,000 and < 1,500,000 therms) | 0.01304 |
| General Service-8B; GS Transportation-8B (> 1,500,000 and < 2,000,000 therms) | 0.01215 |
| General Service-8C; GS Transportation-8C (> 2,000,000 and < 4,000,000 therms) | 0.00690 |
| General Service-8D; GS Transportation-8D (> 4,000,000 therms) | 0.00568 |
| Commercial – NGV; Commercial NGV Transportation | 0.01590 |
| Commercial Standby Generator | 0.16326 |

PGS

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| **Rate Schedule** | **Conservation Recovery Factor ($/therm)** |
| RS, RS-SG, and RS-GHP | 0.21579 |
| SGS | 0.12933 |
| GS-1, CS-SG, and CS-GHIP | 0.06667 |
| GS-2 | 0.05036 |
| GS-3 | 0.04243 |
| GS-4 | 0.03134 |
| GS-5 | 0.02183 |
| NGVS | 0.00000 |
| CSLS | 0.04347 |

Sebring

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| **Rate Schedule** | **Conservation Recovery Factor ($/therm)** |
| TS-1 | 0.12985 |
| TS-2 | 0.05476 |
| TS-3 | 0.03745 |
| TS-4 | 0.03355 |

SJNG

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| **Rate Schedule** | **Conservation Recovery Factor ($/therm)** |
| RS-1 | 0.33922 |
| RS-2 | 0.24049 |
| RS-3 | 0.18160 |
| GS-1 | 0.10751 |
| GS-2 | 0.06358 |
| FTS4/GS-4 | 0.03877 |

Tariff Revisions Reflecting Natural Gas Conservation Cost Recovery Amounts and Establishing Natural Gas Conservation Cost Recovery Factors

The revised tariffs reflecting the new energy conservation cost charges determined to be appropriate in this proceeding are hereby approved. We direct our staff to verify that the revised tariffs are consistent with this Order.

Conservation Cost Recovery Effective Date for 2023 Billing Cycle

The factors we approved as reflected above shall be effective beginning with the specified conservation cost recovery cycle and thereafter for the period January 2024 through December 2024. Billing cycles may start before January 1, 2024 and the last cycle may be read after December 31, 2024, so that each customer is billed for twelve months regardless of when the adjustment factor became effective.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the stipulations and findings set forth in the body of this order are hereby approved. It is further

ORDERED that each utility that was a party to this docket shall abide by the stipulations and findings herein which are applicable to it. It is further

ORDERED that the utilities named herein are authorized to collect the natural gas conservation cost recovery amounts and utilize the factors approved herein for the period beginning with the specified conservation cost recovery cycle and thereafter for the period January 2024 through December 2024. Billing cycles may start before January 1, 2024, and the last cycle may be read after December 31, 2024, so that each customer is billed for twelve months regardless of when the adjustment factor became effective. It is further

ORDERED that the utilities’ revised tariffs, reflecting the natural gas conservation cost recovery amounts and establishing natural gas conservation cost recovery factors determined to be appropriate herein are approved. Our staff shall verify that the revised tariffs are consistent with this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the Natural Gas Conservation Cost Recovery Clause docket is on-going and the docket shall remain open.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 16th day of November, 2023.

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|  | /s/ Adam J. Teitzman |
|  | ADAM J. TEITZMAN  Commission Clerk |

Florida Public Service Commission

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

TPS

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.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, 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 and/or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Office of Commission Clerk, and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

1. A Type 2 stipulation occurs on an issue when the utility and the Commission staff, or the utility and at least one party adversarial to the utility, agree on the resolution of the issue and the remaining parties (including staff if they do not join in the agreement) do not object to us relying on the agreed language to resolve that issue in a final order. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)