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MAR 26 2024

March 13, 2024
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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION CONSUMER ASSISTANCE

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC
2024 MAR 26 PM 3:02
COMMISSION
CLERK

Re: Offer of Purchase of any Florida Utility by Iberdrola, SA

To: Chairman La Rosa, Commissioners Clark, Fay, Graham, and Passidomo

Greetings:

My name is Dave Fingado, and I am a recent transplant (2021) to the state from New York. I am a retiree of Rochester Gas & Electric (New York - 2014) and retired from Black & Veatch (BV) after 6+ years working on the AVANGRID Security program in October 2023. I am writing as a pre-emptive warning to you folks to disallow any takeover bids by Iberdrola of any utility in the state, and I outline why below. You may use these talking points in any potential hearing to inquire as to the veracity of any statements made by Iberdrola as part of a filing.

You can look up my profile on LinkedIn to validate my bona-fides. I fired myself from RG&E in 2014, as I could not abide the direction I was being given with respect to substation design and construction, the lack of openness and oversight and the sheer waste of capital in spending on new infrastructure.

Iberdrola will promise many millions in upgrades to the grid, if only they can buy out XYZ company. While this may be true, it is because they expect a greater rate of return from US holdings than from other utilities they own around the globe. Their procurement practices are deliberately secretive, and lengthy, in order to get a project moving. I was told this by a procurement manager in Rochester in 2013 (date not certain). I asked what took six months to get to a decision. He stated "I am not at liberty to discuss that." I found out later that they had to sign confidentiality agreements or non-disclosure agreements with Spanish procurement in order to retain their jobs.

The end result is that any major purchase, such as a transformer, or switchgear will come from a Spanish or Iberdrola-affiliated company wherever possible. This precludes use of American gear in most applications. Several substations in the Rochester, NY area have Ormazabal switchgear (Spanish) which has the controls about 6 ft off the floor. This introduces ladders into a facility where safety is of utmost concern. As well, there is no way to tell from the front if the gear is energized or not. Last I knew a team was investigating installing cameras inside the housings.

American employment will go down under this regime. Spain will bring in its' own engineering team, consisting of the C & D teams, not the A team. There will be the inevitable culture clash, and the company being bought will lose. Employees, local practices, goodwill etc. have gone out the window for the companies that Iberdrola owns in the Northeast. These include Central Maine Power, Berkshire Gas Company, United Illuminating, Connecticut Natural Gas, Southern Connecticut Gas, New York State Electric and Gas, and Rochester Gas & Electric. The American entity that was is now a shell of what it had been.

Iberdrola prides itself on being one of the most ethical companies on the globe; nothing could be further from the truth. You may have seen in 2022 in international news outlets that the police chief in Madrid was relieved of duty and under investigation. He subsequently (I believe) went to prison. He was conducting illegal investigations into various parties that were at odds with Iberdrola management, among other things.

This also brought down the head of global security, and the manager of the AVANGRID networks security, Enrique Victorero Vigil. Enrique had been selling bids to his friends in a security firm in Spain, called Prosegur.

In 2021, Prosegur became an Integrator to AVANGRID Corporate Security (ACS). An Integrator is hired to facilitate construction of Security upgrades. They may pour concrete up to programming servers/switches, etc. ACS had two very competent Integrators working at the time, Unlimited Technology, Inc. and Allied Universal Technology Services. Prosegur, a Spain Based company, bought up an American security company to get the technical installation piece, and promptly fired the American management after signing a contract that said they would be kept on.

I personally had to deal with the American Prosegur folks who were not as accomplished as they could have been. Most projects I gave them were local to Rochester to help them get up to speed with substation security installations, while we at BV were directed to give them two substations in Connecticut to provide installation of security devices. None of these projects came in on time. Not One. Prosegur requested numerous change orders, which I denied, unless the change was directed by the client.

That experience was frustrating in the extreme, and based on the lack of performance by that Spanish-owned company, Prosegur is no longer an official contractor to AVANGRID.

Anecdotally, you may want to investigate the portion of global revenues provided by AVANGRID to Iberdrola. In 2021 I believe this was 20%. Iberdrola has ownership in Europe, the UK, Brazil. Mexico and other countries. I do not believe we need to contribute to their further growth on the backs of our fellow ratepayers.

Another item you may want to investigate is the customer billing system, at least in New York. AVANGRID RG&E has sent multiple bills per month; our daughter cannot tell what or how much she owes at times.

I would urge you to deny any proposed takeover of any Florida utility, as not being in the interest of the State, the ratepayers, the grid system reliability nor current utility employees.

I write this in the hope of preventing the chaos that is my old utility system being transferred to my current utility system, which, from where I stand, is running correctly and efficiently. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,



David K. Fingado, PMP

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