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April 4, 2024

ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Adam J. Teitzman, Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket 20240026-EI, Petition for Rate Increase by Tampa Electric Company

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached for filing in the above-referenced docket is Tampa Electric Company's Response to the Supplement to Office of Public Counsel's Motion for Expedited Joint Docket Scheduling Conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Jeffry Wahlen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Jeffry Wahlen

cc: Adria Harper, OGC
Carlos Marquez, OGC
Timothy Sparks, OGC
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Nihal Shrinath, Sierra Club
Sari Amiel, Sierra Club

JJW/ne
Attachments

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for Rate Increase by Tampa
Electric Company

DOCKET NO. 20240026-EI
FILED: April 4, 2024

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY’S RESPONSE TO THE
SUPPLEMENT TO OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL’S
MOTION FOR EXPEDITED JOINT DOCKET SCHEDULING CONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.204, Florida Administrative Code, Tampa Electric Company (“Tampa Electric” or the “company”), files this Response to the Supplement to Office of Public Counsel’s Motion for Expedited Joint Docket Scheduling Conference, and states as follows:

1. On March 8, 2024, the Office of Public Counsel (“OPC”) filed a Motion for Expedited Joint Docket Scheduling Conference (“Motion”) in the above-captioned docket and in the docket opened for Duke Energy Florida, LLC’s rate case (Docket No. 20240025-EI). *See* DN 01094-2024. On April 3, 2024, OPC filed a Supplement to the Motion containing a proposed procedural schedule (“Supplement”). *See* DN 01589-2024.

2. Tampa Electric does not support the proposed procedural schedule in the Supplement. If the Commission considers that proposal when it develops the schedule for this case, the company requests that it also consider these factors:

3. The Commission conducted three major electric rate cases in 2021, one of which involved two test years, combining the rate schedules and operations of Florida Power and Light Company and Gulf Power Company, and four sets of minimum filing requirement (“MFR”) schedules. *See* Docket No. 20210015-EI. Like the petition Tampa Electric filed in 2021, the petition Tampa Electric filed in this docket on April 2, 2024 involves one test year and two proposed subsequent year adjustments. It is similar to the petition in Tampa Electric’s 2021 case.

4. It could be expected that Tampa Electric and Duke Energy Florida would both be seeking rate relief in 2024 for 2025. Both companies resolved their 2021 rate cases by settlement agreements with terms ending December 31, 2024. Both were signed by OPC and other consumer parties. Both were approved by the Commission. *See* Order Nos. PSC-2021-0423-S-EI, issued on November 10, 2021 in Docket No. 20210034 and PSC-2021-0202A-AS-EI, issued June 28, 2021 in Docket No. 20210016.

5. OPC began serving discovery to Tampa Electric in this docket on March 12, 2024, almost three weeks before the company filed its petition, testimony, and MFR schedules (“initial filing”). By April 2, 2024, OPC had served a total of 75 interrogatories and 45 requests for production of documents in this docket, all crafted and served before OPC could review the company’s initial filing. The company is working diligently to answer and produce documents as required under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, even though the discovery served by OPC burdened the company’s efforts to prepare and make its initial filing. Tampa Electric has agreed to accept service of discovery from Florida Rising, Inc. and the League of United Latin American Citizens (“LULAC”), even though the Commission has not yet granted their Petition to Intervene and has made its Excel versions of its MFR available to the consumer parties on its SharePoint site. Tampa Electric’s actions reflect a good faith effort to accommodate the scheduling pressure OPC cites in its Motion.

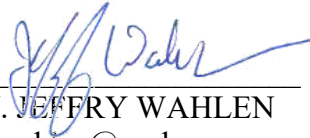
6. It is possible that hearing dates, once set, can be disturbed by severe weather. On April 4, 2023, Tampa Electric’s affiliate Peoples Gas System, Inc. filed a petition seeking new base rates effective January 1, 2024. The Commission originally scheduled the hearing on the PGS petition for August 29, 2023. Due to the approach of Hurricane Idalia, the Commission rescheduled the hearing for September 12, 2023. *See* Notice of Cancellation and Rescheduling of Commission Hearing, filed August 28, 2023 in Docket No. 20230023-GU. Due to this delay, the Commission did not enter a

final order resolving the case until December 27, 2023. OPC's proposed hearing dates for this matter – September 23 through October 2 - is nearly two weeks later in the year than the hearing in Peoples' 2023 rate case. Holding the hearing in this docket in late September could compromise the Commission's ability to issue a final order before the end of 2024.

7. Tampa Electric acknowledges the scheduling concerns reflected in the Motion, but respectfully requests that the schedule adopted for this case also allow adequate time for post-hearing briefing, a staff recommendation on revenue requirement issues, an agenda conference on those issues, a staff recommendation and agenda conference on final rates, and the entry of a final order approving the final rates in time for new rates to become effective with notice to customers for the first billing cycle in January 2025.

DATED this 4th day of April, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 4th day of April, 2024, electronic copies of the foregoing Response has been served by electronic mail on the following:

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Petition to Intervene Pending