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BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20240099-EI

Petition for rate increase by
Florida Public Utilities Company.

PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 5

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

DATE: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Let's now move to Item No.

3 5.

4 Ms. Guffey, you are recognized when you are
5 ready.

6 MS. GUFFEY: Good morning, Chairman and
7 Commissioners. Seveni Guffey with the Division of
8 Economics.

9 Item 5 is staff's recommendation to suspend
10 the final requested rates of Florida Public
11 Utilities Company and to approve a total interim
12 rate increase of \$1.8 million requested by the
13 company.

14 The interim rates should be effective for all
15 meter readings on or after 30 days from the
16 Commission vote. Staff will provide a final
17 recommendation on the requested permanent rate
18 increase at a later conference agenda.

19 Participation is at the discretion of the
20 Commission. I believe the parties are here to
21 address the Commission.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Well, thank you
23 for the summary.

24 Seeing no parties. Staff?

25 MS. CRAWFORD: Correct, there is -- parties

1 are in the auditorium but are not currently seated
2 to address the Commission. I think we can proceed
3 with the item.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Thank you.

5 Commissioners, is there questions or
6 discussions? Questions or discussions on Item No.
7 5?

8 Commissioner Clark.

9 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't know what to ask
10 now, Mr. Chairman, but I know that I need to ask
11 something.

12 So there is a proposed stipulation. Are we
13 considering that proposed stipulation at this point
14 in time, or is that off the table?

15 MS. CRAWFORD: Yesterday, the Office of Public
16 Counsel did provide some proposed stipulated
17 language for Issue 5 of this item. Staff does not
18 agree with that language, and I see Public Counsel
19 is now at the bench, and perhaps can address with
20 the Commission's approval.

21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: But does that -- but my
22 question is, are we considering that stipulation
23 today? Is that even part of what we are --
24 that's --

25 MS. CRAWFORD: Yeah, staff's position is we

1 agree with the current recommendation. We do not
2 agree with the proposed language. If Public
3 Counsel wishes to speak in support of that
4 language, it can do so if the Commission is
5 agreeable to allowing them to participate. But we
6 are not proposing that language -- or not
7 supporting that language. But, yes, the -- it
8 needs to be voted on today.

9 COMMISSIONER CLARK: The proposed stipulation
10 does need to be voted on, that's what you are
11 saying. I don't see that as --

12 MR. BAEZ: Almost by default is really what --

13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I'm getting different
14 answers here.

15 MS. HELTON: Can I make a stab at it?

16 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, please.

17 MS. HELTON: The stipulation was forwarded to
18 us by email at 5:39 yesterday, and it was forwarded
19 just to some of the staff members. It was not
20 filed in the docket file. As I understand it,
21 there has been no formal request for the Commission
22 to approve the stipulation.

23 So in answer to your question, Commissioner, I
24 don't believe that it's before you to vote on. I
25 believe that you can just vote on the

1 recommendation, unless the -- OPC and the utility
2 request something different from you now, but I
3 don't believe that it's formally before you.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: So Items 1 through 9 are
5 unchanged as recommended by staff --

6 MS. CRAWFORD: Correct.

7 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: -- is what we are
8 discussing now.

9 Okay. I do see OPC at the table. Is there
10 anything that you would like to say, or --

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: Chairman, respectfully, due
12 to the opposition by staff, we withdrew the, and
13 never officially filed the attempted stipulation,
14 so it's not before you.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Okay. So I think that
16 clears everything up.

17 So we are on -- so we are on -- just a
18 reminder, we are on Item No. 5, Issues 1 through 9
19 as recommended by staff, nothing has changed.

20 Is there questions or is their discussion?

21 Seeing none, I will --

22 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Move to approve the item,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent.

25 COMMISSIONER FAY: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Hearing a first -- hearing
2 a motion and hearing a second.

3 All those in favor signify by saying yay.
4 (Chorus of yays.)

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yay. Show that Item No. 5
6 is approved.

7 All right. Simple enough that that concludes
8 any of the items that are before us today.

9 Just a quick recognition that Commissioner
10 Graham's absence is excused. I hope that all is
11 well and he is feeling better soon.

12 I also want to acknowledge that a lot of us,
13 many of us in the audience are wearing pink, of
14 course, many of us up here, for Breast Cancer
15 Awareness Month. That was something we do on an
16 annual basis, but I do want to thank Commissioner
17 Graham for reminding and making sure that that
18 notice was sent out, and that we all partake if we
19 could. So thank you all for those that are
20 partaking in this today and throughout the month.

21 If there is no other further business before
22 us, show that this Agenda item is -- or this Agenda
23 meeting is adjourned.

24 Thank you.

25 (Agenda item concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER


STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 14th day of October, 2024.


DEBRA R. KRICK
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH575054
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028