

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Fuel and Purchased Power ) DOCKET NO. 900001-EI  
Cost Recovery Clause and ) ORDER NO. 23640  
Generating Performance Incentive ) ISSUED: 10-19-90  
Factor. )  
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ORDER REGARDING FPL'S REQUEST FOR  
CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF JULY, 1990 FORMS 423

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, has requested specified confidential treatment of various columns of the following FPSC Forms 423-1(a):

<u>MONTH/YEAR</u>	<u>FORM</u>	<u>DOCUMENT NO.</u>
July 1990	423-1(a)	8233-90

FPL has requested specified confidential classification of lines 1, 6-40 of columns H, Invoice Price; I, Invoice Amount; J, Discount; K, Net Amount; L, Net Price; M, Quality Adjustment; N, Effective Purchase Price; P, Additional Transportation Charges, and Q, Other Charges; and lines 2-5 of columns H, I, K, L, N, and R, Delivered Price, on Form 423-1(a). FPL argues that column H, Invoice Price, contains contractual information which, if made public, would impair its efforts to contract for goods or services on favorable terms pursuant to Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. The information, FPL maintains, delineates the price that FPL has paid for No. 6 fuel oil per barrel for specific shipments from specific suppliers. If disclosed, this information would allow suppliers to compare an individual supplier's price with the market quote for that date of delivery and thereby determine the contract pricing formula between FPL and that supplier.

Contract pricing formulas typically contain two components: a mark-up in the market quoted price for that day and a transportation charge for delivery at an FPL chosen port of delivery. Disclosure of the invoice price would allow suppliers to determine the contract price formula of their competitors. FPL contends that the knowledge of each other's

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prices (i.e. contract formulas) among No. 6 fuel oil suppliers is reasonably likely to cause suppliers to converge on a target price, or follow a price leader, thereby effectively eliminating any opportunity for a major buyer, like FPL, to use its market presence to gain price concessions from any one supplier. As a result, FPL contends, No. 6 fuel prices will likely increase resulting in increased electric rates. Once other suppliers learn of a price concession, the conceding supplier will be forced, due to the oligopolistic nature of the market, to withdraw from future concessions. Disclosure of the invoice price of No. 6 fuel oil paid by FPL to specific fuel suppliers, FPL concludes, is reasonably likely to impair FPL's ability to negotiate price concessions in future No. 6 fuel oil contracts.

FPL argues that columns I, Invoice Amount; J, Discount; K, Net Amount; L, Net Price; M, Quality Adjustment; and N, Effective Purchase Price, should be classified confidential because of the contract data found therein are an algebraic function of column H; the publication of these columns together, or independently, FPL argues, could allow suppliers to derive the invoice price of oil. In addition, the same lines in column J reveal the existence and amount of an early payment incentive in the form of a discount reduction in the invoice price, the disclosure of which would allow suppliers again to derive the invoice price of oil. Further, column M includes a pricing term, a quality adjustment applied when fuel does not meet contract requirements, which, if disclosed, would also allow a supplier to derive the invoice price. Column N reveals the existence of quality or discount adjustments and will typically, FPL contends, be identical to H. Columns P, Additional Charges; and Q, Other Charges; FPL also argues, are algebraic variables of column R, Delivered Price; and would allow a supplier to calculate the Invoice or Effective Purchase Price of oil by subtracting the columnar variables in H and N from column R. They are, therefore, entitled to confidential classification. Both columns P and Q, FPL argues, are alternatively entitled to confidential classification in that they contain terminaling, transportation, and petroleum inspection service costs which, due to the small demand for them in Florida, have the same, if not more severe, oligopolistic attributes as have fuel oil suppliers. Accordingly, FPL contends, disclosure of this contract data would result in increased prices to FPL for terminaling, transportation, and petroleum inspection service



costs. We find that, due to oligopolistic nature of the terminaling, transportation, and petroleum inspection service markets, disclosure would ultimately aversely affect FPL's ratepayers.

FPL further argues that columns H, I, K, L, N, and R is contractual information which, if made public, would impair FPL's efforts to contract for goods or services on favorable terms pursuant to Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. The information indicates the price FPL has paid for No. 2 fuel oil per barrel for specific shipments from specific suppliers. No. 2 fuel oil is purchased through the bidding process. At the request of No. fuel oil suppliers, FPL has agreed not to publicly disclose any supplier's bid. This non-disclosure agreement, FPL argues, protects both the bidding suppliers and FPL's ratepayers. If the No. 2 fuel oil prices were disclosed, FPL argues, the range of bids would narrow toward the last winning bid eliminating the possibility that one supplier might, based on its economic situation, submit a bid substantially lower than the other suppliers. FPL argue that non-disclosure protects a supplier from divulging any economic advantage that that supplier may have that the others have not discovered. FPL also argues that it protects the ratepayers by providing a non-public bidding procedure resulting in a greater variation in the range of bids that would otherwise not be available if the bids, or the winning bid itself, were to be publicly disclosed. We agree. We find, therefore, the above information is entitled to confidential treatment.

DECLASSIFICATION

FPL further requests the following proposed declassification dates which have been determined by adding six months to the last day of the contract period under which the goods or services identified were purchased:

<u>FORM</u>	<u>LINE(S)</u>	<u>COLUMN(S)</u>	<u>DATE</u>
423-1(a)	1	H - N	01-26-91
423-1(a)	6-12	H - N	06-30-91
423-1(a)	14	H - N	01-14-91
423-1(a)	17-23	H - N	10-30-92
423-1(a)	24	H - N	01-01-91
423-1(a)	25-26	H - N	01-02-91

<u>FORM</u>	<u>LINE(S)</u>	<u>COLUMN(S)</u>	<u>DATE</u>
423-1(a)	13, 27, 29	H - N	01-04-91
423-1(a)	28	H - N	01-18-91
423-1(a)	30-31	H - N	01-10-91
423-1(a)	32	H - N	01-12-91
423-1(a)	15, 33	H - N	01-16-91
423-1(a)	34	H - N	01-19-91
423-1(a)	35	H - N	01-21-91
423-1(a)	16, 36	H - N	01-22-91
423-1(a)	37	H - N	01-20-91
423-1(a)	38	H - N	01-24-91
423-1(a)	39-40	H - N	01-26-91
423-1(a)	1, 6-40	P	12-31-92
423-1(a)	1, 6-40	Q	02-28-92
423-1(a)	2-5	H, I, K, L, N, R	03-01-92

FPL requests that the confidential information identified above not be disclosed until the identified date of declassification. Disclosure of pricing information, FPL argues, during the contract period or prior to the negotiation of a new contract is reasonably likely to impair FPL's ability to negotiate future contracts as described above.

FPL maintains that it typically renegotiates its No. 6 fuel oil contracts and fuel related services contracts prior to the end of such contracts. On occasion, however, some contracts are not renegotiated, until after the end of the current contract period. In those instances, the contracts are usually renegotiated within six months. Accordingly, FPL states, it is necessary to maintain the confidentiality of the information identified as confidential on FPL's Form 423-1(a) for six months. We agree. We find, therefore, FPL information is entitled to an extension of its declassification dates as cited above.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that Florida Power & Light Company's request for confidential classification of lines 1, 6-40 of columns H, I, J, K, L, M, N, P and Q, and lines 2-5 of columns H, I, K, L, N, and R on Form 423-1(a) for July, 1990, the document identified as DN 8233-90 is granted. It is further

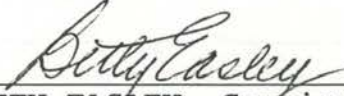


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ORDERED that Florida Power & Light Company's request for the declassification dates included in the text of this order are granted. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 14 days of the date of this order it will be resolved by the appropriate Commission panel pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(3)(d), Florida Administrative Code.

By ORDER of Commissioner Betty Easley, as Prehearing Officer, this 19th day of OCTOBER, 1990.

  
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BETTY EASLEY, Commissioner  
and Prehearing Officer

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