

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of a late)	DOCKET NO. 900876-EI
payment charge and a field collection)	
charge by Florida Power & Light Company)	ORDER NO. 24271
)	
)	ISSUED: 3/21/91

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

THOMAS M. BEARD, Chairman
 J. TERRY DEASON
 BETTY EASLEY
 GERALD L. GUNTER
 MICHAEL MCK. WILSON

ORDER APPROVING LATE PAYMENT AND FIELD COLLECTION CHARGES

BY THE COMMISSION:

In Order No. 23895, issued on December 18, 1990, we suspended Florida Power & Light Company's (FPL's) proposed tariff concerning charges for late payment of utility bills and field collection. We now approve the tariff as revised by the utility.

Late Payment Charge

On October 16, 1990, FPL filed a petition requesting approval of a late payment charge and a field collection charge. The utility proposed a late payment charge of 1.5% of delinquent balances, with a charge of 1% to state agencies pursuant to Section 215.422, Florida Statutes. FPL indicated that approximately 26 percent of its Residential/Commercial/Industrial accounts and 43 percent of its Governmental accounts were 30 days past due on an average monthly basis. We agree with FPL that a late payment charge will more properly collect the costs of unpaid balances from those customers who do not pay their bills on time. The charge should also encourage prompt payment of bills, thus reducing expenses associated with late payments. In addition, we decided that counties and municipalities should not be exempt from assessment of a late payment charge.

We approved FPL's proposed late payment charge, which was shown in FPL's Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 4.020. Shortly thereafter, FPL petitioned for a revision to its newly approved Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 4.020 to specify that the late payment charge applied to the accounts of federal, state, and local

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governmental entities, agencies, and instrumentalities would be a rate no greater than allowed, and in a manner permitted, by applicable law. We agree with the utility that applicable law must determine the percentage rate and timing of late payment charges which may be assessed against federal, state, and local governmental entities. We previously approved the original late payment charge contained in FPL's Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 4.020. In lieu of issuing a separate order approving the Eleventh Revised Sheet, we now approve the revised late payment charge, contained in FPL's Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 4.020.

Field Collection Charge

The Field Collection Charge would apply when a utility representative is dispatched and payment is collected on a delinquent account. The charge would not apply if service is disconnected or a current receipt for payment is shown at the time of the field visit. We approve the field collection charge of \$5.50, which will help FPL recover the collection cost from the customer who caused the cost.

It is therefore

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Florida Power & Light Company's Eleventh and Twelfth Revised Sheets No. 4.020 are hereby approved, with an effective date of April 8, 1991 for the Twelfth Revised Sheet. It is further

ORDERED that this docket be closed if no petition for a formal proceeding is timely filed herein.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 21st
day of MARCH, 1991.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), 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.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting at his office at 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on April 11, 1991.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this Order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or sewer utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting 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 of the date this Order becomes final, 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.

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FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

~~Eleventh~~ Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 4.020
 Cancels ~~Tenth~~ Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 4.020

SERVICE CHARGES

A \$16.00 service charge will be made for an initial connection.

A \$19.00 service charge will be made for the reconnection of service after disconnection for nonpayment or violation of a rule or regulation.

A \$16.00 service charge will be made for the connection of an existing account.

A service charge of \$15 or 5% of the amount of the check, whichever is greater, shall be added to the customer's bill for electric service for each check dishonored by the bank upon which it is drawn. Termination of service shall not be made for failure to pay the returned check charge.

Charges for services due and rendered which are unpaid as of the past due date are subject to a Late Payment Charge. ~~The Late Payment Charge will be of 1.5% applied to any past due of the unpaid balance still showing as past due at the time of the next billing cycle for all accounts, except the accounts of State of Florida agencies (federal, state, and local governmental entities, agencies, and instrumentalities). In accordance with Florida Statutes, a Late Payment Charge of 4% shall be applied to the accounts of the unpaid balance showing as past due for two or more billing cycles shall apply for State of Florida agencies (federal, state, and local governmental entities, agencies, and instrumentalities) at a rate no greater than allowed, and in a manner permitted, by applicable law.~~

A \$5.50 Field Collection Charge will be added to a customer's bill for electric service when a field visit is made and payment is collected on a delinquent account. If service is disconnected, or a current receipt of payment is shown at the time of the field visit, this charge will not be applied.

CONSERVATION INSPECTIONS AND SERVICES

Residential Dwelling Units:

A charge of \$15.00 will be made for energy audit inspections.

Commercial/Industrial (less than 21 KW Demand):

A charge of \$15.00 will be made for Customers whose demand is less than 21 kw for the performance of a conservation audit as described on Tariff Sheet No. 9.450.

Commercial/Industrial (21 KW Demand or Greater):

A charge of \$2.00 per kw of average demand (based upon the Customer's recorded demand for the previous twelve months but not to exceed \$4000.00) will be made for Customers whose average demand is at least 21 kw for the performance of an energy survey as described on Tariff Sheet 9.460. A refund of the charge is provided to the extent the customer demonstrates, within twenty-four months of the date of the Energy Survey Agreement, that capital improvements recommended have been implemented. The amount of the refund will be the cost of the capital improvements installed by the customer not to exceed the original charge less \$15.00.

Issued by: W. H. Brunetti, Executive Vice President
 Effective:

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FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Tenth ~~Eleventh~~ Revised Sheet No. 4.020
Cancels Ninth ~~Tenth~~ Revised Sheet No. 4.020

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Charges for services due and rendered which are unpaid as of the past due date are subject to a Late Payment Charge. The Late Payment Charge will be 1.5% of the unpaid balance still showing as past due at the time of the next billing cycle for all accounts except the accounts of State of Florida agencies. In accordance with Florida Statutes, a Late Payment Charge of 1% of the unpaid balance showing as past due for two or more billing cycles shall apply for State of Florida agencies.

A \$5.50 Field Collection Charge will be added to a customer's bill for electric service when a field visit is made and payment is collected on a delinquent account. If service is disconnected, or a current receipt of payment is shown at the time of the field visit, this charge will not be applied.

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Issued by: W. H. Brunetti, Executive Vice President
Effective: July 9, 1990