

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Fuel and purchased power cost recovery clause and generating performance incentive factor.

DOCKET NO. 000001-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-00-2325-CFO-EI
ISSUED: December 5, 2000

ORDER GRANTING FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF PORTIONS OF ITS OCTOBER, 1999 FORM 423-1(a) (DOCUMENT NO. 00589-00)

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 for its 423-1(a) Forms for the month of October, 1999. This request for confidential classification was filed on January 13, 2000. The confidential information is filed with the Commission as Document No. 00589-00.

FPL asserts that disclosure of this information to suppliers would impair the ability of FPL to negotiate future fuel and transportation contracts on favorable terms. As such, FPL contends that the information contained in its October, 1999, 423 Forms constitutes "proprietary confidential business information" entitled to protection from disclosure pursuant to Section 366.093(1) and (3)(d), Florida Statutes.

INFORMATION FOR WHICH CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION IS SOUGHT

FPL requests that the information contained in the following table represents justification for confidentiality for its October, 1999, report, and should be granted confidential classification because this information is contractual information which, if made public "would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes.

TABLE 1: 423-1A

LINE(S)	COLUMN(S)
1-24	H-N, P & Q

FPL maintains that the information listed in column H delineates the price per barrel that FPL has paid for fuel oil for specific shipments from specific suppliers. Specifically, FPL contends that this information contains the price it has paid for No. 6 fuel oil per barrel for specific shipments from specific

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suppliers. According to FPL, disclosure of 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. As such, FPL asserts that disclosure of the invoice price would allow suppliers to determine the contract price formula of their competitors. According to FPL, the knowledge of each others' prices for No. 6 fuel oil is reasonably likely to cause the suppliers to converge on a target price, or to follow a price leader. FPL claims that this would effectively eliminate any opportunity for a major buyer like FPL to use its market presence to gain price concessions from any one supplier. The end result, FPL contends, is reasonably likely to be increased No. 6 fuel oil prices and, therefore, increased electric rates.

FPL contends that the information contained in Form 423-1(a), lines 1-24, columns H-N, P and Q is entitled to confidential classification. The data found in Columns I through N are an algebraic function of Column H. FPL asserts that publication of these columns together or independently could allow a supplier to derive the invoice price of oil. According to FPL, the existence and amount of such discount should be confidential for the reasons stated above relative to price concessions. With respect to the information contained in Form 423-1(a), lines 1-24, column M, FPL asserts that for fuel that does not meet contract requirements, it may reject the shipment, or accept the shipment and apply a quality adjustment. FPL asserts that this is, in effect, a pricing term which is as important as the price itself and is therefore confidential for the reasons stated above relative to price concessions.

FPL asserts that the information contained in Form 423-1(a), lines 1-24, column N is as important as H from a confidentiality standpoint because of the relatively few times that there are quality or discount adjustments. FPL contends that column N will equal column H most of the time. Consequently, FPL contends, column N should be granted confidential classification for the same reasons as column H is granted confidential classification.

FPL requests that the information contained in Form 423-1(a), lines 1-24, columns P and Q, be granted confidential classification. Column R is used to mask the delivered price of fuel such that the invoice or effective price of fuel cannot be

determined. Columns P and Q are algebraic variables of column R. As a result, FPL asserts that disclosure of columns P and Q would allow a supplier to calculate the invoice or effective purchase price of oil contained in columns H and N discussed above by subtracting these columnar variables from column R. Columns P and Q also contain terminaling and transportation service information. FPL asserts that these services in Florida tend to be as oligopolistic, if not more so, than the services of fuel suppliers. FPL maintains that disclosure of this contract information is reasonably likely to result in increased prices for terminaling and transportation services.

FPL requests that the No. 6 fuel oil data be granted confidential classification. FPL requests confidential classification for this information because it is contractual information as well as information that can adversely impact FPL's ability to procure No. 6 fuel oil, terminaling and transportation service, and petroleum inspection services. According to FPL, this is because the markets in which FPL, as a buyer, must procure No. 6 fuel oil, terminaling and transportation services, and fuel inspection services are oligopolistic. FPL asserts that as a substantial buyer in an oligopolistic market, it may obtain price concessions not available to other buyers, and the disclosure of such concessions would end them, resulting in higher prices to FPL.

REQUESTED DATE(S) OF DECLASSIFICATION

FPL seeks protection from disclosure of the confidential information identified in the following table.

LINE(S)	COLUMN(S)	DATE
1-2	H-N, P & Q	01/13/02
3-4	H-N, P & Q	07/31/00
5-6	H-N, P & Q	01/13/02
7-8	H-N, P & Q	04/30/00
9-11	H-N, P & Q	04/30/00
12-17	H-N, P & Q	04/30/00
18-19	H-N, P & Q	04/30/00
20-24	H-N, P & Q	04/30/00

FPL requests that the information identified above not be disclosed until the identified date of declassification. FPL claims that it reached the dates of declassification by adding six months to the last day of the contract period under which the goods or services identified on Form 423-1(a) were purchased. FPL contends that disclosure of pricing information 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 typically renegotiates its No. 6 fuel oil contracts and fuel-related services contracts prior to the end of such contracts. However, FPL maintains that on occasion, some contracts are not renegotiated until after the end of the current contract period. In those circumstances, FPL asserts that the contracts are typically renegotiated within six months. As a consequence, FPL states that it is necessary to maintain the confidentiality of the information identified as confidential on FPL's Form 423-1(a) for six months after the end of the individual contract period to which the information relates.

FPL requests that information on the No. 6 fuel oil price contained on Form 423-1(a) for oil that was not purchased pursuant to an already existing contract be kept confidential for six months after the delivery. FPL requests this because the terms of the agreement under which this type of oil is purchased are fulfilled on delivery. FPL maintains that the information requires an extra six months because it is the minimum amount of time necessary for gaining price concessions during seasonal fluctuations in the demand for No. 6 fuel oil. FPL asserts that disclosure of this information any sooner than six months after completion of the transaction is reasonably likely to impair FPL's ability to negotiate such purchases.

CONCLUSION

Upon review, it appears that FPL is entitled to confidential classification of the information contained in Document No. 00589-00 for the periods described under the section entitled Declassification above. FPL has requested confidential classification for fuel pricing and fuel adjustment information. This appears to be contractual and bid information the public disclosure of which "would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of

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this information could lead to higher fuel prices and, as a result, higher rates.

Therefore, FPL's request for confidential classification of information contained in its October, 1999, Form 423-1(a) Document No. 00589-00 is granted. Good cause having been shown, the information for which confidential classification has been granted shall not be declassified until the dates requested by FPL and discussed within the body of this Order.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Lila A. Jaber, as Prehearing Officer, that Florida Power & Light Company's request for confidential classification for portions of Document Number 00589-00 is granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the confidential information identified in Florida Power and Light Company's Form 423-1(a) for October, 1999, shall be granted confidential classification until the declassification dates discussed within the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that this Order will be the only notification by the Commission to the parties concerning the expiration of the confidentiality time period.

By ORDER of Commissioner Lila A. Jaber, as Prehearing Officer, this 5th day of December, 2000.


LILA A. JABER
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), 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.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; (2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or (3) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.