

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of storm cost recovery clause for recovery of extraordinary expenditures related to Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Jeanne, and Ivan, by Progress Energy Florida, Inc.

DOCKET NO. 041272-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-05-0237-CFO-EI
ISSUED: March 2, 2005

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION
(DOCUMENT NO. 13600-04)

On December 29, 2004, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, Progress Energy Florida, Inc. (PEF) filed a request for confidential classification of portions of its response to Staff's First Request for Production of Documents (Document No. 13600-04).

Section 366.093(1), Florida Statutes, provides that "any records received by the commission which are shown and found by the commission to be proprietary confidential business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from [the Public Records Act]." Section 366.093(3), Florida Statutes, defines proprietary confidential business information as information that is intended to be and is treated by the company as private, in that disclosure of the information would cause harm to the company's ratepayers or business operations, and has not been voluntarily disclosed to the public. Section 366.093(3), Florida Statutes, provides that proprietary confidential business information includes, but is not limited to "[i]nformation concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms" (subsection d).

PEF contends that portions of its response to Request No. 1 of Staff's First Request for Production of Documents fall within these categories and thus constitute proprietary confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code. PEF states that portions of its response to Request No. 1, specifically portions of Bates Stamp Page Nos. PEF-SR-02195 through PEF-SR-08610 and PEF-SR-08927 through PEF-SR-09009, contain contracts that PEF has with certain third parties. PEF contends that this information contains competitive confidential pricing information of third-party contractors. PEF states that it negotiates with third-party contractors to obtain competitive contracts for various goods and services that provide economic value to PEF and its ratepayers. PEF asserts that it must be able to assure those contractors that sensitive business information, such as the pricing terms of their contracts, will be kept confidential. According to PEF, the disclosure of pricing information in its contracts would adversely impact PEF's competitive business interests. PEF asserts that if such information was disclosed to PEF's competitors or other potential contractors, PEF's efforts to obtain competitive contracts would be compromised. PEF states that this information is intended to be and is treated by PEF as private and has not been publicly disclosed.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Upon review, it appears that the above-referenced information contained in PEF's response to Staff's First Request for Production of Documents, No. 1, satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3), Florida Statutes, for classification as proprietary confidential business information and, thus, shall be treated as confidential. The information constitutes "[i]nformation concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Thus, this information is granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 366.093(4), Florida Statutes, the information for which confidential classification is granted herein shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of 18 months from the date of issuance of this order. At the conclusion of the 18 month period, the confidential information will no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, unless PEF or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.


Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Charles M. Davidson, as Prehearing Officer, that Progress Energy Florida, Inc.'s Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 13600-04 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 13600-04 for which confidential classification has been granted shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of 18 months from the date of issuance of this order. It is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be the only notification by the Commission to the parties of the date of declassification of the materials discussed herein.

By ORDER of Commissioner Charles M. Davidson, as Prehearing Officer, this 2nd day of March, 2005.



CHARLES M. DAVIDSON
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; or (2) 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 the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 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.