

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Peoples Gas System.

DOCKET NO. 080318-GU
ORDER NO. PSC-09-0558-CFO-GU
ISSUED: August 12, 2009

ORDER GRANTING PEOPLE GAS SYSTEM'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION AND MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
PROTECTIVE ORDER (DOCUMENT NO. 01662-09)

On March 2, 2009, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Peoples Gas System (PGS) filed a request for confidential classification and motion for protective order with respect to documents produced pursuant to Staff's First Request for Production of Documents, No. 2 (Staff POD No. 2) and OPC's Office of Public Counsel's (OPC) Second Request for Production of Documents, No. 69 (OPC POD No. 69) in Docket No. 080317-EI, involving the petition for rate increase by Tampa Electric Company (TECO).¹ These documents have been requested by Staff for inclusion in the above-referenced docket (Document No. 01662-09).

Request for Confidential Classification

Section 366.093(1), F.S., 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 Section 119.07(1), F.S., Florida's Public Records Act." Section 366.093(3), F.S., 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)(d) and (e), F.S., provides that proprietary confidential business information includes, but is not limited to, information 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; and information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.

PGS contends that certain information contained in Category No. 2 of TECO's Response to Staff's First Request for Production of Documents, as well as Category No. 69 of TECO's Response to OPC's Second Request for Production of Documents, as more specifically described in the table in Attachment A, falls within these categories and, thus, constitutes proprietary confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. PGS states that the information consists of a research document prepared by an investment bank or similar financial institution. In particular, Category No. 2 of TECO's Response to Staff's First Request for Production of Documents contains investment bank analyst

¹ Order No. PSC-09-0045-CFO-EI, issued January 20, 2009, in Docket No. 080317-EI, In re: Petition for rate increase by Tampa Electric Company.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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presentations to TECO concerning financial valuation analysis and strategic business alternatives while Category No. 69 of TECO's Response to OPC's Second Request for Production of Documents involves presentations made by TECO Energy, Inc., the parent company of TECO, or TECO to rating agencies and/or investment firms. PGS further states that this information is intended to be and is treated by PGS as private and has not been publicly disclosed. None of the documentation discussed herein contains any information regarding the compensation of either TECO or PGS executives.

Upon review, it appears the above-referenced information satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The information constitutes proprietary confidential business information which includes, but is not limited to, trade secrets; information 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; and information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information. Thus, the information identified in Document No. 01662-09 shall be granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 366.093(4), F.S., 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), F.S., unless PGS or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.

Motion for Temporary Protective Order

PGS also seeks protection of the documents as provided in Section 366.093(2), F.S., and Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C. Section 366.093(2), F.S., directs that all records produced pursuant to a discovery request for which proprietary confidential status is requested shall be treated by any party subject to the public records law as confidential and exempt from the public records law, Section 119.07(1), F.S. Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C., codifies the Commission's policy regarding the protection of confidential information from public disclosure during the discovery process in a manner that is not overly burdensome to both parties. Rule 25-22.006(6)(a), F.A.C., in pertinent part, states:

In any formal proceeding before the Commission, any utility or other person may request a protective order protecting proprietary confidential business information from discovery. Upon a showing by a utility or other person and a finding by the Commission that the material is entitled to protection, the Commission shall enter a protective order limiting discovery in the manner provided for in Rule 1.280, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

In addition, Rule 25-22.006(6)(c), F.A.C., states that if a party allows OPC to inspect or take possession of utility information, then that "utility may request a temporary protective order exempting the information from section 119.07(1), F.S."

Upon consideration, PGS's Motion for Temporary Protective Order is granted. PGS has demonstrated that the material is proprietary confidential business information. Accordingly, this information will be protected from disclosure pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Nathan A. Skop, as Prehearing Officer, that Peoples Gas System's Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 01662-09 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 01662-09 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. It is further

ORDERED that the Motion for Temporary Protective Order filed by Peoples Gas System is granted.

By ORDER of Commissioner Nathan A. Skop, as Prehearing Officer, this 12th day of August, 2009.



NATHAN A. SKOP
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer

(SEAL)

CMK/skw

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 Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, 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.

Attachment A

DOCUMENT	PAGE	DETAILED DESCRIPTION
TECO's Response to Staff's First Request for Production of Documents in Docket No. 080317-EI, No. 2	40-124; 245-284; 326-359; 391-454; 466-514; 743-762; 1188-1234; 1301-1365; 1553-1609; 1784-1812	Investment bank analyst presentations to TECO concerning financial valuation analysis and strategic business alternatives.
TECO's Response to OPC's Second Request for Production of Documents in Docket No. 080317-EI, No. 69	269-428; 458-502; 532-574; 604-683	Presentations made by TECO Energy, Inc. or TECO to rating agencies and/or investment firms.