

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of assumption of special contract with JDC Development, LLC by the Florida Division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation.

DOCKET NO. 130136-GU
ORDER NO. PSC-13-0330-CFO-GU
ISSUED: July 19, 2013

ORDER GRANTING THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF
CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION'S REQUEST
FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION (DOCUMENT NO. 04109-13)

On July 17, 2013, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the Florida Division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (Chesapeake) filed its request for confidential classification of a portion of its response to Florida Public Service Commission Staff's (Staff) Second Data Request 4(d) (Document No. 04109-13).

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) [the 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. Sections 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S., provide 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" and "[i]nformation relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information."

Chesapeake contends that designated portions of its response to Staff's Second Data Request 4(d) fall within these categories and, thus, constitute proprietary confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. Chesapeake states that the highlighted portions of its response to Staff's Second Data Request 4(d) contain a revision to Chesapeake's cost of service study using its most recent actual/remaining estimates for "Monthly Rate per Special Contract", "Annual Revenues" and "Annual Revenue Excess (Deficiency)" amounts. Chesapeake states that this information is intended to be and is treated by Chesapeake as private and has not been publicly disclosed.

Chesapeake asserts that disclosure of this information would negatively impact Chesapeake's and Peninsula Pipeline Company's business operations, as well as ratepayers, by impairing their respective ability to negotiate favorable pricing in the future for goods and services.

Time Period For Confidential Classification

Chesapeake requests confidential classification for this information for a period of 18 months. According to Section 366.093(4), F.S., confidential classification may only extend for 18 months from the issuance of an Order granting confidential classification unless “the Commission finds, for good cause, that the protection from disclosure shall be for a specified longer period.”

Ruling

Upon review, it appears the above-referenced information satisfies the criteria set forth in Sections 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The information constitutes contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility to contract for goods or services on favorable terms as well as information whose disclosure would adversely impact the competitive interests of the utility. Thus, the information identified in Document No. 04109-13 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 Chesapeake 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 Art Graham, as Prehearing Officer, that the Florida Division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation’s Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 04109-13 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 04109-13 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 Art Graham, as Prehearing Officer, this 19th day of
July, 2013.


ART GRAHAM
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 413-6770
www.floridapsc.com

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

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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 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.