

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of modification to
standard interconnection agreements contained
in tariffs, by Florida Power & Light Company.

DOCKET NO. 130225-EQ
ORDER NO. PSC-14-0059-PAA-EQ
ISSUED: January 27, 2014

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

ART GRAHAM, Chairman
LISA POLAK EDGAR
RONALD A. BRISÉ
EDUARDO E. BALBIS
JULIE I. BROWN

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER APPROVING
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY'S PERMANENT WAIVER
OF PORTION OF RULE 25-6.065(6)(A), F.A.C., AND
MODIFICATIONS TO STANDARD INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

CASE BACKGROUND

In 2002, the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) promulgated Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C., referred to henceforth as "the rule," concerning the interconnection of small photovoltaic systems of investor-owned utilities (IOUs). In 2008, the Commission substantially revised and expanded the rule, which now addresses the interconnection and net metering of customer-owned renewable generation. The revised rule provides the terms and conditions for all customers owning renewable generation systems up to 2 Megawatts (MW) to interconnect with the grid, and allows these systems to be net metered, wherein they receive credit for the energy they deliver to the grid. Subsection (3) of the rule requires each investor-owned utility in Florida to file a tariff with the Commission allowing for customer-owned renewable generation.

On August 22, 2013, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) filed a "Petition for Approval of Modification to Standard Interconnection Agreement." On October 25, 2013, FPL filed an amended petition for approval of modification to standard interconnection agreements and for permanent rule waiver pursuant to Section 120.542, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 28-104.002, F.A.C. In its petition, FPL requested authority to make five changes:

- 1) A waiver of the portion of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., that requires customers to locate the manual disconnect switch on renewable generation systems adjacent to the meter;
- 2) A provision that allows the manual disconnect switch to be placed in a location not adjacent to the meter if proper noticing requirements are met;
- 3) Elimination of the manual disconnect switch requirement on UL 1741 compliant inverter-based customer-owned renewable generation systems;
- 4) Modification of the indemnity and insurance provisions in order to eliminate conflicts with statutory limitations on government authority; and
- 5) Inclusion of the "Gross Power Rating" definition in the Standard Interconnect Agreements to make the definition readily accessible to customers and reduce the errors in the application process.

Notice of FPL's permanent waiver request was published in the Florida Administrative Weekly on October 30, 2013. No written comments were received and the time for filing such has expired. On October 31, 2013, our staff requested additional information from FPL regarding several aspects of the waiver request. Our staff received FPL's responses on November 15, 2013. Pursuant to Section 120.542(8), F.S., a determination on FPL's waiver request must be made by February 13, 2014.¹

We have jurisdiction pursuant to Sections 120.542, 350.127, 366.02, 366.04, 366.041, 366.05, 366.81, 366.82, 366.91 and 366.92, F.S., and Rule 28-104.002, F.A.C.

DECISION

I. FPL's Request for Permanent Waiver of Portion of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C.

Pursuant to Section 120.542, F.S., and Rule 28-104.002, F.A.C., a person affected by a Commission rule may petition the Commission for a waiver of that rule. Section 120.542, F.S., authorizes us to grant variances or waivers to the requirements of our rules where the person subject to the rules has demonstrated that the underlying purpose of the statute has been or will be achieved by other means, and strict application of the rules would cause the person substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness. "Substantial hardship" as defined in this section may include a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance or waiver.

¹ Section 120.542(8), F.S., states, "An agency shall grant or deny a petition for variance or waiver within 90 days after receipt of the original petition, the last item of timely requested additional material, or the petitioner's written request to finish processing the petition."

On August 22, 2013, FPL filed a petition for approval of modifications to its Standard Interconnection Agreements (SIAs). One modification proposed by FPL was a provision concerning the placement of the manual disconnect switch (switch) of a customer-owned renewable generation system. FPL provided that, in the event FPL determined that it would be impractical from a safety or engineering design practice, the switch would be installed in a location on the customer's premises that was mutually agreed upon by FPL and the customer, and which met any applicable safety and design considerations. In the event the switch was mounted in a location not adjacent to the meter, FPL would also require that the customer install a permanent, weather-proof plaque adjacent to the FPL meter socket, indicating the location of the switch on the customer's premise.

Our staff conducted several informal conferences with FPL representatives to discuss certain questions and concerns of staff with regard to some of FPL's proposed modifications. Of particular concern was that the proposed provision permitting the manual disconnect switch to be mounted in a location other than adjacent to the meter socket did not appear to comply with Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., which states:

Each investor-owned utility's customer-owned renewable generation Standard Interconnection Agreement may require customers to install, at the customer's expense, a manual disconnect switch of the visible load break type to provide a separation point between the AC power output of the customer-owned renewable generation and any customer wiring connected to the investor-owned utility's system. Inverter-based Tier 1 customer-owned renewable generation systems shall be exempt from this requirement, unless the manual disconnect switch is installed at the investor-owned utility's expense. The manual disconnect switch shall be mounted separate from, but adjacent to, the meter socket and shall be readily accessible to the investor-owned utility and capable of being locked in the open position with a single investor-owned utility padlock.

During discussions with FPL, our staff inquired whether FPL had encountered circumstances that warranted the switch not being mounted adjacent to the meter socket. FPL responded that it had encountered such circumstances and currently had several renewable generation system customers with manual disconnect switches mounted in locations other than adjacent to the meter socket. Since FPL's current SIA requires the switch to be mounted adjacent to the meter socket, FPL required those customers whose systems included manual disconnect switches not mounted adjacent to the meter socket to sign a supplemental agreement² providing for the switch to be mounted apart from the FPL meter socket at a location agreed to by the customer and FPL.

² See, Document No. 07008-13 in Docket No. 130225-EQ, FPL Responses to Staff's First Data Requests, No. 9, Filed November 15, 2013, copies of the supplemental agreements executed by each FPL customer with a manual disconnect switch mounted in a location other than adjacent to the meter socket.

FPL explained that it did not install the renewable energy systems; rather, the customers installed the systems. It was not until after the systems were installed and the customer requested connection that FPL became aware of the switch location. Where the manual disconnect switch was not mounted adjacent to the meter socket, FPL engineers tried to avoid causing the customer to incur additional costs or adverse system impact. After reviewing each system, FPL engineers connected the customer's system, after ensuring that the manual disconnect switch was readily accessible, the customer installed signage at the meter providing the location of the switch, and the system met all safety and engineering design standards.

FPL Petition for Permanent Waiver of Portion of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a)

In its amended petition, FPL seeks a waiver of the portion of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., that requires customers to locate the manual disconnect switch of renewable generation systems adjacent to the meter socket. FPL asserts that the waiver of this requirement will promote customer renewable generation usage and reduce costs.

FPL states that each of the statutes implemented by the rule concerns renewable energy and reflects the intent of the Legislature to promote the development of renewable energy in Florida. Specifically, Section 366.81, F.S., sets out the Legislature's finding and intent, providing that "it is critical to utilize the most efficient and cost-effective demand-side renewable energy systems . . ." and "that the use of solar energy, renewable energy sources [and] highly efficient systems . . . be encouraged." FPL asserts that none of the statutes implemented by the rule require a customer-owned renewable system to have a manual disconnect switch, or dictate where the switch must be located. Rather, the Legislature left such matters to the expertise of the Commission for determination.

FPL asserts that strict compliance with the rule could create a substantial hardship for a range of FPL customers that wish to install renewable generation systems on their premises. For example, in order to comply with the rule, FPL customers who wish to install a renewable energy system in a high-rise building would have to run conductors a substantial distance from the roof to the ground floor to connect to a manual disconnect switch adjacent to the meter socket, and then to their AC wiring. In addition, other building configurations may require similar excessively long cable runs or alterations to the building structure, or may be impractical for safety or engineering reasons.³ In many circumstances, strict compliance with Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., results in increased installation costs for the customer. In addition, longer cable runs increase energy losses, reducing the customers' benefit gained from the renewable energy systems, and increasing their need to buy electricity from their local utility. These additional potential costs create a substantial hardship and may discourage some customers from installing renewable generation systems altogether.

³ See, Document No. 07008-13 in Docket No. 130225-EQ, FPL Responses to Staff's First Data Requests, Nos. 2 and 11, Filed November 15, 2013, and Document No. 07503-13, FPL Supplemental Responses to Staff's First Data Request No. 11, Filed December 18, 2013, providing information on each current or future FPL customer with a manual disconnect switch mounted in a location other than adjacent to the meter socket.

Purpose of Underlying Statute

Pursuant to Section 120.542, F.S., the petition must demonstrate that the purpose of the underlying statute will be, or has been, achieved by other means by the person. Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C., implements Sections 366.02, 366.04, 366.041, 366.05, 366.81, 366.82, 366.91 and 366.92, F.S., which govern and promote renewable energy in Florida.

During the 2005 session, the Florida Legislature enacted Section 366.91, F.S., requiring utilities to offer contracts for the purchase of renewable energy. Section 366.91(1), F.S., states:

The Legislature finds that it is in the public interest to promote the development of renewable energy resources in this state. Renewable energy resources have the potential to help diversify fuel types to meet Florida's growing dependency on natural gas for electric production, minimize the volatility of fuel costs, encourage investment within the state, improve environmental conditions, and make Florida a leader in new and innovative technologies.

Section 366.92, F.S., was enacted in 2006 to establish a renewable energy policy for Florida. Section 366.92(1), F.S., states:

It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the development of renewable energy; protect the economic viability of Florida's existing renewable energy facilities; diversify the types of fuel used to generate electricity in Florida; lessen Florida's dependence on natural gas and fuel oil for the production of electricity; minimize the volatility of fuel costs; encourage investment within the state; improve environmental conditions; and, at the same time, minimize the costs of power supply to electric utilities and their customers.

Section 366.91(5), F.S., was enacted in 2008, in order to direct public utilities to enact standardized agreements to allow net metering of customer-owned renewable energy generation. Section 366.91(5), F.S., states:

On or before January 1, 2009, each public utility shall develop a standardized interconnection agreement and net metering program for customer-owned renewable generation. The commission shall establish requirements relating to the expedited interconnection and net metering of customer-owned renewable generation by public utilities and may adopt rules to administer this section.

On March 18, 2008, we adopted Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. Prior to the rule's adoption, the location of manual disconnect switch was discussed at length by the Commission. Concerns discussed included that mounting the switch adjacent to the meter may not be practical in some instances due to safety or design reasons, locating the switch adjacent to meter may result in additional installation costs, and permitting the switch to be mounted in various locations may

result in safety and liability issues.⁴ Ultimately, we determined that the switch should be located adjacent to the meter socket; however, we also realized that circumstances may necessitate change as the utilities become more experienced with renewable generation.⁵

After reviewing FPL's data regarding renewable systems with the manual disconnect switches not located adjacent to the meter, we find that no compelling reasons exist to invest the time and expense that would be required to modify the customer-owned renewable energy systems in order to comply with Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C. Each of these systems is sufficient and meets the National Electric Code (NEC) as well as any Florida building codes, none of which require the presence of a manual disconnect switch for inverter-based systems for any reason, including safety. Moreover, the NEC does not require a disconnect switch, if present, to be mounted adjacent to the meter.

We believe that, in certain circumstances, allowing these switches to be mounted in locations other than adjacent to the meter will promote and encourage the installation of renewable energy systems by FPL's customers. Furthermore, we believe that requiring customers to incur additional expense in order to comply with the rule may actually discourage customers from installing such systems.

Therefore, we find that FPL's request for a permanent rule waiver of the switch location portion of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., meets and promotes the purposes of the underlying statutes. Providing FPL's customers flexibility as to the placement of their manual disconnect switches when installing their renewable systems will continue to promote the development of renewable energy in Florida.

Substantial Hardship

We agree that, in certain instances and under certain circumstances, it may be reasonable and preferable for customers to mount the manual disconnect switch in a location other than adjacent to the meter. In its responses to our staff's first data requests, FPL provided detailed descriptions of each of the 46 customer systems that currently do not meet the requirement of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., requiring the manual disconnect switch (if present) to be mounted apart from but adjacent to the meter socket.⁶ In each of those systems, valid circumstances existed under which locating the switch in the prescribed location is impractical or even impossible.

⁴ See, Transcript of Discussion of Item 3, Docket No. 070674-EI, from December 18, 2007 Agenda, pages 16, 22-23, 41-43, 55-56, 68-76, 106-07, 110-12, 121-22, 152-53, and Staff Recommendation, dated December 6, 2007, in Docket No. 070674-EI, pages, 15-17, for discussion of the manual disconnect switch.

⁵ See, Order No. PSC-08-0624-TRF-EI, issued September 24, 2008, in Docket No. 080265-EI, In re: Petition for approval of net metering tariff and standard interconnection agreements, by Florida Power & Light Company.

⁶ See, Document No. 07008-13 in Docket No. 130225-EQ, FPL Responses to Staff's First Data Requests, Nos. 2 and 11, Filed November 15, 2013, and Document No. 07503-13, FPL Supplemental Responses to Staff's First Data Request No. 11, Filed December 18, 2013, providing information on each current or future FPL customer with a manual disconnect switch mounted in a location other than adjacent to the meter socket.

In many of the cases, cost is the limiting factor for re-installing or locating the manual disconnect switch adjacent to the meter. Typically, relocating the switch would involve the installation of long runs of conductor (wires) and conduit around, through, or under roads, buildings, landscaped areas, and other obstructions. In some cases, lack of space or accessibility was the issue. In addition to the cost of installing long runs of conduit and conductor, the additional distance would increase line losses resulting in loss of power and, therefore, cost effectiveness from the renewable generation system. In other cases, the switch could have been located adjacent to the meter, but because the systems were installed prior to contacting FPL for service connection, relocating the switch after-the-fact would result in an unnecessary and potentially excessive expense. In every case, FPL engineers inspected the systems and agreed that no harm would come from leaving the switch in its original location and, in fact, was preferred over causing undue financial hardship and unnecessarily increased line losses.

In each of the 46 customer systems cited by FPL that currently do not meet the requirement of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., the alternate locations of the manual disconnect switches resulted in no compromise to the customer's system.

Compliance with Rule 25-6.065(6)(a)

Since Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C., was adopted, FPL and the Commission have become more knowledgeable of, and experienced with, renewable generation systems. FPL has not encountered any of the "unintended problems" that were originally anticipated if the manual disconnect switch was not mounted adjacent to the meter. FPL, however, has repeatedly experienced instances where mounting the switch adjacent to the meter was not practical according to safety or engineering design principles, and would have resulted in additional installation costs. In each instance, FPL attempted to accommodate any customer who wished to install or connect a renewable generation system, but for design or financial reasons could not mount the manual disconnect switch adjacent to the meter socket. FPL worked with the customer to agree upon a location for the switch that was not adjacent to the meter socket, so long as it met all applicable safety and engineering standards. FPL also required the customer to install a permanent, weather-proof plaque adjacent to FPL's meter socket, indicating the location of the switch on the customer's premises.

Although each customer-owned renewable generation system with a manual disconnect switch not located adjacent to the meter socket is an apparent violation of Subsection (6)(a) of the rule, we do not recommend that any action be brought against FPL for these violations. There is nothing to suggest that any customer was harmed financially or otherwise from locating the manual disconnect switch apart from the meter. Moreover, FPL cooperated fully with our staff to resolve any possible violations in an effort to fully comply with Commission rules in requesting the rule waiver, and providing our staff with all information requested.

Finally, although Subsection (6)(a) of the rule requires the manual disconnect switch be mounted adjacent to the meter socket, the National Electric Code (NEC) does not contain a similar provision. The NEC provides that the switch be installed in a readily accessible location either on the outside of a building or structure, or inside the nearest point of entrance of the system conductors. We have reviewed the information provided by FPL on each of the customer-owned renewable generation systems with switches not located adjacent to the meter, and did not find that any of the systems failed to meet any national electric or safety codes. Therefore, approval of FPL's request for permanent rule waiver would bring FPL into compliance with Commission rules.

II. FPL's Modifications to its Standard Interconnection Agreements

In its amended petition, FPL requested authority to make three additional changes:

- 1) Eliminate the requirement that inverter-based systems include a manual disconnect switch;
- 2) Modify the indemnity and insurance provisions in order to eliminate conflicts with statutory limitations on government authority; and
- 3) Include the definition of "Gross Power Rating" in the Standard Interconnect Agreements to make the definition readily accessible to customers and reduce the errors in the application process.

In addition to these above changes, FPL requested approval to make other minor corrections.

Elimination of the Manual Disconnect Switch Requirement for Inverter-based Systems

FPL seeks to modify language in the sections of its tariff that indicate requirements for a manual disconnect switch (Section 5.2 in the revised Tier 1 and 2 tariffs, and Section 5.1 for Tier 3). While the current tariff requires all systems to include manual disconnect switches, the petition seeks authority to waive the requirement for U.L. 1741 compliant inverter-based systems.

U.L. 1741 compliant inverter-based systems are designed to automatically isolate the system from the electrical grid within seconds of an electrical outage. This feature eliminates the possibility of backfeed to the system that could potentially cause safety concerns and is the reason for the manual disconnect switch requirement. As a result, FPL asserts that the requirement is duplicative and thus unnecessary.

Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. allows utilities to require a manual disconnect switch in their standard interconnection agreements, but does not require a switch. Therefore, this change is consistent with the rule.

Modification of Indemnity and Insurance Provisions

Section 768.28, F.S., limits claims or judgments against the state, its agencies, or its subdivisions to \$200,000 for a single claim or judgment, or portions of any claim or judgment above \$300,000. The existing FPL tariff contains a requirement that Tier 2 customers maintain general liability insurance or proof of self-insurance of at least \$1 million, and that Tier 3 customers carry at least \$2 million in insurance. Because of the conflict between these two provisions, government entities, such as municipalities and schools, have had a limited ability to take advantage of net metering if they have had an interest in doing so.

The amended petition proposed multiple changes related to the ability of local government agencies and entities to take advantage of net metering opportunities. These changes include:

- 1) Adding “to the extent permitted by law without waiving or limiting any defense of sovereign immunity” to Section 8.1 for Tiers 1 and 2 and 10.1 for Tier 3, indemnifying FPL against damage to the customer;
- 2) Adding “Nothing herein shall be intended to serve as a waiver or limitation of the Customer’s sovereign immunity defense as allowed by law” to the same section for all Tiers;
- 3) Adding “to the extent permitted by law” and “For government entities, the policy coverage shall not exceed the entity’s maximum liability established by law” to the insurance provision of all Tiers (Section 11.1 for Tiers 1 and 2, and Section 13.1 for Tier 3); and
- 4) Adding “Proof of self-insurance consistent with law shall satisfy this requirement” for the same section for Tiers 2 and 3.

The above changes will allow government entities to make use of net metering without violating state law. The first two changes will allow state and government agencies that are barred by law from agreeing to the indemnity provisions of the existing tariff to participate in net metering. Furthermore, the language added to the insurance provisions ensures that government entities barred from insuring at the levels required by the current rule will still be allowed to participate in net metering.

The proposed changes to the indemnity and insurance provisions of the Standard Interconnection Agreement are consistent with the rule. Similar provisions were approved by the Commission for Duke Energy Florida’s (formerly known as Progress Energy Florida, Inc.) Standard Interconnection Agreements in 2012.⁷

⁷ See, Order No. PSC-12-0538-PAA-EQ, issued October 11, 2012, in Docket No. 120228-EQ, In re: Petition for approval of modifications to standard interconnection agreements contained in the approved tariff by Progress Energy Florida, Inc.

Definition of Gross Power Rating

The Amended Petition adds the definition of "Gross Power Rating," contained in Section 25-6.065(2)(b), F.A.C., to the Standard Interconnection Agreement for all tiers. This definition would be Section 1.1 for Tiers 1 and 2, and Section 1.6 for Tier 3.

FPL claims that many customers have submitted incorrect information due to confusion about what information to submit on their application. Because many contractors provide power rating information in DC format, and the application requires AC format, some customers have submitted incorrect information, thus delaying their applications until this information has been corrected. FPL proposes that adding the definition to the Standard Information Agreement will make the information more readily available to customers, reduce confusion, and reduce delays.

The proposed addition of the definition of Gross Power Rating to the Standard Interconnection Agreement is consistent with the rule.

Other Changes

In addition to the above changes, FPL requested the authority to make certain minor corrections, such as: modifications to the signature blocks; updating contact information; changing wording to ensure consistency; and correcting scrivener's errors. Several of these changes were made at the request of our staff.

These changes do not change the substance of the Standard Interconnection Agreement. They standardize terminology across Tiers, reduce ambiguity, correct spelling, or make other minor fixes to the wording, but not the substance, of the agreement. As such, these changes do not conflict with the rule.

CONCLUSION

We approve FPL's request for a permanent rule waiver of the location of the manual disconnect switch portion of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., provided that: (1) mounting the manual disconnection switch adjacent to the meter socket would not be practical for engineering design or safety reasons; (2) FPL and the customer mutually agree on the location to mount the manual disconnection switch; (3) the selected location of the manual disconnect switch meets all applicable safety and engineering standards; and (4) the customer is required to install a permanent, weather-proof plaque adjacent to the FPL meter socket, which clearly indicates the physical location of the manual disconnect switch on the customer's premises. We find that the waiver will achieve the purpose of the underlying statutes, and without the waiver there will be a substantial hardship to FPL and many of its customers. Moreover, FPL's permanent waiver request encourages the development of renewable energy in Florida, in the most cost-effective manner without compromising safety or engineering principles.

We find that the proposed tariff modifications will allow government entities to take advantage of net metering without violating Florida laws limiting their allowed risk. The proposed changes reduce the regulatory burden on customers, and also can be expected to both increase the customer base eligible for net metering and to streamline the process for all net metering applicants. The inclusion of the definition of "Gross Power Rating," as well as the various minor corrections, will both reduce application errors and clarify the new and existing provisions in the tariff. For these reasons, we approve all of the changes proposed by FPL to its Standard Interconnection Agreement.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that FPL's request for permanent rule waiver of the location of the manual disconnect switch portion of Rule 25-6.065(6)(a), F.A.C., is granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the modifications to its Standard Interconnection Agreements contained in tariffs, filed by Florida Power & Light Company on October 25, 2013, are hereby approved and the tariffs will become effective upon issuance of a consummating order. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., is received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that, if a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the order, Florida Power & Light Company's modified tariffs should remain in effect, with any revenues held subject to refund, pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 27th day of January, 2014.



CARLOTTA S. STAUFFER
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 413-6770
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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

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 that is available under Section 120.57, 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 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.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on February 17, 2014.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.