

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Analysis of IOUs' hedging practices.

DOCKET NO. 20170057-EI  
ORDER NO. PSC-2017-0312-CFO-EI  
ISSUED: August 7, 2017

ORDER GRANTING TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S REQUEST  
FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION AND MOTION FOR TEMPORARY  
PROTECTIVE ORDER (DOCUMENT NO. 05514-17)

On June 23, 2017, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Tampa Electric Company (TECO) filed a Request for Confidential Classification and Motion for Temporary Protective Order (Request) of highlighted information contained in its response to the Office of Public Counsel's (OPC) First Set of Interrogatories No. 8 (Document No. 05514-17).

Request for Confidential Classification

TECO contends that designated portions of its response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories No. 8, as more specifically described in Exhibit A attached to its Request, constitute proprietary confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. Exhibit A attached to TECO's Request contains a detailed matrix providing justification and support for confidential classification of the information on a line-by-line, column-by-column basis. TECO asserts that this information is intended to be and is treated by TECO as private and has not been publicly disclosed.

The information contained in TECO's response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories No. 8 contains natural gas hedging data and strategies for TECO's affiliated companies, People's Gas System and New Mexico Gas Company. TECO argues that this type of information has been previously recognized as proprietary business information which, if released, would allow the opportunity for market manipulation through transactions made in anticipation of the affiliates' entry into the market. The net result being that TECO's affiliated companies would pay higher prices for natural gas to the ratepayers' detriment. Therefore, TECO asserts that this information falls within the protection of Section 366.093(3)(e), F.S. TECO further argues that if this information were disclosed it would impair the competitive business of its affiliates in violation of Section 366.093(3)(d), F.S. TECO requests confidential classification for this information for a period of 18 months.

Ruling

Section 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records the Commission has found to contain proprietary business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from Chapter 119, F.S. 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:

(d) 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.

(e) Information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.

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 described above and in Exhibit A, attached to TECO's Request, appears to be TECO's affiliates hedging data and strategies, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of these affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms. This information reveals specific information about fuel hedging volumes and percentages. The public disclosure of any of this information could reduce the affiliates' competitiveness in the marketplace. This, in turn, could result in higher prices being paid by the affiliates for natural gas. Therefore, the information contained in Document No. 05514-17 and shall be granted confidential classification.

Section 366.093(4), F.S., provides that any finding by the Commission that records contain proprietary confidential business information shall be effective for a period not to exceed 18 months, absent good cause shown. The information identified in Document No. 05514-17 shall be granted confidential classification for a period of 18 months from the issuance of this Order.

#### Motion for Temporary Protective Order

TECO also seeks protection of the documents as provided in Section 366.093(2), F.S., and Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C., while the material is in the possession of the Office of Public Counsel (OPC). 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 of TECO’s assertions of the confidential nature of the information contained in its response to OPC’s First Set of Interrogatories No. 8, Document No. 05514-17, TECO’s Motion for Temporary Protective Order is hereby granted. As a result, this information shall be protected from disclosure pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C.

Based on the foregoing, it is

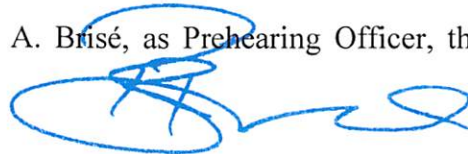
ORDERED by Commissioner Ronald A. Brisé, as Prehearing Officer, that Tampa Electric Company’s request for confidential treatment of Document No. 05514-17, is granted, as set forth herein. It is further

ORDERED that the information contained in Document No. 05514-17, for which confidential classification has been granted, shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that the Motion for Temporary Protective Order filed by Tampa Electric Company is granted. 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 Ronald A. Brisé, as Prehearing Officer, this 7th day of August, 2017.



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RONALD A. BRISÉ  
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.

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.