

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Tampa Electric Company.

DOCKET NO. 20210034-EI

In re: Petition for approval of 2020 depreciation and dismantlement study and capital recovery schedules, by Tampa Electric Company.

DOCKET NO. 20200264-EI  
ORDER NO. PSC-2021-0186-PCO-EI  
ISSUED: May 20, 2021

ORDER GRANTING FLORIDA  
INDUSTRIAL POWER USERS GROUP'S  
PETITION TO INTERVENE

BY THE COMMISSION:

On April 9, 2021, Tampa Electric Company (TECO) filed a petition, minimum filing requirements, and testimony for a base rate increase. By Order No 2021-0147-PCO-EI, issued on April 22, 2021, Docket No. 20200264-EI, Petition for approval of 2020 depreciation and dismantlement study and capital recovery schedules, by Tampa Electric Company was consolidated with Docket No. 20210034-EI, Petition for rate increase by Tampa Electric Company. Pursuant to Order No. PSC-2021-0172-PCO-EI, issued May 14, 2021, the consolidated dockets are scheduled for hearing on October 18 through October 22, 2021.

Petition for Intervention

By motion dated March 5, 2021, the Florida Industrial Power Users Group (FIPUG) requested permission to intervene in this proceeding. FIPUG represents that it is an association consisting of large users of electricity in Florida. FIPUG states that its members rely on the availability of adequate, reasonably priced electricity to operate their businesses in an effective, efficient, and competitive manner. FIPUG alleges that the cost of electricity to those users is a significant portion of their overall costs of production and operation. FIPUG avers that a large number of its members will be affected by the Commission's action taken on TECO's General Base Rate Petition in this case. FIPUG seeks to intervene in this proceeding on behalf of its members to advocate and protect their substantial interests in ensuring that the costs and rates that will ultimately be approved and charged are fair, just and reasonable. No party has objected to FIPUG's intervention.

Standards for Intervention

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), persons, other than the original parties to a pending proceeding, who have a substantial interest in the proceeding and who desire to become parties may move for leave to intervene. Motions for leave to intervene must be filed at least twenty (20) days before the final hearing, must comply with Rule

28-106.204(3), F.A.C., and must include allegations sufficient to demonstrate that the intervenor is entitled to participate in the proceeding as a matter of constitutional or statutory right or pursuant to Commission rule, or that the substantial interests of the intervenor are subject to determination or will be affected through the proceeding. Intervenors take the case as they find it.

To have standing, the intervenor must meet the three-prong standing test set forth in Florida Home Builders Association v. Department of Labor and Employment Security, 412 So. 2d 351, 353-54 (Fla. 1982), and Farmworker Rights Organization, Inc. v. Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, 417 So. 2d 753, 754 (Fla. 1st DCA 1982), which is based on the basic standing principles established in Agrico Chemical Company v. Department of Environmental Regulation, 406 So. 2d 478, 481-82 (Fla. 2d DCA 1981).<sup>1</sup> Associational standing may be found where: (1) the association demonstrates that a substantial number of an association's members may be substantially affected by the Commission's decision in a docket; (2) the subject matter of the proceeding is within the association's general scope of interest and activity; and (3) the relief requested is of a type appropriate for the association to receive on behalf of its members. Fla. Home Builders, 412 So. 2d at 353-54; Farmworker Rights Org., 417 So. 2d at 754.

### Analysis and Ruling

FIPUG has sufficiently alleged standing in this proceeding under the three-prong test set forth in Florida Home Builders: 1) FIPUG asserts that a substantial number of its members will be affected by the Commission's action taken on TECO's General Base Rate Petition, and as such, each FIPUG member that receives electricity from TECO will be affected by the outcome of this case; 2) the subject matter of this proceeding includes evaluation of TECO's request for Commission review and approval of increased base rates, which is within FIPUG's general scope of interest and activity on behalf of its members; and 3) because FIPUG's members are large industrial consumers of electricity who will be affected by the outcome of this case, FIPUG's participation in this docket is appropriate.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Art Graham, as Prehearing Officer, that the Motion to Intervene filed by Florida Industrial Power Users Group is hereby granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

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<sup>1</sup> Under Agrico, the intervenor must show that (1) he will suffer injury in fact which is of sufficient immediacy to entitle him to a Section 120.57, Florida Statutes (F.S.), hearing, and (2) the substantial injury is of a type or nature which the proceeding is designed to protect. The first aspect of the test deals with the degree of injury. The second deals with the nature of the injury. 406 So. 2d 478 at 482. The "injury in fact" must be both real and immediate and not speculative or conjectural. International Jai-Alai Players Assn. v. Florida Pari-Mutuel Commission, 561 So. 2d 1224, 1225-26 (Fla. 3d DCA 1990). See also: Village Park Mobile Home Assn., Inc. v. State Dept. of Business Regulation, 506 So. 2d 426, 434 (Fla. 1st DCA 1987), rev. den., 513 So. 2d 1063 (Fla. 1987) (speculation on the possible occurrence of injurious events is too remote).

ORDERED that Florida Industrial Power Users Group takes the case as it finds it. It is further

ORDERED that all parties to this proceeding shall furnish copies of all testimony, exhibits, pleadings, and other documents which may hereinafter be filed in this proceeding to:

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By ORDER of Commissioner Art Graham, as Prehearing Officer, this 20th day of May,  
2021.



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ART GRAHAM  
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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 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.