

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of shared solar tariff
change, by Tampa Electric Company.

DOCKET NO. 20230072-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2023-0214-PCO-EI
ISSUED: July 26, 2023

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

ANDREW GILES FAY, Chairman
ART GRAHAM
GARY F. CLARK
MIKE LA ROSA
GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

Background

On May 31, 2023, Tampa Electric Company (TECO or utility) filed a petition for approval of changes to the tariffs to its Shared Solar Rider (SSR-1 tariff or tariff). The provisions of the SSR-1 tariff are marketed by TECO as the “Sun Select” program. In its current form, the tariff offers residential and commercial customers the option to purchase all or a portion of their monthly energy consumption from solar generation. Residential and small commercial customers are able to purchase solar energy on a basis of 25, 50, or 100 percent of their monthly energy usage. Large commercial customers are able to purchase energy in 1,000 kilowatt-hour (kWh) blocks. The SSR-1 tariff was approved in June 2019.¹

The SSR-1 tariff operates based on an allocation of 17.5 megawatts (MWs) from the Company’s Lake Hancock solar facility. Participants in the program pay their normal tariff charges, with the exception of the fuel charge, plus an additional \$0.063 per kWh program charge on the percentage of energy subscribed under the SSR-1 tariff. All normal charges apply to the percentage of energy consumed outside of the SSR-1 tariff. TECO launched the program on a first-come, first-served basis, and did not reserve any allocation of energy to particular customer classes. As of the filing of the Petition, the Sun Select program is approximately 35 percent subscribed and has experienced a 44 percent churn rate.

In its petition, TECO seeks approval of several modifications designed to increase participation in the Sun Select program and allow the utility to learn more about customer adoption of community solar programs and customer desire to reach decarbonization goals. First,

¹ Order No. PSC-2019-0215-TRF-EI, issued June 3, 2019, in Docket No. 20180204-EI, *In re: Petition for approval of shared solar tariff, by Tampa Electric Company.*

the utility seeks to increase the participation cap from 17.5 MWs to 30 MWs. Second, the utility proposes a reduction in the program charge from \$0.063 per kWh to \$0.049 per kWh. The proposed rate change is the result of several changes to TECO's pricing model for this program as described in the petition. TECO also proposes to use 100 percent of expected annual energy output from the solar facilities for program subscriptions, as opposed to the currently-approved 95 percent of annual energy output. Finally, TECO proposes to change the term "Monthly Rate" to "Rate."

This Order is to suspend the proposed tariffs. We have jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 366.03, 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Decision

The proposed tariffs are hereby suspended to allow Commission staff sufficient time to review the petition and gather all pertinent information in order to present us with an informed recommendation on the tariff proposals.

Pursuant to Section 366.06(3), F.S., we may withhold consent to the operation of all or any portion of a new rate schedule, delivering to the utility requesting such a change a reason or written statement of good cause for doing so within 60 days. We find that the reason stated above is a good cause consistent with the requirement of Section 366.06(3), F.S.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Tampa Electric Company's proposed changes to the tariffs to its Shared Solar Rider are suspended to allow Commission staff sufficient time to review the petition and gather all pertinent information in order to present us with an informed recommendation on the tariff proposals. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open pending our decision on the proposed tariff.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 26th day of July, 2023.



ADAM J. TEITZMAN
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
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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.

SPS

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.