

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Duke Energy
Florida, LLC.

DOCKET NO. 20240025-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2024-0130-PCO-EI
ISSUED: April 24, 2024

ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION
FOR NUCOR STEEL FLORIDA, INC.

Duke Energy Florida, LLC (Duke or Utility) filed its Petition for Rate Increase, minimum filing requirements (MFRs), and testimony on April 2, 2024. Duke filed its MFRs based on projected test years from January 1 to December 31, 2025; January 1 to December 31, 2026; and January 1 to December 31, 2027. By Order No. PSC-2024-0092-PCO-EI, issued April 11, 2024, an administrative hearing has been scheduled for these matters for August 12 - 16, 2024. August 19 - 23, 2024, have also been reserved for the continuation and conclusion of this hearing, if necessary.

Petition for Intervention

On April 9, 2024, Nucor Steel Florida, Inc. (Nucor) filed its Petition to Intervene in this docket. Nucor alleges that it owns and operates a steel production facility in Duke's territory, and that it is a customer who purchases "large amounts of electric energy" from Duke. Nucor continues that the rate increase Duke has requested in this proceeding will affect the rates charged by Duke and paid by its customers. Because it purchases substantial amounts of electric energy from Duke, Nucor asserts that the outcome of this proceeding may adversely affect Nucor's substantial interests.

Standards for Intervention

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.205, 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 two-prong standing test set forth in Agrico Chemical Company v. Department of Environmental Regulation, 406 So. 2d 478, 482 (Fla. 2d DCA 1981). The intervenor must show that (1) he will suffer injury in fact that is of sufficient immediacy to entitle him to a Section 120.57, F.S., hearing, and (2) the substantial injury is of a type or nature that 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. 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).

Analysis and Ruling

The above representations by Nucor satisfy both prongs of the Agrico test. Nucor meets the first prong of Agrico in that the amount it pays in electric rates may be ultimately affected by this proceeding. Nucor meets the second prong of Agrico because: (1) the purpose of this proceeding is to establish base rates that are fair, just, and reasonable; (2) the decisions on the requests made by Duke will impact the amount of rate base and, accordingly base rates; and (3) the amount of increase in rate base and base rates will impact the total paid by Nucor for electric energy. Based on the foregoing, Nucor has made allegations sufficient to satisfy Agrico and its petition to intervene should be granted.

Based on the above representations, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo, as Prehearing Officer, that the Petition to Intervene filed by Nucor Steel Florida, Inc. is hereby granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that Nucor Steel Florida, Inc. 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:

Peter J. Mattheis
Michael K. Lavanga
Joseph R. Briscar
Stone Mattheis Xenopoulos & Brew, PC
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW
Suite 800 West
Washington, DC 20007-5301
(202) 342-0800
pjm@smxblaw.com
mkl@smxblaw.com
jrb@smxblaw.com

By ORDER of Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo, as Prehearing Officer, this 24th day
of April, 2024.



Gabriella Passidomo
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.

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.