

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Fuel and purchased power cost recovery
clause with generating performance incentive
factor.

DOCKET NO. 20240001-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2024-0496-CFO-EI
ISSUED: December 13, 2024

ORDER GRANTING TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR SPECIFIED CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT
(DOCUMENT NO. 09750-2024)

On October 31, 2024, 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 Specified Confidential Treatment (Request) of portions of its Form 423 Fuel Reports for the months of July and August 2024 (Document No. 09750-2024).

Request for Confidential Classification

TECO contends that designated portions of the information contained in its 423 Report for the months of July and August 2024, as more specifically described in the attachment 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. The Exhibit attached to TECO's Request contains a detailed matrix providing justification and support for confidential classification of the information in each section of the 423 Reports (Forms 423-1, 423-1(a), 423-2, 423-2(a), and 423-2(b), 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.

TECO seeks protection of the information contained in the 423 Reports for a period of two years. TECO contends that the need for two years of confidentiality is vital not only to TECO and its ratepayers, but to the vendors of coal and coal transportation services as well.

TECO alleges disclosure of the effective purchase price "would impair the efforts of TECO to contract for goods or services on favorable terms" and should be protected under Section 366.093(3)(d), F.S. Additionally, disclosure of the purchase price would enable one to ascertain the total transportation charges by subtracting the effective price from the delivered price at the transfer facility. Any competitor with knowledge of the total transportation charges would be able to use that information in conjunction with the published delivered price at the United Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility to determine the segmented transportation costs. The disclosure of the segmented transportation costs would have a direct impact on TECO's future fuel and transportation contracts by informing potential bidders of current prices paid for services provided.

TECO also contends disclosure of the rail rate per ton would adversely affect its ability to negotiate favorable rail rates. Disclosure of the rail rates paid would effectively eliminate any negotiating leverage and could lead to higher rail rates. This would work to the ultimate detriment of TECO and its customers. Accordingly, TECO argues disclosure of this information

“would impair the efforts of TECO to contract for goods or services on favorable terms” and should be protected by Section 366.093(3)(d), F.S.

TECO further asserts that the disclosure of rail transportation rates will result in demands by shippers to lower any rates which are above the disclosed rates. It argues that the effect of disclosure will be to increase the lower rate as the transportation provided will seek to protect the rates charged on other routes. TECO avers that the delay of this disclosure for two years will be of direct benefit to ratepayers by delaying any increases that might occur as a result of such disclosure.

Ruling

Section 366.093(1), F.S., provides that the records the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) has found to contain proprietary confidential business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from Section 119.07(1) 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. Section 366.093(3), F.S., provides 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.

Upon review, it appears the information and data provided in this request satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The transportation pricing data for coal appears to be “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.” Thus, the information identified in Document No.09750-2024 shall be granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 366.093(4), F.S., confidential classification may only extend for up to 18 months from the issuance of an Order granting confidential classification unless “the Commission finds, for good cause, that the protection from disclosure shall be for a specified longer period.” TECO appears to have provided sufficient information concerning the harm which could arise from not protecting this information for a minimum of two years. Accordingly, the information identified in Document No. 09750-2024 shall be granted confidential classification for a period of two years from the issuance of this Order.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo Smith, as Prehearing Officer, that Tampa Electric Company’s Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 09750-2024 is granted, as set forth herein. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 09750-2024, for which confidential classification is granted, shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of two years from the date of issuance of this Order. 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 Gabriella Passidomo Smith, as Prehearing Officer, this 13th day of December, 2024.



Gabriella Passidomo Smith
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.

SBr

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.

ORDER NO. PSC-2024-0496-CFO-EI

DOCKET NO. 20240001-EI

PAGE 4

appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.