

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Request to modify budget) DOCKET NO. 930203-EI
billing tariff provisions by) ORDER NO. PSC-93-0452-FOF-EI
Florida Power and Light Company.) ISSUED: 03/24/93
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
THOMAS M. BEARD
SUSAN F. CLARK
JULIA L. JOHNSON
LUIS J. LAUREDO

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Order No. 10047, issued in Docket No. 800110-EU, this Commission approved for all Florida investor-owned utilities the initiation of budget billing programs for residential customers. Order No. 10759 established the guidelines that were to be followed in developing a program. Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) has had in effect since July 6, 1982, such a program which it is now proposing to revise.

Budget billing is a method of billing that attempts to reduce the variation in monthly bills resulting from seasonal fluctuations in the usage of electricity. Under FPL's program, rather than being billed for actual monthly usage, a customer is billed based upon an average of the current month's kwh usage and the previous eleven months' usage. If this information is not available, the average is based on the total number of months available for the current address within the past year.

The amount billed using the average method is subtracted from the amount that would have been billed based upon actual usage. The difference is credited to a deferred balance account which maintains a running total of over and under collections. A portion of this deferred balance is added to the billed amount based on the following:

If deferred balance is:	\$0 - \$199.99	10% of balance
	\$200 - \$299.99	20% of balance
	\$300 and above	30% of balance

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Thus each month the customer pays a total bill that includes two parts: 1) the average usage and 2) the adjustment to the deferred balance.

Under the proposed changes, the amount of the deferred balance to be paid each month will be simply one-twelfth of the current balance, rather than the three-tier formula shown above.

In calculating the average billing, the average of the previous 12 months' usage is used. If the customer has not resided at the premises for the previous 12 months, then the available customer's billings and the previous tenants' billings are used.

FPL is also proposing to change the conditions that customers must meet to qualify for the program. As the program currently exists, a customer is not eligible unless they have lived at the current residence for at least 12 continuous months, or if they have been a residential customer for 24 months of the previous 36 months at any address in the FPL service area. Under the new provision, budget billing is available at any time to any residential customer who has no delinquent balances.

The final change to the program involves the treatment of the deferred balance when a customer moves to a new location in FPL's service territory. Under the existing program, the customer must pay in full any deferred balance owed on the old account. FPL has proposed modifying this provision to allow customers who move within FPL's territory to transfer a deferred balance to their new account. As required previously, any customer who leaves FPL's territory must pay any deferred balance owed when the account is closed.

We have reviewed the proposed changes and find that they are consistent with the guidelines as set forth in Order No. 10759 in Docket No. 800110-EU and should be approved.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED that Florida Power and Light Company's request to modify its budget billing tariff is approved.

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ORDERED that this Order shall become final and this docket closed unless an appropriate petition for formal proceeding is received by the Division of Records and Reporting, 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on the date indicated in the Notice of Further Proceedings or Judicial Review.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 24th day of March, 1993.



STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)
MRC:bmi

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), 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.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting at his office at 101 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0870, by the close of business on April 14, 1993.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

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Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this Order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date this Order becomes final, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.