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STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

BLANCA RODRIGUEZ,
Petitioner
VS.
FLORIDA POWER and LIGHT COMPANY
Respondent.

CASE NO. 96-4935

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO INTERVENE

The FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (Commission), by and through its undersigned counsel, requests that the Administrative Law Judge grant leave to intervene in the above-styled cause for the reasons set forth below.

1. This case was initiated by the filing of a complaint with the Commission by Blanca Rodriguez against Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). Mrs. Rodriguez alleged that FPL had unfairly billed her account for current diversion due to meter tampering. The account is in the name of Mrs. Rodriguez' husband, Juan Rodriguez.

2. By Notice of Proposed Agency Action, Order No. PSC-96-1216-FOF-EI, issued September 24, 1996, the Commission found that FPL's billing of the Rodriguez account is appropriate.

3. On September 26, 1996, Mrs. Rodriguez timely filed a protest to the Commission's proposed action.

4. On October 18, 1996, the Commission referred this matter to the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) to conduct a formal hearing. Section 120.57(1), Florida Statutes, states that once a

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case is referred to DOAH, "the referring agency shall take no further action with respect to the formal proceedings, except as a party litigant," as long as DOAH has jurisdiction over the formal proceeding.

5. FPL supplies electricity to the public and is therefore, a public utility as defined in Section 366.02(1), Florida Statutes. Pursuant to Section 366.04(1), Florida Statutes, the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction "to regulate and supervise each public utility with respect to its rates and service." Thus, the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding, and therefore, has an interest in the proceeding.

6. The Commission is neither an adversary to, nor advocate for, either party. Pursuant to Chapter 366, Florida Statutes, the Commission's primary duty is to protect the public interest.

7. Rule 25-22.026(3), Florida Administrative Code, provides that the Commission staff may participate as a party in any proceeding.

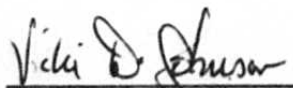
8. According to Rule 25-22.026(4), Florida Administrative Code, in cases assigned to DOAH, the Commission staff's primary role is to represent the public interest and be neither in favor of or against either party. The rule states that staff is to assist in developing evidence to ensure that all relevant factual, legal and policy issues are presented to the fact-finder. The rule further states that staff's final positions are to be based upon review of the complete record.

9. The Commission has been granted intervention in similar cases that have been referred to DOAH. See for example, Thomas L. Fuller

v. Florida Power Corporation, Case No. 95-4253; Globe International Realty & Mortgage Corporation v. Florida Power & Light Company, Case No. 95-2514; Jory Bricker v. Florida Power Corporation, Case No. 93-5713, Janet Knauss v. Florida Power & Light Company, Case No. 91-4910; Larry Timm v. Florida Power & Light Company, Case No. 91-2755, Arturo Toboada v. Florida Power & Light Company, Case No. 91-0331.

WHEREFORE, the Florida Public Service Commission respectfully requests that its Motion for Leave to Intervene be granted and the Commission be allowed to intervene in these proceedings while reserving its statement of position pending the evidence developed at the hearing.

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of December, 1996.


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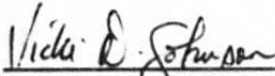
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that one true and correct copy of The Florida Public Service Commission's Motion for Leave to Intervene has been furnished this 10th day of December, 1996, to the following:

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Filed with the Clerk of the
Division of Administrative Hearings
this 12 day of December, 1996.

COPIES FURNISHED:

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