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Public Service Commission

May 12, 1997

Division of Administrative Hearings
Clerk of the Court
1230 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Case No. 97-001850 - Thomas W. Hart, Petitioner, vs. Florida Power & Light Company, Respondent.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are the original and one copy of the Florida Public Service Commission's Motion for Leave to Intervene in the above case. Please date stamp the additional copy and return in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wm. Cochran Keating, IV
Staff Attorney

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STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

THOMAS W. HART,)
)
 Petitioner)
)
 vs.) CASE NO. 97-001850
)
 FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY)
)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

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 Thomas W. Hart against Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). Mr. Hart complained that FPL improperly rebilled his account for amounts not previously billed due to alleged current diversion.

2. By Notice of Proposed Agency Action, Order No. PSC-97-0215-FOF-EI, issued February 24, 1997, the Commission found that FPL's rebilling of the Hart account was appropriate.

3. On March 17, 1997, Mr. Hart timely filed a protest to the Commission's proposed action.

4. The Commission referred this matter to the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) to conduct a formal hearing. Section 120.569(2)(a), Florida Statutes, states that once a 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, Blanca Rodriguez v. Florida Power & Light Company, Case No. 96-4935; 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 Toboado 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 12th day of May, 1997.


WM. COCHRAN KEATING IV, Esquire
Florida Bar No. 0064017

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