

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request by Florida Power
Corporation for approval of
Metal Halide Pilot Program.

DOCKET NO. 980364-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-98-0698-FOF-EI
ISSUED: May 20, 1998

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIA L. JOHNSON, Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
SUSAN F. CLARK
JOE GARCIA
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.

ORDER APPROVING METAL HALIDE PILOT PROGRAM

BY THE COMMISSION:

CASE BACKGROUND

On March 9, 1998, Florida Power Corporation (FPC) filed a request for approval of its Metal Halide Pilot Program (Pilot). The goal of the Pilot is to allow FPC to determine the cost of installing and maintaining the metal halide fixtures, their effectiveness, and whether this is a program that will be beneficial to both the customers and FPC if offered system-wide. FPC intends to complete its analysis of the Pilot within two years.

DECISION

Currently, most street lighting applications use high pressure sodium lamps. Until the invention of the high pressure sodium lamp in 1968, mercury lamps were used in street lighting and other exterior applications. Sodium discharge creates a predominantly yellow light. FPC asserts that some customers have now requested the relatively new metal halide lamps instead of sodium lights. Metal halide lamps generate a wider spectrum of white light, with better color rendering than mercury or sodium lamps. Car dealers, for example, have shown interest in the new metal halide lamps, because the whiter light makes it easier for customers to see the color of the cars.

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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Metal halide lights are a relatively new invention. For this reason, FPC states, it currently does not know the true costs associated with offering metal halide fixtures. FPC plans on restricting the Pilot to a maximum of one thousand fixtures and will install these on the premises of nine customers who have already requested this type of lighting. These nine customers will be billed under FPC's Commission-approved lighting rate schedule LS-1. The customer will be required to sign a 10-year contract with FPC to participate in the Pilot. We note that if the LS-1 rates are below (or above) the true costs of metal halide lights, the nine customers under the Pilot will receive a service that is not cost-based.

This is an optional tariff offering intended to meet the specific needs of customers who desire metal halide fixtures. FPC's request to limit the Pilot to nine customers to determine the actual costs associated with metal halide fixtures is reasonable. If the Pilot is determined to be successful, FPC will be able to offer all customers charges for metal halide fixtures that are cost-based. We find that the proposed Pilot will allow FPC to evaluate the feasibility of this new type of outdoor lighting option with little or no impact on the general body of ratepayers. Therefore, we approve the Metal Halide Pilot Program. The Pilot, as stated in the Lighting Service Applications to Tariff Sheet Numbers 7.240, 7.241, 7.242 and 7.243, shall become effective on the date of our vote, April 28, 1998.

Based on the foregoing, it is

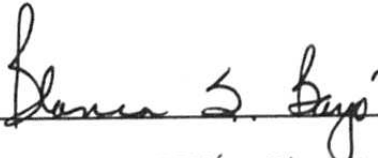
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Florida Power Corporation's Metal Halide Pilot Program is hereby approved effective April 28, 1998. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirement set forth below, the tariff shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, this docket shall be closed.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 20th
day of May, 1998.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

(S E A L)

LJP

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.

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, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on June 10, 1998.

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

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.