

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Review of Tampa Electric Company and impact of its participation in GridFlorida, a Florida Transmission Company, on TECO's retail ratepayers.

DOCKET NO. 010577-EI

FILED: SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

STAFF'S PREHEARING STATEMENT

Pursuant to Order No. PSC-01-1549-PCO-EI, filed July 26, 2001, the Staff of the Florida Public Service Commission files its Prehearing Statement.

a. All Known Witnesses

Staff has no witnesses.

b. All Known Exhibits

Staff has no exhibits to identify at this time.

c. Staff's Statement of Basic Position

Staff's positions are preliminary and based on materials filed by the parties and on discovery. The preliminary positions are offered to assist the parties in preparing for the hearing. Staff's final positions will be based upon all the evidence in the record and may differ from the preliminary positions stated herein.

d. Staff's Position on the Issues

**ISSUE 1: Is participation in a regional transmission organization (RTO) pursuant to FERC Order No. 2000 voluntary?**

**POSITION: Yes.**

**ISSUE 2: What are the benefits to Peninsular Florida associated with TECO's participation in GridFlorida?**

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**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 3:** What are the benefits to TECO's ratepayers of its participation in GridFlorida?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 4:** What are the estimated costs to TECO's ratepayers of its participation in GridFlorida?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 5:** Is TECO's decision to transfer ownership and control of its transmission facilities of 69 kV and above to GridFlorida appropriate?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 6:** Is TECO's decision to participate in GridFlorida prudent?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 7:** What policy position should the Commission adopt regarding the formation of GridFlorida?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 8:** Is Commission authorization required before a utility can unbundle its retail electric service?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 9:** Is Commission authorization required before a utility can stop providing retail transmission service?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 10:** Is Commission authorization required before TECO can sell its retail transmission assets?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

**ISSUE 11:** Is a Regional Transmission Organization for the Southeast region of the United States a better alternative for Florida than the GridFlorida RTO?

**POSITION:** No position at this time.

e. Pending Motions

Staff has no pending motions.

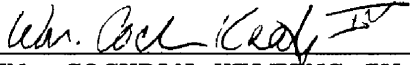
f. Pending Confidentiality Claims or Requests

There are no pending confidentiality claims or requests.

g. Compliance with Order No. PSC-01-1549-PCO-EI

Staff has complied with all requirements of the Order Establishing Procedure entered in this docket.

Respectfully submitted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September,  
2001.

  
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that one true and correct copy of STAFF'S PREHEARING STATEMENT has been furnished by U. S. Mail this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2001, to the following:

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