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October 11, 2001

Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Records and Reporting **Public Service Commission** 4750 Esplanade Way, Room 110 Tallahassee, FL 32399

> Docket No. 001148-EI Re:

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed is an original and fifteen (15) copies of Publix Super Market Inc., Post-Hearing Statement in the above docket.

We have also enclosed a copy of the document on diskette, prepared in Microsoft Word 7.0 on a Windows 95 operating system. The diskette is a "2HD" density and 1.44 MB.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Seann M. Frazier

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GREENBERG TRAURIG, P.A.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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### **BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In Re: Review of Florida Power & Light Companies Proposed Merger with Entergy Corporation, the Formation Of a Florida Transmission Company ("Florida Transco"), And Their Effect on FPL's Retail Rates

Docket No. 001148-EI

### **PUBLIX POST-HEARING STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Prehearing Order No. PSC-01-1959-PHO-EI in this proceeding, Publix Super Market, Inc. ("Publix") files this Post-hearing Statement of issues and positions in Phase One of this docket:

Issue 1: Is participation in a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) Pursuant to FERC Order No. 2000 Voluntary?

Publix: FERC Order 2000 was worded in a manner which initially made participation in an RTO for a FERC regulated utility voluntary. FERC also, however, made it clear that ultimately all FERC regulated utilities would have to participate in RTOs and that those that did not would suffer economic detriment and have merger issues if they failed to "voluntarily" do so. Given this choice, a prudent utility may see participation as mandatory.

# Issue 2: What are the benefits to Peninsular Florida associated with the utility's participation in GridFlorida.

Publix: Having an unbiased regional transmission organization ("RTO") operating the transmission system will provide better reliability to retail

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and wholesale electric customers by providing more effective transmission congestion control, loop flow control, interconnection planning, and emergency management, and more timely ancillary services to generators. Further, by promoting more wholesale electric competition, wholesale retail electric service rates may be lowered as well. Publix feels that this is better accomplished through a multi-state RTO than through GridFlorida.

- Issue 3: What are the benefits to the utility's ratepayers of its participation in GridFlorida?
- Publix: There are potential long term cost benefits to wholesale and retail electric customers from the formation of an RTO in that "pancaked" transmission costs would be phased out over a period of years thereby making lower priced wholesale electric generation sources more attractive. Other cost savings may be realized through coordinated transmission system upgrade costs and by spreading the costs of system improvements to all system users.

Issue 4: What are the estimated costs to the utility's rate payors of its participation in GridFlorida?

Publix: Publix has no position on this issue.

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Issue 5: Is FPL's decision to transfer operational control of its transmission facilities of 69 kV and above to GridFlorida while retaining ownership appropriate?

Publix: Publix has no position on this issue.

Issue 6: Is the utility's decision to participate in GridFlorida prudent?

Publix: Publix has no position on this issue.

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

- Publix: The Commission should (1) recognize the authority of the FERC over RTO formation, (2) minimize any cost impact of RTO costs on utility rates, and
  (3) maintain reliable and unbiased transmission availability in a manner which promotes wholesale competition.
- Issue 8: Is Commission authorization required before the utility can unbundle its retail electric service?

Publix: Publix has no position on this issue.

Issue 9: Is Commission authorization required before the utility can stop providing retail transmission service?

Publix: Publix has no position on this issue.

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- Issue 10: Is Commission authorization required before FPL can transfer operational control of its retail transmission assets?
- Publix: Publix has no position on this issue.
- Issue 11: Is a regional transmission organization for the southeast region of the United States a better alternative for Florida than the GridFlorida RTO?
- Publix: Yes. Publix believes a multi-state RTO provides better benefits to electric utility customers because of the resulting improved transmission facilities into the state of Florida. Further, there would be more generating utilities involved which would increase overall electricity supply. However, Publix recognizes that since inadequate progress has been made on the formation of a multistate RTO, it is impossible to tell at this time.

#### **GREENBERG TRAURIG, P.A.**

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**RONALD C. LAFACE** SEANN M. FRAZIER Counsel for Publix Super Market, Inc.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing has been furnished via

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Facsimile to the following this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2001.

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