

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of
budgeted payment plan
(BudgetPay) by Tampa Electric
Company d/b/a Peoples Gas
System.

DOCKET NO. 011186-GU
ORDER NO. PSC-01-2112-TRF-GU
ISSUED: October 24, 2001

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of
this matter:

E. LEON JACOBS, JR., Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ
MICHAEL A. PALECKI

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF MODIFICATION

BY THE COMMISSION:

On September 10, 2001, Tampa Electric Company d/b/a Peoples Gas System (Peoples Gas or Company) filed a petition for approval of a budgeted payment plan (BudgetPay). The proposed BudgetPay plan will offer residential customers the option of paying a budgeted, or average amount each month in lieu of the amount actually due for gas service provided by the Company.

Calculation of the initial budgeted payment amount will be based on the dollar amount of the customer's bills for the most recent 12 months of the customer's billing history. If the customer has not been a gas customer of Peoples Gas for a full 12 months, the Company will use the best information available to establish the initial budgeted monthly payment amount. The best available information may be the previous 12 months' gas usage history for the customer's address, or in the case of new customer at a new location, the types of appliances installed and their estimated gas usage.

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The customer's budgeted monthly payment amount will be recalculated after one year of the customer's participation in the plan and every year thereafter. No other change will be made in the monthly payment amount unless a recalculation (based on more current billing history or a known change in therm consumption) equals a payment amount that differs by 25% or more from the payment amount then in effect. This adjustment should prevent the customer from having a significant deferred balance for the year which would be transferred to the next year's payment. The customer will be notified of any change in the budgeted amount in their next regular monthly bill.

The customer's bill will display the same information it currently displays, but the amount due will be the budgeted monthly payment. In addition, the current and deferred balance will be shown. If the balance is positive (credit), at the end of the year, it will be refunded to the customer. If the balance is negative (debit), at the end of the year, one-twelfth of the balance will be added to the next year's recalculated budgeted payment amount.

Participation in the plan, once initiated, may be terminated by request of the customer at any time, or by the Company in the event the customer is delinquent in making payment of the budgeted monthly payment amount for two successive months, or the customer terminates gas service from the Company. In these cases, the customer's participation in the plan will be terminated and the customer will be required to settle the account with the Company in full. If a customer terminates participation in the plan, but remains a customer of Peoples Gas, the customer will be required to pay any deferred debit balance with the next regular monthly bill, and any deferred credit balance will be used to reduce the amount due for the next regular monthly bill.

After reviewing the Company's petition, we hereby approve Peoples Gas System's budgeted payment plan (BudgetPay).

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Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Tampa Electric Company d/b/a Peoples Gas System's Petition for Approval of Budgeted Payment Plan (BudgetPay) is approved. It is further

ORDERED that the effective date of Peoples Gas System's Budgeted Payment Plan is October 16, 2001. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of issuance of the Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any charges held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 24th day of October, 2001.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of the Commission Clerk
and Administrative Services

By: Kay Flynn
Kay Flynn, Chief
Bureau of Records and Hearing
Services

(S E A L)

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

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 proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on November 14, 2001.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

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.