

ORIGINAL

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RICHARD D. MELSON
(850) 413-6248 04 AUG 20 PM 4:44

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Public Service Commission

August 20, 2004

STAFF'S SEVENTH DATA REQUEST

Mr. Norman "Doc" Horton, Jr., Esquire
Messer Law Firm
Post Office Box 1876
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1876

Re: Docket No. 040216-GU - Application for Rate Increase by Florida Public Utilities company

Dear Doc:

By this letter, the Commission staff requests that Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC or utility) provide responses to the following data requests:

160. Please refer to Audit Disclosure No. 8. This disclosure states that FPUC has agreements with two builders that relate to advertising:

(a) Why should the costs associated with promotional advertising be included in base rates?

CMP _____

(b) What is the total dollars and percentage of the yearly \$16,000 payment to Arvida that is related to newspaper advertising?

COM _____

CTR _____

(c) What percentage of these advertisements are promotional in nature?

ECR _____

(d) Is the agreement with Transeastern Homes similar to the agreement with Arvida?

GCL _____

(e) If so, what percentage of the \$117,000 are related to ads that are promotional in nature?

OPC _____

MMS _____

(f) Please provide copies of these advertisements.

RCA _____

SCR _____

SEC 1

OTH _____

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

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161. On page 174 of Mr. Robert Smith's testimony, he states that FPUC is proposing an increase of \$75,000 in advertising expenses for builder allowances toward its advertising.

- (a) Will these agreements also include ads which would be considered promotional in nature?
- (b) If so, please provide the anticipated percentage and dollars associated with promotional ads.
- (c) Does FPUC have an estimate as to the expected increase in advertising allowances mentioned on page 174, line 16 of Mr. Smith's testimony?

162. On page 12 of Mr. Bachman's testimony, he states that the bare steel program was expected to cost \$600,000 annually. Mr. Mesite on page 117 of his testimony states that the cost of the program will be \$377,538 per year. Please explain this discrepancy.

163. Please provide copies of all cost studies, analyses, and work papers that support the development of the Miscellaneous Service Charges contained in MFR Schedule E-3.

164. Why is FPUC eliminating the Reconnection After Disconnection charge? What amount will a customer who is temporarily having their gas turned off (for fumigating their house, etc.) have to pay to have their gas service disconnected and reconnected?

165. In Schedule MFR E-3, page 7 of 8, how did FPUC derive the 1.89% per \$100 of bills handled as the Processing Fee for Bills Paid by Credit Card or Debit Card?

166. Which credit cards will FPUC accept? What is the dollar or percentage amount that FPUC will pay to each individual credit card company whose card is accepted?

167. Why is FPUC eliminating the charge for historical consumption information?

168. Regarding Audit Exception No. 1, please provide an updated plant allocation factor that excludes the Sanford office that was abandoned and calculate the impact on the accounts that are allocated to the gas division by the factor by account.


169. Regarding Audit Disclosure No. 6, identify the amount of costs and the accounts that were charged to the gas division related to the equity offering that was delayed.

170. Audit Disclosure, 13 regarding training, stated that because accounting staff was involved in preparing two rate cases, they did not have time to attend the training the company usually provides. Please estimate the amount of 2005 training that would be considered catch up for the staff.

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Please provide the original and four copies of this requested information to me by the close of business on September 17, 2004. If you have any questions, or if you need any assistance please call me at (850) 413- 6234, or Sam Merta at (850) 413-6427.

Sincerely,



Ralph R. Jaeger
Senior Attorney

Enclosures

RRJ/slc

cc: Division of Economic Regulation (Willis, Baxter, Colson, Draper, Gardner, Haff, Hewitt, Kenny, Kummer, Lester, Maurey, Merta, Rendell, Revell, Springer, Stallcup, Wheeler, Vandiver, Welch, Winters)
Division of Regulatory Compliance and Consumer Assistance (Witman, Fletcher, Hicks)
Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services
Cheryl Martin - Florida Public Utilities Company

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