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April 13, 2005

HAND DELIVERED

RECEIVED-FPSC
APR 13 AM 11:53
COMMISSION
CLERK

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Commission Clerk
and Administrative Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Request of Tampa Electric Company to Exclude Outage Event on March 14, 2005
from its Annual Distribution Service Reliability Report

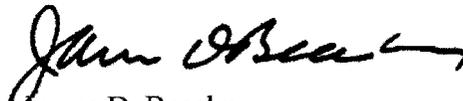
Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing in the above-styled matter are the original and fifteen (15) copies of Tampa Electric Company's Request to Exclude Outage Events from Distribution Reliability Reporting.

Please acknowledge receipt and filing of the above by stamping the duplicate copy of this letter and returning same to this writer.

Thank you for your assistance in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,


James D. Beasley

JDB/pp
Enclosure

RECEIVED & FILED

FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
03580 APR 13 05
FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Request of Tampa Electric Company)
to Exclude Outage Event on March 14, 2005)
from its Annual Distribution Service)
Reliability Report.)
_____)

DOCKET NO. _____
FILED: April 13, 2005

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S
REQUEST TO EXCLUDE OUTAGE EVENT
FROM DISTRIBUTION RELIABILITY REPORTING**

Tampa Electric Company ("Tampa Electric" or "the company"), pursuant to Rule 25-6.0455(3), Florida Administrative Code, hereby requests the Florida Public Service Commission ("the Commission") to approve the exclusion from the company's Annual Distribution Service Reliability Report for calendar year 2005 of an outage event on March 14, 2005, resulting from a severe weather system described herein. In support of its request, Tampa Electric states as follows:

1. Tampa Electric is a public utility subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to Chapter 366, Florida Statutes. The company's principal place of business is located at 702 North Franklin Street, Tampa, Florida 33601

2. All notices, pleadings and correspondence required to be served on Tampa Electric should be directed to:

Lee L. Willis
James D. Beasley
Ausley & McMullen
Post Office Box 391
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 224-9115

Angela L. Llewellyn
Administrator, Regulatory Coordination
Tampa Electric Company
Post Office Box 111
Tampa, FL 33601-0111
(813) 228-1752

3. Commission Rule 25-6.0455(1), Florida Administrative Code, requires utilities to file an Annual Distribution Service Reliability Report for each calendar year by March 1 of the following year. The Report provides extensive distribution outage event data and related calculations of reliability indices, as specified in Commission Forms PSC/ECR 102-1 and 102-3. Section (2) of the Rule allows a utility to exclude from its Annual Distribution Service Reliability Report outage events caused by certain enumerated conditions. Finally, Subsection (3) of the Rule provides that a utility may also request the exclusion of an outage event not specifically enumerated in Subsection (2) from its Report, and goes on to state: “The Commission will approve the request if the utility is able to demonstrate that the outage was not within the utility’s control, and that the utility could not reasonably have prevented the outage.” This request by Tampa Electric is submitted for Commission approval pursuant to the provisions of Subsection (3).

Details of the Outage Event

4. On March 14, 2005 Tampa Electric experienced hail and abnormally excessive winds caused by either a microburst as identified by the National Weather Service or a tornado as identified by Impact Weather, Inc. This weather condition damaged roofs and windows, uprooted trees which impacted power lines and poles resulting in electric outages in the Seminole Heights area of Tampa Electric’s service area at approximately 12:42 p.m. on March 14, 2005. These events were beyond the control of Tampa Electric Company.

5. During the microburst Tampa Electric experienced very heavy winds which were estimated at 65 miles per hour in the areas that received the heaviest damage. These high winds impacted a relatively narrow area of central Tampa and concluded within minutes, but only after causing significant damage to the electric system serving this community.

Impact of the Outage Event

6. Nearly 2,000 customers were interrupted as a result of the microburst storm. The outages accounted for approximately 350,000 customer minutes of interruption. High winds damaged the Seminole Heights area’s electric system. The system impact to SAIDI was 33.13 seconds or 85% of the total of 39 seconds for the entire 24-hour period on March 14, 2005.

7. As a result of the damage caused by the microburst, Tampa Electric’s storm response team replaced poles, transformers, wire and related pole and line hardware. The majority of restoration was completed by late afternoon with the final customers being restored before midnight on March 14, 2005.

8. Local news media reported numerous trees down, hail and heavy rain and wind in the Seminole Heights area of Tampa as a result of the microburst. Damage to residential and commercial properties, vehicles and utilities were reported to have been attributed to a microburst of winds that gusted from 60 to 65 miles per hour. Radar found conditions that typically lead to tornados forming, but none was confirmed.

9. Set forth below as Figure 1 is a chart reflecting the impact of the March 14, 2005 microburst.

	Area Impacted	System Total (24 Hours)
SAIDI (in seconds)	33.13 (System Impact)	39
Interruptions	7	30
Customers Interrupted	1,924	2,943
Customer Minutes of Interruption	349,524	408,636

Results of Weather Analysis

10. To better understand the extent of the weather conditions that resulted in the above-referenced outages, Tampa Electric contacted the National Weather Service and Impact Weather, Inc. The National Weather Service analysis is attached hereto as Exhibit A and can be found online at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/TopNewsOfTheDay3.shtml>. Impact Weather's analysis, attached hereto as Exhibit B, was performed by meteorologist Robert Mullenax who reviewed radar and upper air observations and concluded that the weather conditions impacting Seminole Heights were more likely attributable to a very weak tornado rather than a microburst as deduced by NWS.

11. Attached hereto as Exhibit C is an article from the *Tampa Tribune* dated March 15, 2005, describing the microburst event of March 14 and its impact on central Tampa. Exhibit D is a follow up article from the *Tampa Tribune* dated March 16, 2005. The final attachment, Exhibit E, is a composite of photographs of the storm damage caused by the March 14 microburst.

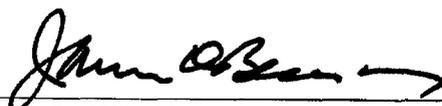
Conclusion

12. Tampa Electric's central service area experienced severe weather conditions for a brief period of time on March 14, 2005. This weather condition created non-preventable damage to public and private property and also impacted customers and their electric service. Two independent weather organizations have analyzed and provided professional opinions that the event was no less than a microburst and more likely a tornado. As a result of the damage to the electric system and length of time required to restore power, this event significantly affected the company's reliability indices. The events were beyond the reasonable control of Tampa Electric.

WHEREFORE, based on the information set forth above, Tampa Electric respectfully requests that the Commission grant this request and approve the exclusion of the outage event of March 14, 2005 from the company's reliability indices reported in the company's distribution service reliability report for calendar year 2005.

DATED this 13th day of April 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



LEE L. WILLIS
JAMES D. BEASLEY
Ausley & McMullen
Post Office Box 391
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 224-9115

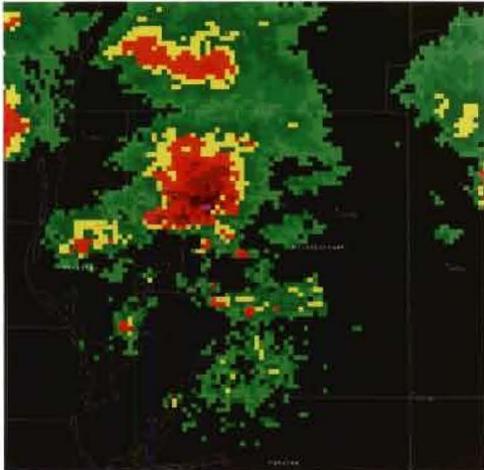
ATTORNEYS FOR TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY

National Weather Service

The following survey and analysis was completed by Barry Goldsmith, Senior Forecaster, National Weather Service. The survey can be found on our web site at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/TopNewsOfTheDay3.shtml>

Brief Microburst Strikes Tampa



Composite reflectivity image, showing hail core (pink pixel in center of image) just prior to the microburst



Map of neighborhood. Orange box depicts severe (58 mph) damage; maroon insert was area of most damage.

Sudden Storm Causes Damage in Seminole Heights

A microburst crashed down on unsuspecting Seminole Heights shortly after noon (12:45 PM) on Monday, March 14, 2005, causing widespread but relatively minor damage along the 1.5 mile path. Damage included a few roofs peeled back, windows blown out of at least one business, dozens of trees and large limbs blown down, and at least a dozen power wires and transformers blown down. About 2000 residents were without power shortly after the storm passed. All this was done in only a minute's time in any given location.

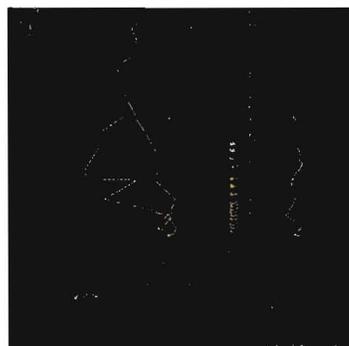


Figure 1. 7 AM EST Sounding from NWS Ruskin.

[Click for a larger image.](#)

Track

Winds were estimated at 65 mph in the heaviest damage area. Severe (58 mph estimated wind) damage began around the intersection of Henry and Ithmar Avenue, along and just north of the Hillsborough River. The damage intensified in a Park just west of Ola Avenue, where at least 10 pine trees were blown down or uprooted. A large oak tree had many limbs downed onto a home on Henry Avenue just north of the park. Actual structural damage to residences was minor, including fascia and a few shingles.

As the burst crossed out of the neighborhood and into the commercial zone including north Florida and Hillsborough Avenue, damage increased a bit. One business on N. Florida Avenue had its windows blown out, followed by water damage inside. A bit farther east, on N. Central Ave, a fallen oak smashed three vehicles in a church parking lot. Damage continued sporadically after the storm crossed interstate 275, with a placard blown out at a tire store and took out a portion of the aluminum roof.

Meteorology

The storm, which formed in unstable air along the edge of a band of convection which had originally developed along the right rear quadrant of a 250 mb jet streak, intensified as it moved onshore in Pinellas County shortly after noon and headed across the northern shore of Old Tampa Bay.

At around 1230 PM, the storm further intensified, and by 1235 PM, a distinct reflectivity maximum was noted in the core of the storm. Given the cold temperatures aloft, the core appeared to contain small hail, which was indeed the case after interviews with several residents along the track indicated pea size hail briefly covered the ground. At the same time, a "V" shaped reflectivity void was evident west of the core; such a signature indicates increasing momentum transport into the cell, which in turn aids microburst development. Such momentum may have been generated by dry air and strong winds above 800 mb (Figure 1, above).



Mr. Scott H. Smith
Manager, System Reliability
Tampa Electric, Co.

Greetings Mr. Smith,

This document is the result of a study of the weather events of March 14, 2005 over the Tampa Electric service area. There was an official storm report of damage in Tampa in the area of Henry Avenue and Florida Avenue around 12:45 pm EST. A preliminary survey by a National Weather Service employee estimated that winds of 60 to 65 mph were the result of a microburst, which is a sudden downrush of strong winds from a thunderstorm.

Certainly, the possibility of a microburst cannot be discounted, especially since the NWS employee observed the damage first hand. However, in the official storm report archived by the Storm Prediction Center, no mention is made of wind gusts or a microburst. After reviewing radar data, surface observations, as well as upper-air observations, we feel that there is a possibility that the damage was caused by a very brief, and weak tornado.

On March 14, 2005 southerly flow at the surface quickly turned with height to become strong westerly winds at middle and high levels in the atmosphere. The morning upper-air sounding (7:00 am EST) confirmed this, as well as wind profiles that can be obtained from the Tampa area NWS Doppler radar. This turning of the wind with height was sufficient to allow for the formation of weak tornadoes. Radar velocity data between 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm EST indicated several areas of weak rotation in the Tampa area. This rotation was not organized enough, nor strong enough, to be classified as a radar-indicated mesocyclone or tornado. However, very brief and weak tornadoes can and do occur in this type of environment and go undetected by radar.

We feel that there is a fair probability that the damage over the Tampa Electric service area during the midday hours of March 14, 2005, was caused by strong winds from a very weak, brief tornado, which likely would not have had a noticeable funnel. Radar data, and surface and upper-air observations confirm that conditions were ripe for the formation of such weak tornadic activity. Because of the weakness of the event it is difficult to say with absolute certainty the cause of the wind damage, but we believe that a very weak tornado is more likely to have caused the damage than a microburst.

If you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Robert Mullenax
ImpactWeather, Inc.

Tampa Tribune: Article 1

Tampa Tribune, The (FL)

March 15, 2005

"Freaky' Storm Blasts Through

Author: VALERIE KALFRIN; vkalfrin@tampatrib.com

Edition: FINAL

Section: NATION/WORLD

Page: 1

Dateline: TAMPA

Article Text:

Uprooted Trees Crush Vehicles In Seminole Heights; No One Injured

By VALERIE KALFRIN

vkalfrin@tampatrib.com

TAMPA — Monday's wild swath of wind and rain caught Jeimy Tejada off guard at Manny's on the Bay plant nursery in central Tampa.

The sky blackened and hail fell. A large tree snapped. Birds slammed into a fence. Tejada, 24, clung to an outdoor refrigerator for stability at her father's business at 600 W. Hillsborough Ave.

"All I kept saying was, "Lord, please be with us," she said. "It was black, then you saw a flash of blue light, then it was over. It was the longest three or four minutes of my life."

Without warning, a brief, powerful blast of wind from a dissipating thunderstorm smacked the Seminole Heights area about 12:45 p.m. Monday. The phenomenon, called a microburst, occurs when winds pushed high in the atmosphere rush downward, hitting the ground in all directions.

Residents and workers in the area seemed dumbstruck by the "wall of water" and high winds that appeared to come out of nowhere.

"I was standing by the door, ready to leave, and the door blew open, the windows blew out and the ceiling fell in," said Chris Thach, a sales engineer for W! SM Co. at 5100 N. Florida Ave., which makes air-quality products. "It was pretty much over in a heartbeat."

About 2,000 Tampa Electric Co. customers lost power. Electricity had been restored to all customers by Monday night.

"We had poles snapped and broken on the ground, we had wires down, transformers down," Tampa Electric spokesman Ross Bannister said. "It was a mess."

Mayor Pam Iorio said she was amazed at the damage she saw from a police helicopter. "Thankfully, no one was hurt," she said.

Monday morning, the National Weather Service had predicted a chance of thunderstorms. A series of them moved off the Gulf of Mexico over northern Pinellas County and into Hillsborough County about noon, heading inland at 40 mph when the microburst occurred, the weather service said. A meteorologist who surveyed Monday's damage estimated winds from the microburst reached 60 to 65 mph.

Radar indicated the storms were not powerful enough to be classified as severe, meaning they didn't pack winds of more than 58 mph or hail three-fourths of an inch or larger, weather service meteorologist Jennifer Colson said.

The weather service issued a statement at 12:45 p.m., about the same time the microburst occurred, saying strong thunderstorms were possible.

News Channel 8 chief meteorologist Steve Jerve said: "It's virtually impossible to see a microburst coming, especially predict it for one particular area. Fast-occurring events are the nature of Florida weather."

The weather service radar found conditions in the storms that could lead to tornadoes forming, but there was no indication any were spawned by Monday's storms, Colson said.

Nevertheless, the brief blast littered the area with debris, with branches and trees scattered over yards, streets and cars. One uprooted tree crushed two pickups and a sport utility vehicle at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5103 N. Central Ave. It caused more damage at the church than all of last year's hurricanes, Pastor Lorr! el Strom-Jensen said.

Court reporter Kim Strasser, 28, discovered her neighbor's tree had crushed the roof of her 2000 Volkswagen Jetta. Strasser was working at home in the 5700 block of Suwanee Avenue when the wind hit. Thinking it was a tornado, she grabbed her schnauzer and hid in the bathroom.

"This is just freaky," she said.

Four WSM employees were in the office on North Florida Avenue when wind gusted through a back door and wreaked havoc with the drop ceiling, smashing tiles to the floor. It also ripped two doors off the hinges.

"It was like being in 'The Wizard of Oz,' " said accountant Dawn McBride, whose husband is a Tampa Tribune photographer. "I thought the whole ceiling was going to fall down on me."

One employee went to be checked out at a hospital because the winds tossed him into a wall, McBride said.

While the company's ceiling fell apart, owner Tom Waites had an unsettling experience driving west on Hillsborough Avenue across the river.

"I got right to the bridge and I could feel the car lifting up," said Waites, who drives a Volkswagen Passat. "When I came through it, I was facing north on the river. It was definitely some wind, that's for sure."

Mike Mellott also was on the bridge in the rough weather. He phoned his wife, Patty, manager of Tire World at 202 W. Hillsborough Ave., to say, "Wait till you see what's coming to you."

Patty Mellott shooed employees and customers away from the windows. "A wall of white just hit us," she said of the rain. "Everything started banging and bumping."

The wind tore off the business' sign and shredded a chunk of the aluminum roof.

Ray Cason, owner of Thunder Bay Custom Cycles a block away, said he barely had pulled a motorcycle inside when "I just saw a solid white wall of water coming at us."

"It looked like it was raining inside the building," he said. "I was like, holy smokes. I was soaked from head to toe."

The stormy weather is expected ! to linger through the week, with thunderstorms in the afternoons and evenings dropping 1 to 2 inches of rain.

(CHART) OUT OF THE BLUE

Monday's wind damage was caused by a microburst. Microbursts are powerful downdrafts associated with thunderstorms. They can produce 100+ mph winds and last up to 20 minutes.

(See microfilm for complete chart.)

Graphic by Knight Ridder/Tribune; Source: NOAA

Reporters Sean Lengell, Neil Johnson and Andy Reid contributed to this report. Reporter Valerie Kalfrin can be reached at (813) 259-7800.

Caption:

Tribune map

AREA WHERE DAMAGE OCCURRED

Tribune photo by CLIFF McBRIDE

J.D. Lawson of Tampa Fire Rescue knocks out what's left of a large window that was blown out during the storm at WSM Co. on Florida Avenue.

Tribune photo by VICTOR JUNCO

Monday's microburst uprooted a large oak tree, which crushed three vehicles, including a pickup parked near a church on North Central Avenue.

Tribune photos by CLIFF McBRIDE

A power transformer and pole were knocked over in Seminole Heights as trees and power poles snapped in Monday's sudden storm.

Kim Strasser was working at her home in the 5700 block of Suwanee Avenue on Monday. When she went outside after the storm, she found that her neighbor's tree had landed atop her car. "This is just

freaky," she said.MAP

CHART

PHOTO 4

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Record Number: MERLIN_4075726

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Tampa Tribune: Article 2

Tampa Tribune, The (FL)

March 16, 2005

Storm Cleanup Keeps Residents Busy

WEATHER PATTERN COULD BRING REPEAT MICROBURST

Author: SEAN LENGELL; slengell@tampatrib.com

Edition: FINAL

Section: METRO

Page: 1

Dateline: TAMPA

Article Text:

By SEAN LENGELL

slengell@tampatrib.com

TAMPA — Janna Jones and Mark Neumann intended to spend their spring break vacation quietly relaxing at their 1913 Seminole Heights home.

Instead, the couple, professors at the University of South Florida, are dealing with removing a massive tree that fell in their back yard during Monday's freak storm in the Seminole Heights area.

"We've both been a bit relieved that this tree finally fell," Neumann said. "It worried us for a year."

Throughout the Seminole Heights area Tuesday, residents, city crews and private tree removal companies busily cut up fallen trees and broken tree limbs.

Several trees fell at Henry and Ola Playground in Seminole Heights. Across the street, a large tree snapped and damaged the front porch of a house.

Fallen trees crushed several vehicles throughout the area, including two pickups and an SUV at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5103 N. Central Ave.

Overall, though, damage to structures was limited. Many trees fell out of harm's way in back yards, streets and parking lots. No serious injuries were reported.

A brief, powerful blast of wind from a dissipating thunderstorm slammed the Seminole Heights area about 12:45 p.m. Monday. The phenomenon, called a microburst, occurs when winds pushed high in the atmosphere rush downward, hitting the ground in all directions.

During the next couple of days, a series of upper level weather disturbances, in conjunction with an active jet stream and an area of low pressure area, could make conditions ripe for more microbursts, National Weather Service meteorologist Jennifer Colson said.

"All these [weather conditions] will kind of be coming together," she said. "We'll definitely not rule [microbursts] out."

Weather could get particularly nasty this afternoon north of Brooksville, and Thursday afternoon throughout West Central Florida, Colson said.

Jones said the loss of the tree that crashed through her back fence at 5202 N. Suwanee Ave. will adversely affect the yard's ecology.

"That tree hosted an incredible amount of critter life," she said.

Joel Robert spent Tuesday sawing limbs from an ear tree that fell from his front yard and landed on a neighbor's car.

"It probably took not more than two seconds to fall," Robert said. "I honestly didn't believe it would topple over. I guess it's just the luck of the draw."

Robert said not having the massive tree shade the front of his house at 5700 N. Suwanee Ave. will take some getting used to.

"It's almost a blessing; the tree roots were hurting the house," he said. "But my electric bill will be a lot higher."

Crews from the Tampa parks and recreation and solid waste departments, and with the city's Neighborhood Environmental Action Team program, picked up about 350 cubic yards of tree debris Tuesday, solid waste Director David McCary said.

City crews will pick up debris placed next to the curb, McCary said. Branches should be no longer than 5 feet.

McCary said crews will continue sweeping the neighborhood for debris in the coming days, a process that ! could take up to two weeks. Residents who have placed debris by the curb should call solid waste at (813) 348-1111 to ensure it's picked up, he said.

Reporter Sean Lengell can be reached at (813) 259-7145.

Caption:

Tribune photo by VICTOR JUNCO

Joel Robert, left, and a friend work on Tuesday to remove a large tree that was knocked down in front of Robert's home. "I honestly didn't believe it would topple over. I guess it's just the luck of the draw," Robert said.PHOTO

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Record Number: MERLIN_4078216

Picture 1: Pole and Transformer Down



Picture 2: Damaged Pole Responded to by Tampa Electric, Asplundh, Police & Media



Picture 3: Close-up of Picture 2



Picture 4: Downed Wire by Palm Tree



Picture 5: Downed Wires by Trees



Picture 6: Downed Wires by Trees



Picture 7: Downed Wires by Trees

