

**Timolyn Henry**

060172

**From:** terry.scobie@verizon.com  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2006 4:52 PM  
**To:** Filings@psc.state.fl.us  
**Cc:** de.oroark@verizon.com; Kimberly Caswell; David Christian; demetria.c.watts@verizon.com; frank.app@verizon.com  
**Subject:** Docket No. 060173-EU - Verizon Florida Inc.'s Request for Hearing  
**Attachments:** 060173 Request for Hearing 7-28-06.pdf



060173 Request for Hearing 7-2...

The attached filing is submitted in Docket No. 060173-EU on behalf of Verizon Florida Inc. by

Dulaney L. O'Roark III  
 Six Concourse Parkway  
 Suite 600  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
 (770) 284-5498  
 de.oroark@verizon.com

The attached .pdf document contains 7 pages - transmittal letter (1 page), certificate of service (1 page), service list (1 page) and Request for Hearing (4 pages).

(See attached file: 060173 Request for Hearing 7-28-06.pdf)

Terry Scobie  
 Executive Adm. Assistant  
 Verizon Legal Department  
 813-483-2610 (tel)  
 813-204-8870 (fax)  
 terry.scobie@verizon.com

- CMP \_\_\_\_\_
- COM 5
- CTR \_\_\_\_\_
- ECR \_\_\_\_\_
- GCL \_\_\_\_\_
- OPC \_\_\_\_\_
- RCA \_\_\_\_\_
- SCR \_\_\_\_\_
- SGA \_\_\_\_\_
- SEC 1
- OTH \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINAL



Dulaney L. O'Roark III  
Vice President & General Counsel, Southeast Region  
Legal Department

Six Concourse Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

Phone: 770-284-5498  
Fax: 770-284-5488  
de.oroark@verizon.com

July 28, 2006 – **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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

Re: Docket No. 060173-EU  
Proposed amendments to rules regarding overhead electric facilities to allow  
more stringent construction standards than required by National Electric Safety  
Code

Docket No. 060172-EU  
Proposed rules governing placement of new electric distribution facilities  
underground, and conversion of existing overhead distribution facilities to  
underground facilities, to address effects of extreme weather events

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed is Verizon Florida Inc.'s Request for Hearing for filing in the above matters.  
Service has been made as indicated on the Certificate of Service. If there are any  
questions regarding this filing, please contact me at 770-284-5498.

Sincerely,

s/ Dulaney L. O'Roark III

Dulaney L. O'Roark III

Enclosures

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

06751 JUL 28 06

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing were sent via U.S. mail on July 28, 2006 to the parties on the attached list.

s/ Dulaney L. O'Roark III

Staff Counsel  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Ausley Law Firm  
Lee Willis/Jim Beasley  
P. O. Box 391  
Tallahassee, FL 32302

BellSouth Telecomm.  
James Meza III  
c/o Nancy H. Sims  
150 South Monroe Street  
Suite 400  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Beggs & Lane Law Firm  
Russell Badders  
P. O. Box 12950  
Pensacola, FL 32576-2950

Boca Woods Emergency  
Power Committee  
Alan Platner  
11379 Boca Woods Lane  
Boca Raton, FL 33428

Embarq Florida, Inc.  
Charles J. Rehwinkel  
FLTLHZ0501  
315 S. Calhoun Street  
Suite 500  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Florid Cable Telecomm. Assn.  
Michael A. Gross  
246 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Suite 100  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Florida Electric Cooperative Assn.  
Bill Willingham  
2916 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Florida Municipal Elec. Assn.  
Frederick M. Bryant/  
Jody Lamar Finklea  
P. O. Box 3209  
Tallahassee, FL 32315-3209

Florida Power & Light Company  
Natalie F. Smith/John Butler  
700 Universe Boulevard  
Juno Beach, FL 33408

H.M. Rollins Company, Inc.  
H. M. Rollins  
P. O. Box 3471  
Gulfport, MS 39505

Lee County Elec. Coop. Inc.  
Donald Schleicher  
William Hamilton  
P. O. Box 3455  
North Fort Myers, FL 33918

North American Wood Pole  
Council  
Dennis Hayward  
7017 NE Highway 99  
Suite 108  
Vancouver, WA 98665

Pennington Law Firm  
Howard E. Adams  
P. O. Box 10095  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-2095

Southern Pressure Treaters  
Association  
Carl Johnson  
P. O. Box 3219  
Pineville, LA 71360

TDS Telecom/Quincy Telephone  
Thomas M. McCabe  
P. O. Box 189  
Quincy, FL 32353-0189

Town of Jupiter Island  
Donald R. Hubbs  
P. O. Box 7  
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

Town of Palm Beach  
Thomas G. Bradford  
P. O. Box 2029  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Treated Wood Council  
Jeff Miller  
1111 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036

Western Wood Preservers  
Institute  
Todd Brown  
7017 NE Highway 99  
Suite 108  
Vancouver, WA 98665

Young Law Firm  
R. Scheffel Wright  
John LaVia  
225 South Adams Street  
Suite 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Proposed amendments to rules regarding overhead electric facilities to allow more stringent construction standards than required by National Electric Safety Code

Docket No. 060173-EU  
Filed: July 28, 2006

and

In re: Proposed rules governing placement of new electric distribution facilities underground, and conversion of existing overhead distribution facilities to underground facilities, to address effects of extreme weather events

Docket No. 060172-EU

VERIZON FLORIDA INC.'S REQUEST FOR HEARING

In accordance with the Order Establishing Procedures for this rulemaking (Order No. PSC-06-0610-PCO-EU), Florida Statutes § 120.54(3)(c) and Florida Administrative Code § 28-103.004, Verizon Florida Inc. ("Verizon") asks the Commission to set a hearing on the proposed amendments to Rules 25-6.034, 25-6.064, .25-6.078, and 25-6.115 that Staff has proposed in this docket. Verizon is an "affected person" under Florida Statutes, § 120.54(3)(c), and Florida Administrative Code Rule § 28-103.004(3), and is, therefore, entitled to a hearing.

The Commission has already set a hearing on proposed new Rules 25-6.0341, 25-6.0342, and 25-6.0343, and Verizon intends to participate in that hearing. The Commission did not, however, set a hearing for the proposed changes to Rule 25-6.034, 25-6.064, 25-6.078, or 25-6.115, even though they would, if adopted, substantially modify the existing rules.

With respect to proposed Rule 25-6.034, whereas the existing rule prescribes construction and maintenance of electric utility facilities “in accordance with generally accepted engineering practices,” the proposed rule would, in addition, require each electric utility to establish its own construction standards for overhead and underground facilities that, “at a minimum,” comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (“NESC”), and that are “guided by the extreme wind loading standards” in the 2002 edition of the NESC. See proposed Rule 25-6.034(2), (4) & (5).

Verizon attaches to approximately 381,000 electric utility poles. In addition, about 29,632 of Verizon’s 107,863 poles bear attachments by electric utilities. Therefore, Verizon is necessarily affected by proposed Rule 25-6.034 (as well as the other proposed rules already slated for hearing). If the rules are adopted, Verizon will have to comply with the construction and maintenance standards set by the electric utilities with respect to third-party attachments. Because these new standards may differ from the existing, uniform national NESC standard, they could require Verizon to upgrade or rearrange its attachments to electric utility facilities, or even to remove them. For these and other reasons, the proposed rule would likely have a negative financial impact on Verizon. Verizon and other ILECs that attach to electric utility poles would be particularly disadvantaged because, unlike the rate-regulated electric utilities, the price-regulated ILECs cannot pass on increased costs to their customers.

To the extent new standards are imposed upon Verizon through the new rules, they may also impermissibly interfere with Verizon’s joint-use and license agreements that govern Verizon’s attachments to electric facilities. Among other things, the new standards could dramatically affect Verizon’s rental rates and impose additional

financial and operational burdens that are not contemplated under the existing contracts.

Indeed, section 25-6.034(7), on its face, recognizes that the rule will affect companies, like Verizon, that attach to electric utility poles, because it requires the utility to seek input from other entities “with existing agreements to share the use of its electric facilities.” The proposed rule, however, does *not* require the electric utility to actually factor other entities’ input into the standards themselves, so Verizon will have no meaningful way of protecting its interests once the electric utility is given the authority to develop its own standards. The rules appear to allow disputes or challenges to a utility’s standards only *after* they are enacted. See proposed rule 25-6.034(7).

Verizon would, likewise, be affected by the changes to Rule 25-6.064, which requires investor-owned electric utilities to calculate amounts due as contributions-in-aid-of-construction (“CIAC”) from customers who request new or upgraded facilities. Through pole rental fees paid to the electric utilities, Verizon pays a portion of their costs when they place new poles, and needs to protect its interest in preventing pole rental rates that are further skewed than they already are.

Proposed Rule 25-6.078 requires the electric utility to implement a tariffed policy for undergrounding facilities in new subdivisions. Verizon would be affected by this change to the extent an electric company’s new undergrounding policy requires Verizon to convert or modify existing pole attachments, thus imposing costs upon Verizon.

Proposed Rule 25-6.115 addresses the electric utility’s recovery of the costs of conversions from overhead to underground facilities. This Rule does not account for the fact that Verizon, as a price-regulated company, does not have the electric utilities’

ability to pass along to customers the costs of such conversions. The new Rule, if adopted, could thus have a negative financial impact upon Verizon and work to its competitive disadvantage.

Because adoption of the proposed amendments to Rules 25-6.034, 25-6.064, 25-6.078, and 25-6.115 would directly (and negatively) affect Verizon, Verizon is entitled to a hearing on these amendments (as well as on the other rules already scheduled for hearing).

Respectfully submitted on July 28, 2006.

By: s/ Dulaney L. O'Roark III  
Dulaney L. O'Roark III  
6 Concourse Parkway, Suite 600  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
Phone: (770) 284-5498  
Fax: (770) 284-5488  
Email: [de.oroark@verizon.com](mailto:de.oroark@verizon.com)

Attorney for Verizon Florida Inc.