

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for increase in rates by Gulf
Power Company.

DOCKET NO. 110138-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-11-0558-PCO-EI
ISSUED: December 7, 2011

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER

On September 1, 2011, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006(6)(c), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Gulf Power Company (Gulf) filed a Motion for Temporary Protective Order to exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., certain confidential information included in Gulf's responses to the Office of Public Counsel's (OPC) Second Request for Production of Documents and Second Interrogatories, Nos. 75-85 and 88-153. This request was filed in Docket No. 110138-EI. No other party filed a response to Gulf's motion, and the time for doing so has expired.

Motion for Temporary Protective Order

Gulf contends that its responses to OPC's aforementioned discovery requests include, but are not limited to, information related to contractual terms and data, the disclosure of which could harm the competitive business of the provider of information. Specifically, Gulf contends that such information, if made available to the public, could place Gulf at a competitive disadvantage with respect to competitors when attempting to contract for like services. Further, Gulf asserts that if market participants possessed Gulf's confidential information they would be able to adjust their behavior in the market place thereby changing the prices at which Gulf is able to contract for such services. Accordingly, Gulf submits that the information is exempt pursuant to Section 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S.

Analysis & Ruling

Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C., codifies the Commission's policy regarding the protection of confidential information from public disclosure during the discovery process in a manner that is not overly burdensome to both parties. Rule 25-22.006(6)(c), F.A.C., in pertinent part, states:

When a utility or other person agrees to allow Public Counsel to inspect or take possession of utility information for the purpose of determining what information is to be used in a proceeding before the Commission, the utility may request a temporary protective order exempting the information from Section 119.07(1), F.S. If the information is to be used in a proceeding before the Commission, then the utility must file a specific request for a protective order under paragraph (a) above.

DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Upon consideration, Gulf's Motion for Temporary Protective Order of documents responsive to OPC's Second Request for Production of Documents and Second Interrogatories, Nos. 75-85 and 88-153 is granted. Gulf has made sufficient assertions that the material should be protected from disclosure pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(6)(c), F.A.C., while OPC reviews the information to determine what information will be used in this proceeding. Accordingly, this information will be protected from disclosure pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, that the Motion for Temporary Protective Order filed by Gulf Power Company is hereby granted as set forth herein.

By ORDER of Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, this 7th day of December, 2011.



LISA POLAK EDGAR
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.