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June 14, 2013

HAND DELIVERED

RECEIVED-FPSC
13 JUN 14 AM 10:22
COMMISSION
CLERK

Ms. Ann Cole, Director
Division of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Advanced Solar Photonics/Blue Chip Energy LLC Solar Panel Recall

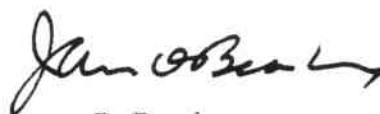
Dear Ms. Cole:

Enclosed for filing in the above-styled matter is one copy of Tampa Electric Company's answers to Staff's Informal Data Request Nos. 1-22 dated May 22, 2013.

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

cc: Charles Murphy
Jim Dean
Judy Harlow

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

03315 JUN 14 2

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 1
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

1. When and how did your Company become aware of the recall of solar panels manufactured by Advanced Solar Photonics (ASP) on behalf of Blue Chip Energy LLC (BCE)? When and how did your Company first notify affected customers?
 - A. On April 16, 2013, Tampa Electric received an e-mail forwarded from another utility with information about the Underwriters Laboratories ("UL") notice of warning of counterfeit UL markings. The e-mail originated from the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association warning its members of the notice. The e-mail included a link to UL's Public Notice 13PN-20. Tampa Electric notified the four customers that were known to have the affected panels installed on their homes or offices via certified letters dated May 14, 2013.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 2
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

2. What procedures does your Company use to verify that the solar photovoltaic (PV) systems installed by customers are eligible to receive a rebate under the solar rebate program standards?
- A. Tampa Electric's Residential and Commercial PV Rebate Program standards require the PV system to be grid-connected. The applicant is required to meet all applicable interconnection requirements as set forth in Tampa Electric's Standard Interconnection Agreement for Renewable Generator Systems in accordance with Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C.

The company's Standard Interconnection Agreement requires customer-owned renewable generation to comply with UL 1741 (2005) Inverters, Converters, Controllers and Interconnection System Equipment for use with Distributed Energy Resources. To ensure that Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. is met, Tampa Electric verifies that each inverter listed on the application for interconnection is UL listed and the company requires a copy of the manufacturer's installation, operation and maintenance instructions for the system's inverter to be submitted with the application for interconnection. Each inverter is reviewed and verified to have been UL approved. Tampa Electric also requires a copy of the local code enforcement approval, providing proof that the system meets the National Electric Code ("NEC") in addition to any additional standard required by the jurisdiction.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 3
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 3.** What procedures does your Company use to verify that customer-owned solar PV systems that are interconnected and net metered meet the requirements of Rule 25-6.065, Florida Administrative Code?
 - A.** The company's Standard Interconnection Agreement requires customer-owned renewable generation to comply with UL 1741 (2005) Inverters, Converters, Controllers and Interconnection System Equipment for use with Distributed Energy Resources. To ensure that Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. is met, Tampa Electric verifies that each inverter listed on the application for interconnection is UL listed and requires a copy of the manufacturer's installation, operation and maintenance instructions for the system's inverter to be submitted with the application for interconnection. Each inverter is reviewed and verified to have been UL approved. Tampa Electric also requires a copy of the local code enforcement approval, providing proof that the system meets the NEC in addition to any additional standard required by the jurisdiction.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 4
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

4. What procedures did your Company take to ensure that the solar panels were UL approved?
 - A. It is Tampa Electric's purpose and understanding that the Authority Having Jurisdiction ("AHJ") will enforce compliance with UL 1703. The company relies on local code enforcement agencies to enforce code compliance for customer owned equipment that is behind the meter. A copy of the code enforcement approval is required to be submitted with the application for interconnection. As part of the interconnection application process, inverters are verified to be UL approved. The company verifies the inverters are UL approved by requiring a copy of the manufacturer's installation, operation and maintenance instructions for the system's inverter to be submitted with the application for interconnection.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 5
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 5.** Has the Company received any customer complaints regarding the PV panel recall? How is your Company working with customers that have concerns related to the recall?
 - A.** To date, Tampa Electric has not received any customer complaints.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
 UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
 STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
 REQUEST
 REQUEST NO. 6
 PAGE 1 OF 1
 FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

6. Please complete the table below:

PV Participants and Incentives Paid 2011 through March 2013									
Program	2011			2012			2013		
	Participants	KW	Incentives	Participants	KW	Incentives	Participants	KW	Incentives
PV Incentives Residential PV Commercial PV									
Blue Chip Participants w/ASP panels Residential Commercial									
Total Residential & Commercial PV BCE									
Percent BCE Incentives to all PV Incentives									

A.

PV Participants and Incentives Paid 2011 through March 2013									
Program	2011			2012			2013		
	Participants	KW	Incentives	Participants	KW	Incentives	Participants	KW	Incentives
PV Incentives Residential PV Commercial PV	49	310.916	\$621,832	62	494.998	\$989,996	13	111.830	\$223,660
	8	74.160	\$148,320	7	61.000	\$122,000	0	0	0
	57	385.076	\$770,152	69	555.998	\$1,111,996	13	111.830	\$223,660
Blue Chip Participants w/ASP panels Residential Commercial	1	6.24	\$12,480	2	16	\$32,000	0	0	0
	0	0	0	1	10	\$20,000	0	0	0
Total Residential & Commercial PV BCE	1	6.24	\$12,480	3	26	\$52,000	0	0	0
Percent BCE Incentives to all PV Incentives	1.75%	1.62%	1.62%	4.35%	4.68%	4.68%	0	0	0

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 7
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 7.** How many customers have been identified within your service territory that are net metered customers with panels installed by BCE?
 - A.** A total of seven net metered customers in Tampa Electric's territory have PV systems installed by Blue Chip Energy (the company is also known as Complete Electric Contractors, Inc.). Of these seven, four customers have the panels affected by the recall. The other three net metered customers with systems installed by Blue Chip have other panel types installed.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 8
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 8.** Please provide copies of all documents the Company either sent to or received from Blue Chip or Advanced Solar Photonics regarding the recall.

- A.** Tampa Electric has not received notice from Blue Chip or Advanced Solar Photonics regarding the recall. Tampa Electric has not communicated directly with Blue Chip or Advanced Solar Photonics regarding the recall.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 9
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 9.** Please provide copies of all documents the Company either sent to or received from the Florida Solar Energy Center regarding the recall.

- A.** Tampa Electric has not received notice or correspondence from the Florida Solar Energy Center regarding the recall. Tampa Electric has not sent correspondence to the Florida Solar Energy Center regarding the recall.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 10
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 10.** Please provide copies of all documents the Company either sent to or received from UL regarding the recall.

- A.** Tampa Electric has not received notice or correspondence from UL regarding the recall. Tampa Electric has not sent correspondence to UL regarding the recall.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 11
PAGE 1 OF 2
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 11.** Please provide copies of all correspondence from the Company to each customer who is affected by the recall.
 - A.** Attached to this data request is a copy of the certified letter sent to each of the four affected customers.

TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 11
PAGE 2 OF 2
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013

Date

Customer Name
Customer Address

URGENT PLEASE READ: SAFETY MESSAGE

Subject: Counterfeit UL Safety Marks on certain Advanced Solar Photonics/Bluechip Energy photovoltaic panels

Dear **Customer Name**,

We want to make sure you are aware of a public notice recently issued by Underwriters Laboratory (UL) with respect to certain Advanced Solar Photonics (ASP) (also known as Bluechip Energy) photovoltaic panels (Models AP-240PK, AP-245MK, and ASP-390M). According to the UL notice, these panels bear counterfeit UL Marks. The photovoltaic (solar) panels have not been evaluated by UL to the appropriate Standards for Safety and it is unknown if these photovoltaic panels comply with UL's safety requirements for the United States or Canada. You may see the complete public notice 13PN-20 at the following website:

<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/newsroom/publicnotices/> and search: photovoltaic.

You are receiving this notification because our records reflect that you have installed these panels at your property. As required by Florida Public Service Commission rules and Tampa Electric Company's interconnection standards, all PV systems must be code compliant and meet UL standards for safety.

The UL public notice does not change your net metering status as set forth in the net metering and interconnection rule. At this time, Tampa Electric Company does not plan to require that customers remove the panels from the system. However, the Florida Public Service Commission is currently reviewing this issue and may find an alternate resolution. As such, we strongly urge that if you have these ASP panels installed at your home or business, you consider taking actions to inspect, remove, and/or replace the panels as soon as possible. As indicated above, the counterfeit UL Mark means that the panels have not been tested to UL standards. Therefore the panels may not comply with safety requirements. Tampa Electric Company reminds you that, per Rule 25-6.065, the customer must maintain its equipment in a safe manner and must hold harmless and indemnify Tampa Electric for all loss to third parties resulting from the operation of the equipment.

Thank you for your attention to this important safety matter.

Sincerely,

Tampa Electric Company's Renewable Energy Program

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 12
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 12.** Please provide the number of affected customers who have had their PV equipment either repaired or replaced in order to comply with UL 1703 Standards.
 - A.** To date, Tampa Electric has not received notification as to any repairs or panel replacements that have occurred to the PV systems of the four affected customers.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 13
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 13.** Does your Company anticipate impact on any Florida Public Service Commission regulatory filings resulting from the recall?
- A.** No. Tampa Electric does not anticipate an impact on any Florida Public Service Commission regulatory filings resulting from the recall.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 14
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 14.** Please describe your understanding of the purpose and effect of UL Standard 1703.
 - A.** UL 1703 covers flat-plate photovoltaic modules and panels intended for installation on or integral with buildings, or to be freestanding (that is, not attached to buildings), in accordance with the NEC, NFPA 70, and Model Building Codes. It is Tampa Electric's purpose and understanding that the AHJ will enforce compliance with UL 1703 since the panels are located on the customer side of the meter and are direct current in the nature of the voltage produced.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 15
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 15.** Please explain your understanding of the applicability of UL Standard 1703 to Rule 25-6.065, Florida Administrative Code.
 - A.** Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C., does not refer to UL Standard 1703 specifically. Rule 25-6.065 refers to UL 1741, covering “inverters, converters, controllers, and interconnection system equipment for use with distributed energy resources.” The rule instructs utilities’ to have in place interconnection agreements that require the PV equipment, its installation, its operation and its maintenance to be in compliance with IEEE-1547, IEEE-1547.1, UL-1741, the NEC, state and/or local building codes, mechanical codes, and/or electrical codes.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 16
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 16.** Please explain the applicability of UL Standard 1703 to the Tier 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreements for customer-owned renewable generation.
- A.** The company's Tier 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreements do not refer to UL 1703 specifically. As required by Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C, the company's interconnection agreement refers to UL 1741, covering "inverters, converters, controllers, and interconnection system equipment for use with distributed energy resources." By signing the interconnection agreement, the customer certifies that the PV equipment, its installation, its operation and its maintenance shall be in compliance with IEEE-1547, IEEE-1547.1, UL-1741, the NEC, state and/or local building codes, mechanical codes, and/or electrical codes. It is the local code enforcement's jurisdiction to enforce compliance with these requirements through the permitting process. Tampa Electric requires proof of this approval to be submitted with the application for interconnection.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 17
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 17.** Please explain the applicability of UL Standard 1703 to the Residential and Commercial Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program Standards.
 - A.** The company's Residential and Commercial Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program standards require applicants to meet all applicable interconnection requirements as set forth in Tampa Electric's Standard Interconnection Agreement for Renewable Generator Systems in accordance with Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. The company's interconnection agreement does not refer to UL 1703 specifically.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 18
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 18.** Please describe any safety or performance issues associated with the recalled Advanced Solar Photonics photovoltaic modules.
 - A.** Tampa Electric is not aware of any safety or performance issues associated with the PV systems of the four affected customers.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 19
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 19.** Please explain whether, how, and by whom, the recalled Advanced Solar Photonics photovoltaic modules have been tested to determine any safety or performance issues.
 - A.** Tampa Electric is unaware of any testing that has taken place to determine any safety or performance issues associated with these modules.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 20
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 20.** Is your Company involved in any lawsuits regarding ASP/BCE PV panels?
- A.** No. Tampa electric is not involved in any lawsuits regarding ASP/BCE PV panels.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 21
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 21.** If the solar panels did not meet UL Standard 1703, has your Company complied with all applicable tariffs and Commission requirements, including program standards for eligibility in the solar rebate program? Please explain.
- A.** Yes. Tampa Electric's Residential and Commercial PV Rebate Program standards require the PV system to be grid-connected. The applicant is required to meet all applicable interconnection requirements as set forth in Tampa Electric's Standard Interconnection Agreement for Renewable Generator Systems in accordance with Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. The company's interconnection agreement does not refer to UL 1703 specifically. As required by Rule 25-6.065, the company's interconnection agreement refers to UL 1741, covering "inverters, converters, controllers, and interconnection system equipment for use with distributed energy resources." By signing the interconnection agreement, the customer certifies that the PV equipment, its installation, its operation and its maintenance shall be in compliance with IEEE-1547, IEEE-1547.1, UL-1741, the NEC, state and/or local building codes, mechanical codes, and/or electrical codes. It is the local code enforcement's jurisdiction to enforce compliance with these requirements for customer owned equipment installed behind the meter through the permitting process.

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: PV RECALL
STAFF'S INFORMAL DATA
REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 22
PAGE 1 OF 1
FILED: JUNE 14, 2013**

- 22.** If the solar panels were not UL approved, are rebates that have been made under your Company's incentive program appropriately recovered through the ECCR? Please explain.
- A.** Yes. The company relies on local code enforcement agencies to enforce code compliance for customer owned equipment that is behind the meter. The inverters are verified to be UL approved through the interconnection process, but the panels are not. Tampa Electric's Residential and Commercial PV Rebate Program standards require the PV system to be grid-connected. The applicant is required to meet all applicable interconnection requirements as set forth in Tampa Electric's Standard Interconnection Agreement for Renewable Generator Systems in accordance with Rule 25-6.065, F.A.C. The company requires a copy of the approval by local code enforcement to ensure NEC compliance.