

P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. We are moving on down
3 to, I believe, Item 13.

4 **MS. OLLILA:** Good afternoon, Commissioners.
5 Sue Ollila for staff.

6 Item 13 is Tampa Electric's petition for
7 approval of its advanced meter program agreement. This
8 program is a voluntary program for residential customers
9 who own solar photovoltaic systems that are tied to the
10 company's grid. Customers who sign up for this program
11 will have an advanced meter installed that will record
12 the energy output of their solar generators. The
13 resulting data will be available to the customers as
14 well as to Tampa Electric. There is no cost to the
15 customer for this program. Staff recommends approval
16 and notes that there are representatives from Tampa
17 Electric here to answer questions.

18 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. TECO, welcome.

19 **MR. BEASLEY:** Thank you. Good afternoon,
20 Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. I'm James D. Beasley
21 for Tampa Electric Company. With me today is William R.
22 Ashburn, Director of Pricing and Financial Analysis for
23 Tampa Electric. We fully support your staff's
24 recommendation and are available to answer any questions
25 you may have.

1 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. Commissioners,
2 questions.

3 Commissioner Brown.

4 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Thank you. And thank you
5 for having some representatives here about this. This
6 type of advanced meter is important for distributed
7 generation. It's a good project, and it'll be
8 beneficial to the customers and to TECO, too.

9 I'm curious what you -- it's a three-year
10 non-voluntary program. What do you plan on doing after
11 the three-year period?

12 **MR. ASHBURN:** Commissioner, it's actually a
13 voluntary program.

14 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Oh, voluntary. Okay.

15 **MR. ASHBURN:** We're doing a three-year period.
16 We're going to communicate with all of our residential
17 customers who have PV on their roofs and offer them to
18 take part in this voluntary program. At the end of the
19 three years after we -- it's sort of a pilot to see what
20 happens. We may extend and continue it or we may make
21 it permanent or we may just end it. I just don't know
22 until we've gotten to the end.

23 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Just going to gather
24 facts during that period?

25 **MR. ASHBURN:** That's correct.

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Now you're also offering
2 a partial deployment of the AMP meters to folks that
3 don't have PV, about 5,000 homes. How will this be kind
4 of rolled out and are there costs associated with it to
5 the customers?

6 **MR. ASHBURN:** Commissioner, let me explain.
7 There's two concurrently operating programs kind of
8 rolling out at the same time. The one that we're asking
9 for this tariff sheet for is the program where we're
10 going to put or ask a customer who has a PV on their
11 roof to allow us to put an automated meter on the side
12 of their house, another completely different meter than
13 their current meter. That meter would measure the
14 output of the generator, and we would gather that
15 information and make, of course, that information
16 available to the customer to look at.

17 At the same time that new meter is using a new
18 technology which is called AMI which some of the
19 utilities have used and we're now looking at. As part
20 of that, we're also doing a test of AMI. We're going to
21 roll out, like you said, a few thousand meters in the
22 same -- kind of the Inner Bay area of Tampa. And that
23 system operates under what's called a mesh system. And
24 so you put recording devices and, you know, like large
25 antennas on the top of a pole spaced around the area,

1 and then the various meters would gather the meter
2 information, the regular house meter information, and
3 send that information from meter to meter and then
4 eventually to the collector.

5 The meter that we're putting on the house for
6 the AMP project is essentially the same meter but it's
7 going to have a different communication protocol. We're
8 testing both. For the larger rollout that you're
9 talking about, again it's a test to see how it works and
10 what the problems might be with it. It's this mesh
11 thing where it bounces from meter to meter. The meter
12 we're putting on for the AMP program is actually a
13 second meter, and so the meter that's going to be there
14 is going to bounce its information to the regular meter
15 in the house. And that meter in the house is going to
16 be replaced as well, but it's going to have a cellular
17 phone in it and it will actually dial up and send us the
18 information just as your cell phone would.

19 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Right.

20 **MR. ASHBURN:** So we're testing both
21 technologies. One, the mesh will be really, really well
22 used in a populated area like in downtown Tampa. But we
23 do have some customers out in the middle of nowhere
24 which may not be near somewhere that a mesh can reach,
25 and so we're testing the cellular communication device

1 as well for those type of installations when the time
2 comes.

3 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Great. That's great.
4 Thank you. And just a final question, are there
5 going -- for those pilot programs, I think I read
6 somewhere in the recommendation that there's no cost to
7 the customers.

8 **MR. ASHBURN:** That's correct.

9 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Okay. Great program. I
10 would move approval of the staff recommendation if the
11 Commissioners don't have any other questions on it.

12 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** It's been moved and
13 seconded, staff recommendation on Item No. 13. Any
14 further discussion? Seeing none, all in favor, say aye.

15 (Vote taken.)

16 Any opposed? By your action, you've approved
17 the staff rec on that item.

18 **MR. BEASLEY:** Thank you.

19 (Agenda item concluded.)
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1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
 : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2 COUNTY OF LEON)

3
4 I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission
Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing
5 proceeding was heard at the time and place herein
stated.

6
7 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
8 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
and that this transcript constitutes a true
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

9
10 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
11 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
12 financially interested in the action.

13 DATED THIS 10th day of December, 2015.

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