BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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| In re: Petition for approval of a standard interconnection agreement for interconnected customer-owned battery subsystems, by Tampa Electric Company. | DOCKET NO. 20170258-EQ  ORDER NO. PSC-2018-0095-PAA-EQ  ISSUED: February 22, 2018 |

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

ART GRAHAM, Chairman

JULIE I. BROWN

DONALD J. POLMANN

GARY F. CLARK

ANDREW GILES FAY

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER

APPROVING STANDARD INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

**Background**

On December 5, 2017, Tampa Electric Company (TECO or Utility) filed a petition for approval of a standard interconnection agreement for interconnected customer-owned battery subsystems. Although styled as a petition for a single interconnection agreement, TECO’s petition seeks approval of two new interconnection agreements: one for customers owning property where battery subsystems are connected (Owner’s Agreement) and one for customers renting property where battery subsystems are located (Renter’s Agreement). The Renter’s Agreement includes signature blocks for the Utility and the renter and puts the renter on notice about the Owner’s Agreement. The Owner’s Agreement and Renter’s Agreement (collectively, Agreements) are intended to facilitate the interconnection of customer-owned and customer-rented battery subsystems that are located behind the customer meter but are connected to, and operate in parallel with, TECO’s electrical grid.

We have jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 366.04 and 366.05, Florida Statutes.

**Review and Decision**

TECO’s proposed Agreements are intended for customers owning and renting battery subsystems. In the Owner’s Agreement, a battery subsystem is described as a battery system consisting of one or more storage batteries and battery chargers (including inverters, converters, and associated electrical equipment); this includes batteries charged by solar photovoltaic arrays. These battery subsystems will supply power only for the customer’s own use and will not export power onto the Utility’s supply grid for more than 100 milliseconds. During a faulted condition on the Utility’s system, the customer’s battery subsystem will be isolated but it will still be able to provide electricity to the customer. A faulted condition can occur for reasons such as contact with vegetation, lightning, weather, animals, or vehicles. The Utility currently anticipates interconnecting 73 customer-owned battery subsystems and the Owner’s Agreement will allow the safe interconnection of these subsystems. As long as the customer’s interconnection complies with the provisions set forth in the Owner’s Agreement, the Utility does not expect any negative impacts to its electrical grid. Some of the provisions of the Owner’s Agreement include requiring the customer to have the battery subsystem inspected and approved by the authority having jurisdiction and providing proof of this inspection and approval to the Utility, requiring the customer to maintain the specified amount of general liability insurance for personal injury and property damage, and requiring the customer to install an isolation switch to allow the Utility to completely separate the battery subsystem from the Utility’s system, if necessary, for safety purposes.

The provisions of the Renter’s Agreement notify the customer renting property where a battery subsystem is located that the owner of the property remains responsible for all provisions in the Owner’s Agreement that the owner signed with the Utility. The Renter’s Agreement also requires the customer to abide by, and comply with, all applicable provisions of the Owner’s Agreement that relate to safety and that govern the use, operation and maintenance of the battery subsystem.

By complying with the Agreements, ratepayers owning battery subsystems and renting property where battery subsystems are located can safely interconnect and operate in parallel with the Utility’s electrical grid. Under the Owner’s Agreement, operation of the battery subsystems in parallel with TECO’s electrical grid is not permitted unless the specified requirements are met. Therefore, the Owner’s Agreement will facilitate customers’ desires to own and operate battery subsystems and the Utility personnel working at or near the premises will benefit from the safety measures included in the Owner’s Agreement. The required installation of a visible isolation switch helps to ensure that the battery subsystems are operated in a safe manner by allowing the Utility to open the switch under necessary conditions. Conditions which may require the switch to be opened are:

* Utility system emergencies or maintenance requirements;
* Hazardous conditions existing on the Utility’s system due to the operation of the customer’s battery subsystem;
* Adverse electrical effects (such as power quality problems) on the electrical equipment of the Utility’s customers caused by the battery subsystem; and
* Failure of the customer to maintain the required insurance for the duration of the Owner’s Agreement.

The switch is to be readily accessible to the Utility and capable of being locked in the open position with a Utility padlock. The Utility will reimburse the customer for the cost of the switch installation for battery subsystems at or below 15 kW AC maximum capacity, not to exceed the amount listed on the Utility’s website. Approval of this petition will not relieve the Utility of any requirements during a future rate case proceeding.

Under the Owner’s Agreement, the customer agrees to permit the Utility to inspect the battery subsystem and its components as well as the required documentation, before and after the battery subsystem goes into service, and to witness the initial testing of the customer’s battery subsystem, if the Utility chooses. Once the Utility has received written documentation from the customer that the requirements of the Owner’s Agreement have been met and the correct operation of the isolation switch has been demonstrated to a Utility representative, the Utility will send a written notice within 10 business days that parallel operation of the battery subsystem can begin.

We have reviewed the Agreements and find that the provisions of the Agreements are reasonable and are in place to protect the ratepayers as well as the Utility personnel. The Agreements require customers owning and renting battery subsystems to adhere to terms which ensure the safety of the Utility’s personnel. Approval of this petition will not relieve the Utility of any requirements during a future rate case proceeding. Therefore, we approve TECO’s petition for approval of a standard interconnection agreement for interconnected customer-owned battery subsystems. The Agreements in type-and-strike format are included as Attachment A of this Order.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Tampa Electric Company’s petition for approval of standard interconnection agreements for interconnected customer-owned battery subsystems is approved. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the “Notice of Further Proceedings” attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 22nd day of February, 2018.

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|  | /s/ Carlotta S. Stauffer |
|  | CARLOTTA S. STAUFFER  Commission Clerk |

Florida Public Service Commission

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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

CWM

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 that is available under Section 120.57, 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 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.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on March 15, 2018.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.















