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Duke Energy Florida, LLC

July 17, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Ms. Carlotta Stauffer, Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: *Petition for limited proceeding for approval of a smart meter opt-out tariff
by Duke Energy Florida, LLC; Docket 20180088-EI*

Dear Ms. Stauffer:

Please find enclosed for electronic filing, Duke Energy Florida, LLC's Response to Staff's Fourth Data Request (Nos. 1-7).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions concerning this filing, please feel free to contact me at (727) 820-4692.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dianne M. Triplett

Dianne M. Triplett

DMT/cm
Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished via electronic mail to the following this 17th day of July, 2018.

/s/ Dianne M. Triplett

Attorney

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**DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S (DEF), RESPONSE TO
STAFF'S FOURTH DATA REQUEST (NOS. 1-7) REGARDING
DEF'S PETITION FOR LIMITED PROCEEDING FOR
APPROVAL OF A SMART METER OPT-OUT TARIFF
DOCKET NO. 20180088-EI**

1. Please confirm that only residential and general service (i.e., small commercial) customers will receive a new AMI meter. What kind of meter do general service demand (large commercial) customers currently have and will large commercial customers also receive AMI meters?

RESPONSE:

The AMI deployment will replace existing meters with Itron AMI meters for residential and general service customers with demand less than 1 MW (including small commercial and some large commercial customers with less than 1 MW of demand). The approximately 3,871 large commercial or industrial customers with 1 MW demand or larger already have a digital meter with a cellular device that communicates with DEF's billing system. At this time the approximately 3,845 residential and general service customers on net metering rates will also not receive an AMI meter as part of the deployment.

2. The petition on page 1 states that the NSMR tariff will be available for residential and general service customers and that DEF serves approximately 1.8 million retail customers. Paragraph 8 of the petition states that the scope of the AMI project is to upgrade all of the 1.8 million meters in DEF's service territory. Does the 1.8 million figure represent residential and small commercial customers who will get an AMI meter or all retail customers? Please clarify.

RESPONSE:

As detailed in the response to Question 4.1 above, the 1.8 million figure represents the vast majority of DEF's retail customers, with the exceptions noted.

3. The petition in docket number 20130223-EI states that FPL installed smart meters for about 4.5 million residential and small business customers. In DEF's response to staff's first data request, it states that the 0.12% percent participation rate was calculated using a total of 4.9 million customers. Please explain the discrepancy and if it'd have any impact on DEF's petition.

RESPONSE:

The 4.9 million customer figure comes from the following passage in the 2017 Smart Meter Progress Report that FPL filed on March 24, 2017: "Through 2016, FPL successfully deployed more than 4.9 million smart meters to residential, small business, and commercial and industrial customers".

4. DEF's response to staff's third data request No. 1 states that the current meters in place today are Automated Meter Reading (AMR) meters that emit a radio frequency (RF) signal. When did DEF install the AMR meters and has DEF received any complaints regarding the RF communicating meter to date? If yes, state how many and how did DEF address the complaints.

RESPONSE:

DEF installed AMR meters between 2005 and June 2006. At that time, there was no public opposition to AMR meter deployments. In the last 5 years, the Company has received some complaints about AMR meters as customers have heard concerns about AMI meters through various media. DEF did not keep track of how many customers complained, but the number was likely on the order of 25 or less. The Company has addressed those complaints on a case by case basis, including some that escalated to the Commission. In all cases thus far, the AMR meter was retained due to there not being an opt-out program.

5. If DEF has received no complaints to date regarding the current AMR meters that emit an RF signal, why does DEF believe customers would object to the new AMI meters? What is different about the new AMI meters compared to the current AMR meters that would make customers request a meter does not utilize radio frequency?

RESPONSE:

As discussed in response to Staff's data request 4.4, DEF has received some complaints from customers regarding the current AMR meters in recent years. A few of those customers specifically requested an opt-out option to the AMR meter. The radio-frequency technology is similar between the AMI and AMR meters, so DEF believes a meter option that contains no radio-frequency transmissions would be of value to a small number of customers.

6. DEF states in responses to staff's second data request, No. 4, that if a non-communicating meter is already installed, the opt-out customer would not be required to pay the one-time NSMR fee. Since DEF stated that the current meters are communicating AMR meters, please explain under what scenario a customer would have a non-communicating meter already installed.

RESPONSE:

This scenario could conceivably occur if a customer moves into a residence where the previous resident was in the NSMR program, the Company has not yet replaced the non-communicating meter with a functioning AMI meter, and the new customer also asks to participate in the NSMR program. Since the existing non-communicating meter could be used for the new customer, the one-time costs for opt-out would not need to be incurred for the new customer.

7. DEF states that the vehicle used by DEF Field Meter Techs is the “Van > 8500.” Please state what kind of vehicle that is.

RESPONSE:

"Van>8500" refers to a service van with gross weight capability of over 8,500 pounds.

8. Please provide the basis for the 20 minute time estimate for the monthly meter readings. Is it based on the average travel time to customer premises?

RESPONSE:

The 20 minute time estimate is based on the expertise of subject matter experts in Meter Reading. Assuming that opt-out customers are spread across the Company’s service territory, it is estimated to take 20 minutes per customer on average to perform monthly meter readings for customers who opt-out. That includes travel time between customer premises and the time to get out of a meter reading vehicle, perform a meter read, log the read and return to a meter reading vehicle to continue on the route.