

Notice of Proposed Rule

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SELECT A TYPE: amendment

RULE NO: RULE TITLE:

25-7.0141: Allowance for Funds Used During Construction

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To update and clarify the Commission's allowance for funds used during construction (AFUDC) policy for natural gas utilities.

Docket No. 20200237-PU

SUMMARY: The amendments update and clarify the rule to set forth the Commission's current policy on AFUDC for natural gas utilities. The amendments to the rule include the addition of a definition section; clarification that a utility may bundle projects under certain circumstances; identifies which projects are eligible and ineligible for AFUDC; the establishment of a threshold for projects eligible for AFUDC; and the establishment of the methodology for determining the AFUDC rate.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION: The agency has determined that this will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has been prepared by the agency. The SERC examined the factors required by Section 120.541(2), FS, and concluded that the rule amendment will not have an adverse impact on economic growth, business competitiveness, or small business and that there would be no transactional costs likely to be incurred by individuals and entities, including government entities, required to comply with the rule.

The agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: based upon the information contained in the SERC.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 350.127(2), 366.05(1), F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 350.115, 366.05(1), 366.06(1), F.S.

IF REQUESTED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED IN THE FAR.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Adria Harper, Office of General Counsel, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850, aharper@psc.state.fl.us

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS: [TYPE AND STRIKE VERSION]

25-7.0141 Allowance for Funds Used During Construction.

(1) Definition of terms for this rule.

(a) Allowance for funds used during construction (AFUDC) is the carrying cost of funding an eligible utility project investment during its construction.

(b) A project means a temporary endeavor with a defined beginning and end series of tasks that need to be completed in order to reach a specific outcome (e.g., a specific utility investment placed into service or devoted to public use for the provision of natural gas service), designed to produce an in-service plant investment result.

~~A utility shall not accrue allowance for funds used during construction without prior Commission approval.~~

(2) Construction work in progress (CWIP) that is not included in rate base may accrue AFUDC under the following conditions:

(a) Eligible projects. The following projects may be included in CWIP and accrue AFUDC:

1. Projects that involve gross additions to plant in excess of \$25,000 and

a. Are expected to be completed in excess of one year after commencement of construction, or

b. Were originally expected to be completed in one year or less and are suspended for six months or more, or are not ready for service after one year.

2. A utility may bundle related projects that achieve a specific outcome if it demonstrates that the total cost of the bundled projects excluding AFUDC is less than the total cost of the unbundled projects.

(b) Ineligible projects. The following projects may be included in CWIP, but may not accrue AFUDC:

1. Projects, or portions thereof, that do not exceed the level of CWIP included in rate base in the

company's last rate case.

2. Projects where gross additions to plant are less than \$25,000.
3. Projects expected to be completed in less than one year after commencement of construction.
4. Property that has been classified as Property Held for Future Use.

(c) Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, the following projects may not be included in CWIP nor accrue AFUDC:

1. Projects that are reimbursable by another party.
2. Projects that have been cancelled.
3. Purchases of assets which are ready for service when acquired.
4. Portions of projects providing service during the construction period.

(d) Other conditions. Accrual of AFUDC is subject to the following conditions:

1. Accrual of AFUDC is not to be reversed when a project originally expected to be completed in excess of one year is completed in one year or less;

2. AFUDC may not be accrued retroactively if a project expected to be completed in one year or less is subsequently suspended for six months, or is not ready for service after one year;

3. When a project is completed and ready for service, it must be immediately transferred to the appropriate plant account(s) or Account 106, Completed Construction Not Classified, and may no longer accrue AFUDC;

4. Where a work order covers the construction of more than one property unit, the AFUDC accrual must cease on the costs related to each unit when that unit reaches an in service status;

5. When the construction activities for an ongoing project are expected to be suspended for a period exceeding six (6) months, the utility must notify the Commission of the suspension and the reason(s) for the suspension, and must submit a proposed accounting treatment for the suspended project; and

6. When the construction activities for a suspended project are resumed, the previously accumulated costs of the project may not accrue AFUDC if such costs have been included in rate base for ratemaking purposes. However, the accrual of AFUDC may be resumed when the previously accumulated costs are no longer included in rate base for ratemaking purposes.

(e) Subaccounts. Account 107, Construction Work in Progress, must be subdivided so as to segregate the cost of construction projects that are eligible for AFUDC from the cost of construction projects that are ineligible for AFUDC.

(f) Prior to the commencement of construction on a project, a utility may file a petition to seek approval to include an individual project in rate base that would otherwise qualify for AFUDC treatment per paragraph (2)(a).

(g) On a prospective basis, the Commission, upon its own motion, may determine that the potential impact on rates may require the exclusion of an amount of CWIP from a utility's rate base that does not qualify for AFUDC treatment per paragraph (2)(a) and to allow the utility to accrue AFUDC on that excluded amount.

(3) The applicable AFUDC rate will be determined as follows:

(a) The most recent 13-month average embedded cost of capital, except as noted below, must be derived using all sources of capital and adjusted using adjustments consistent with those used by the Commission in the Company's last rate case.

(b) The cost rates for the components in the capital structure will be the midpoint of the last allowed return on common equity, the most recent 13-month average cost of short-term debt and customer deposits and a zero cost rate for deferred taxes and all investment tax credits. The cost of long-term debt and preferred stock will be based on end of period cost. The annual percentage rate will be calculated to two decimal places.

(4) Discounted monthly AFUDC rate. A discounted monthly AFUDC rate, calculated to six decimal places, must be employed to ensure that the annual AFUDC charged does not exceed authorized levels.

(a) The formula used to discount the annual AFUDC rate to reflect monthly compounding is as follows:

$$M = \left[\left(\frac{A}{100} + 1 \right)^{1/12} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

Where:

M = discounted monthly AFUDC rate

A = Annual AFUDC rate

(b) The monthly AFUDC rate, carried out to six decimal places, must be applied to the average monthly balance of eligible CWIP that is not included in rate base.

(5) The following schedules must be filed with each petition for a change in AFUDC rate:

(a) Schedule A. A schedule showing the capital structure, cost rates and weighted average cost of capital that are the basis for the AFUDC rate in subsection (3).

(b) Schedule B. A schedule showing capital structure adjustments including the unadjusted capital structure, reconciling adjustments and adjusted capital structure that are the basis for the AFUDC rate in subsection (3).

(c) Schedule C. A schedule showing the calculation of the monthly AFUDC rate using the methodology set out in this rule.

(6) No utility may charge or change its AFUDC rate without prior Commission approval. The new AFUDC rate will be effective the month following the end of the 12-month period used to establish that rate and may not be retroactively applied to a previous fiscal year unless authorized by the Commission.

(7) Each utility charging AFUDC must include in its December Rate of Return surveillance report to the Commission Schedules A and B identified in subsection (5) of this rule, as well as disclosure of the AFUDC rate it is currently charging.

(8) The Commission may, on its own motion, initiate a proceeding to revise a utility's AFUDC rate. Rulemaking Authority 350.127(2), 366.05(1) FS. Law Implemented 350.115, 366.05(1), 366.06(1) FS. History—New 8-11-86, Formerly 25-7.141, Amended 11-13-86, 12-7-87, 11-23-95,_____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Andrew Maurey

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Florida Public Service Commission

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: December 1, 2020

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAR: Volume 46, Number 113, June 10, 2020.

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Notices Submitted to ACR

ID	Rule No./ Organization	Rule Title	Section	Issue	Date
23954749	25-30.116	Allowance for Funds Used During Construction	Proposed	12/4/2020 Vol. 46/235	12/3/2020
23954652	25-7.0141	Allowance for Funds Used During Construction	Proposed	12/4/2020 Vol. 46/235	12/3/2020
23954555	25-6.0141	Allowance for Funds Used During Construction	Proposed	12/4/2020 Vol. 46/235	12/3/2020

Notices Confirmed by ACR

ID	Rule No./ Organization	Rule Title	Section	Issue	Date
None					

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