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# Public Service Commission

March 18, 2021

Dianne M. Triplett/Catherine Stempien  
299 First Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
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## STAFF'S SECOND DATA REQUEST

*via e-mail*

Matthew R. Bernier  
106 E. College Avenue, Suite 800  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
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RE: Docket No.20210016-EI – Petition for limited proceeding to approve 2021 settlement agreement, including general base rate increases, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

Dear Ms. Triplett, and Mr. Bernier:

By this letter, the Commission staff requests that Duke Energy Florida, LLC (DEF) provide responses to the following data requests:

1. Please refer to Paragraph 3 of the proposed Settlement Agreement.
  - a. According to DEF's response to Staff's Informal Meeting Question No. 2, the full amount of the DCS regulatory asset reimbursement (\$71 M), as a portion of the expected \$173 M DOE award, will be credited to accrued earnings by DEF during the term of the settlement. Does allowance of such accruals constitute full recovery of the asset? Please explain.
  - b. In light of DEF's response to DR 1.a., above, is it correct that the cost of the DCS regulatory asset in the amount of \$71 M will be recovered a second time by DEF, in conjunction with AFUDC (\$25 M) associated with the asset, beginning in 2025 via the CCR over a 20-year period? If not, please explain. Also, please explain any related accounting considerations not otherwise referenced in this question.
2. Please refer to Paragraph 5 of the proposed Settlement Agreement.

- a. Please provide an example of a 1,000 kWh residential bill for June 2020 (as received by a customer), before the 2021 Settlement, and an example of the same residential bill which includes the 2021 Settlement considerations as indicated in Paragraph 5 of the 2021 Settlement.
  - b. Which charge(s) appearing on a 1,000 kWh residential customer bill for June 2020 includes the recovery of RAF?
  - c. Using the same customer bill example as above, what is the present amount of the Regulatory Assessment Fee charge on a 1,000 kWh residential bill, June 2020?
  - d. Please explain DEF's purpose(s) for removing the Regulatory Assessment Fee from the base rate and including it as a line item on the customer's bill with the Gross Receipts Tax.
  - e. Does DEF know of any other electric utilities currently recovering state regulatory assessment fees separately from base rates, using a method similar to that proposed in Paragraph 5 of the 2021 Settlement? If so, please provide a list of those utilities.
  - f. Regarding the proposed new tax line on customer bills named "Gross Receipts Tax and Regulatory Assessment Fee", how would customers know the breakdown between Gross Receipts Tax and Regulatory Assessment Fee (if both are included in the amount shown)?
  - g. What training will DEF provide its customer service representatives to explain to customers who inquire about the RAF billing change?
  - h. What specific information regarding the changes proposed in Paragraph 5 of the 2021 DEF Settlement Agreement (i.e. billing change) will be presented to customers in each of the Company's various communications channels?
3. Please refer to Paragraph 7 of the proposed Settlement Agreement.
- a. In addition to residential classes, please list any additional rate classes that can pay by credit card. For these classes, please describe how these fees are currently collected.
  - b. According to the Company's website (<https://www.dukeenergy.com/home/billing/credit-card-debit-card-or-electronic-check-payments>), a service fee is charged for credit card, debit card and eCheck payments. Under the proposed Settlement Agreement, how will debit card fees, eCheck fees and non-residential credit card fees be assessed and collected? Please explain.
  - c. Please provide the number of residential customers that paid by credit card for the years 2019, 2020, and the projected number for 2021.
  - d. Please provide the number of non-residential customers that paid by credit card for the years 2019, 2020 and the projected number for 2021.

- e. Please discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the number of residential and non-residential customers paying by credit card.
  - f. Please provide the number of Duke-owned, in-person payment centers and the types of payments accepted (e.g. cash, credit card, check, etc.) at these locations.
  - g. Please provide the number of in-person payment stations operated by third-party vendors and discuss the fees, if any, collected by the third-party vendor for accepting and remitting to Duke bill payments made. Provide examples of the third-party vendors and what type of payments they accept (cash, check, etc.).
  - h. Under the Settlement Agreement, would the inclusion of the residential credit card fees into rate base be recovered from the general body of ratepayers or only the residential classes? Please explain.
4. Please refer to Paragraph 23 of the proposed Settlement Agreement.
- a. Please provide the total amount of storm damage restoration costs that will be capitalized for each docket.
  - b. Please provide the total amount of storm damage restoration costs that will be deemed recovered for each docket.

Please file all responses electronically no later than March 25, 2021 from the Commission's website at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com), by selecting the Clerk's Office tab and Electronic Filing Web Form. Please feel free to email me at [wtrierwe@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:wtrierwe@psc.state.fl.us) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Walt Trierweiler*

Walt Trierweiler  
Senior Attorney

WLT/lms

cc: Office of Commission Clerk  
Charles J. Rehwinkel - Office of Public Counsel  
Jon Moyle – Florida Industrial Power Users Group  
Corey Allain- Nucor Steel Florida, Inc.  
James W. Brew/Laura Wynn Baker - PCS Phosphate - White Springs  
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