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BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20220106-EI

Petition for approval of new
my energy bill+ program with
income qualified component, by
Duke Energy Florida, LLC

_____ /

PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 6

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER GARY CLARK
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

DATE: Tuesday, August 2, 2022

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DANA W. REEVES
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING
112 W. 5TH AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. All right. We're
3 ready. The Item No. 6, Ms. Forrest, you're
4 recognized introduce the item.

5 MS. FORREST: Good morning, Commissioners.
6 Holly Forrest With Division of Economics.

7 Item 6 is a recommendation to suspend the
8 tariffs for Duke's proposed new My Energy Plus
9 Program, in order to allow staff time to review and
10 analyze the petition on the proposed program. The
11 program seeks to offer qualifying residential
12 customers a monthly flat rate similar to a fixed
13 bill program. In addition, this proposed program
14 would allow the utility to monitor and control
15 participants' usage during peak times through the
16 use of smart thermostats. Staff is available for
17 questions.

18 CHAIRMAN FAY: Thank you, Ms. Forrest. I do
19 not believe I have any participation on this.
20 Commissioners, comments or questions on Item No. 6?
21 Commissioner Clark, you're recognized.

22 COMMISSIONER CLARK: This is the item that I
23 asked to be pulled, Mr. Chairman. I do want to
24 just ask a few questions. I understand we're here,
25 basically on staff's recommendation to suspend the

1 tariff in order to give them time to do the
2 necessary review on the final -- before final
3 recommendation comes in. But I do want to take the
4 opportunity to ask the company a few questions, and
5 I think maybe this may give staff some idea as to
6 where I'm going, what I'm thinking in regards to
7 the program.

8 Types of demand response programs always have
9 positive benefits, but there are also some costs
10 associated with them. And one of my big concerns,
11 Mr. Bernier, is the cost of the thermostats. These
12 are not typically cheap control devices when they
13 have the ability to take radio communications or
14 some sort of signaling. And then I go back to --
15 in the settlement, the rate base that was
16 calculated, are these costs associated with the
17 thermostats going to be incremental to the rate
18 base that will set?

19 CHAIRMAN FAY: Mr. Bernier, you're recognized.

20 MR. BERNIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Matt
21 Bernier, Duke Energy. No, sir, these costs for
22 these thermostats are not being moved through base
23 rates or any clause mechanism.

24 COMMISSIONER CLARK: So they're not through
25 any clause. There will be no clause mechanism that

1 they're brought back in.

2 Is the program going to be open and available
3 to people who have their own smart thermostats?
4 Can these be coordinated with other types of
5 thermostats, for example, Nest or something of that
6 nature, that is modified to receive the signal?

7 MR. BERNIER: I have to apologize,
8 Commissioner. I truly don't know the answer to
9 that question. It's something that we can
10 certainly work with your staff to get that
11 information. Honestly, just don't know, sitting
12 here.

13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of my biggest
14 concerns is how this program affects
15 non-participants. Can you share with us how the
16 costs are going to be spread over the general body
17 of ratepayers?

18 MR. BERNIER: So this is a, you know,
19 voluntary program that is open to any customers.
20 And, again, the caveat that I'm not sure about the
21 thermostat question that you just asked, but the
22 program will have no upward pressure on rates or
23 general body of customers. In fact, the idea is
24 that by managing load during peak monthly times
25 that over time you'll see cost saving, hopefully

1 that will -- excuse me -- result in reduced rates.

2 COMMISSIONER CLARK: How are you proposing to
3 pay for the thermostats that are going to -- I
4 realize you have -- assume 1,000 that are going to
5 low-income, you got 1,700 that are going to --
6 looking for 2,700 total in the program, is your
7 estimate?

8 MR. BERNIER: To start, but it's not -- the
9 program is not capped to the number of
10 participants, but the incentive is for the first
11 1,000. The thermostats paid for by a mixture of
12 donation thermostat providers, some of the various
13 foundations, the company.

14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Has Duke contemplated the
15 actual coincident peak reduction potential that
16 this program has?

17 MR. BERNIER: I do not know the answer to
18 that. I would assume that the answer is yes. I do
19 not have the information with me here today. I
20 have to apologize.

21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Can you tell me if this
22 is going to be -- I assume it's economically --
23 it's an economic dispatch program. It's based on
24 what costs are at those particular times. Can the
25 program also be used in a reliability situation?

1 Can it be used to prevent certain load structures
2 from overloading, that type of stuff?

3 MR. BERNIER: I have to apologize. Give you
4 the same answer that I do not know. That --
5 logically that makes sense to me to what you're
6 asking me, that I would think, yes, but I would
7 have to get back with the technical folks. I have
8 not had a chance to speak with them.

9 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay. And I
10 appreciate -- I saw staff's first set of
11 interrogatories this morning, and you guys were
12 right on target. I was kind of going through and I
13 had about five minutes to actually read over what
14 staff had put together, but I think staff's on the
15 right target with getting us some of the specific
16 answers to some questions on the program. But, in
17 general, in theory, I think that you're -- you're
18 on a good track here as long as I'm comfortable
19 that the ratepayers are protected in such a
20 program. That's one of the things that I'm going
21 to continuously be looking for is how does this
22 affect the entire body ratepayers.

23 Thank you, Mr. Bernier.

24 MR. BERNIER: Yes, sir. Understood. Thank
25 you.

1 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Mr. Bernier.
2 And Ms. Forrest or Mr. Coston, if you wanted to add
3 anything to Commissioner Clark's questions, I want
4 to give you the opportunity to do so.

5 MS. FORREST: Yeah. On response to question
6 five on the data request, we asked how they are
7 paying for the thermostats or how they will be
8 funded, and the response was that they will be
9 partly funded by Duke's Share the Light Fund, as
10 well as donations from thermostat partners.

11 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you so much.
12 Commissioner, with that, I will entertain a
13 motion on Item No. 6.

14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Move to approve staff
15 recommendation, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN FAY: We have a motion and a second.
17 All that approve, say aye.

18 None opposed.

19 With that, Item 6 passes unanimously.

20 Commissioners, with that, we will adjourn this
21 agenda conference.

22 (Agenda item concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DANA W. REEVES, Professional Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

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

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

DATED THIS 15th day of August, 2022.



DANA W. REEVES
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #GG970595
EXPIRES MARCH 22, 2024