

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Florida Public Utilities Company, Florida Division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, Florida Public Utilities Company - Fort Meade, and Florida Public Utilities Company - Indiantown Division.

DOCKET NO. 20220067-GU  
ORDER NO. PSC-2022-0338-CFO-GU  
ISSUED: October 4, 2022

ORDER GRANTING FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY'S  
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION  
(DOCUMENT NO. 05486-2022)

On August 16, 2022, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC) filed a Request for Confidential Classification (Request) of information contained in FPUC's response to the Office of Public Counsel's (OPC) Third Set of Interrogatories, No. 129, and OPC's Second Request for Production of Documents, No. 60 (Document No. 05486-2022). This Request was filed in Docket No. 20220067-GU.

Request for Confidential Classification

FPUC contends that the information contained in the Attachment for Interrogatory No. 129 and the Attachment for Production of Documents No. 60, constitutes proprietary and confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. FPUC asserts that this information is intended to be and is treated by FPUC as private and has not been publicly disclosed. Specifically, FPUC seeks confidential classification of information and documents that fall into the following categories: (1) bonus and incentive compensation information; and (2) competitively sensitive payroll information.

Furthermore, FPUC asserts that this information should be classified as proprietary confidential business information because its disclosure would impair FPUC's competitive interests, by providing information that would provide other companies with an unfair advantage in efforts to lure employees away, which would not only drive up salaries and therefore rates, but create circumstances under which employee morale could be negatively affected. FPUC requests that the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) grant confidential classification for the documents for a period of 18 months from the date of the issuance of this Order, pursuant to Subsection 367.156(4), F.S.

Ruling

Section 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records the Commission has found to contain proprietary business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from Chapter 119, F.S. Section 366.093(3), F.S., defines proprietary confidential business information as information that is intended to be and is treated by the company as private, in that disclosure of the information would cause harm to the company's ratepayers or business operations, and has not been voluntarily disclosed to the public. Section 366.093(3), F.S., provides that proprietary confidential business information includes, but is not limited to:

- (e) Information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.

Upon review, it appears the above-referenced information satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The information described above and in FPUC's Request appears to contain information concerning FPUC or its affiliates ability to contract for goods or services on favorable terms, and information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information. Thus, the information identified in Document No. 05486-2022 shall be granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 366.093(4), F.S., the information for which confidential classification is granted herein shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. At the conclusion of the 18-month period, the confidential information will no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless FPUC or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo, as Prehearing Officer, that Florida Public Utilities Company's Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 05486-2022 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 05486-2022, for which confidential classification has been granted, shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be the only notification by the Commission to the parties of the date of declassification of the materials discussed herein.

ORDER NO. PSC-2022-0338-CFO-GU

DOCKET NO. 20220067-GU

PAGE 3

By ORDER of Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo, as Prehearing Officer, this 4th day of October, 2022.



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Gabriella Passidomo  
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 413-6770  
[www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com)

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

RPS

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 or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, 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 or judicial review 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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.