

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for certificates to provide water and wastewater service and approval of initial rates and charges in Sumter County, by Middleton Utility Company, LLC.

DOCKET NO. 20220088-WS
ORDER NO. PSC-2023-0011-CFO-WS
ISSUED: January 4, 2023

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFICATION (DOCUMENT NO. 02653-2022)

On April 27, 2022, pursuant to Section 367.156, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Middleton Utility Company, Inc. (Middleton) filed a Request for Confidential Classification (Request) of certain information contained in the balance sheet and income statement of its parent, Holding Company of the Villages, Inc. (Document No. 02653-2022).

Request for Confidential Classification

Middleton contends that certain information contained in the balance sheet and income statement of its parent, Holding Company of the Villages, Inc. constitutes proprietary and confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 367.156, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. Middleton asserts that this information is intended to be and is treated by Middleton as private and has not been publicly disclosed.

Middleton contends that certain information in balance sheet and income statement of its parent, Holding Company of the Villages, Inc. consists of information whose disclosure would disclose trade secrets, impair Middleton's competitive interests, and impair its ability to contract for goods and services on a favorable basis. For these reasons Middleton argues that this information is protected by Section 367.156(3)(e), F.S.

Ruling

Section 367.156(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 367.156(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 367.156(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 367.156(3), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The

information described above and in Middleton's Request appears to contain information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of Middleton as well as its parent company. Thus, the information identified in Document No. 02653-2022 shall be granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 367.156(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 Middleton 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 Art Graham, as Prehearing Officer, that Middleton Utility Company, LLC's Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 02653-2022 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 02653-2022, 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. At the conclusion of the 18-month period, the confidential information will no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless Florida Power & Light Company or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information. 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.

By ORDER of Commissioner Art Graham, as Prehearing Officer, this 4th day of January, 2023.



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

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.