

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Natural gas conservation cost recovery.

DOCKET NO. 20230004-GU  
ORDER NO. PSC-2023-0292-CFO-GU  
ISSUED: September 22, 2023

ORDER GRANTING PEOPLES GAS SYSTEM, INC.'S  
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION  
(DOCUMENT NO. 04331-2023)

On July 27, 2023, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Peoples Gas System, Inc. (PGS) filed a Request for Confidential Classification (Request) of certain information contained in its response to Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) Staff's First Request for Production of Documents (Document No. 04331-2023). This Request was filed in Docket No. 20230004-GU.

Request for Confidential Classification

PGS contends that the information contained in portions of its response to Staff's First Request for Production of Documents, numbers 1 and 2, constitutes proprietary and confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. In its Request, PGS provided a justification for each highlighted portion of its responses. Therein, the utility asserts that the identified information is intended to be and is treated by PGS as private and has not been publicly disclosed. PGS further contends that the information for which confidentiality is sought relates to bids, competitive interests, and security measures, systems, or procedures, the disclosure of which would impair their competitive business and ability to contract for goods or services on favorable terms.

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:

- (c) Security measures, systems, or procedures.
- (d) Information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms.

(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 PGS's Request appears to contain information concerning security measures, systems, or procedures, as well as bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of PGS or its affiliates 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. 04331-2023 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 PGS 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 Mike La Rosa, as Prehearing Officer, that Peoples Gas System Inc.'s Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 04331-2023 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 04331-2023, 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 Peoples Gas System, Inc. 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 Mike La Rosa, as Prehearing Officer, this 22nd day of September, 2023.



Mike La Rosa  
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.

TPS

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.