

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of revisions to budget billing tariffs, by Florida Public Utilities Company.

DOCKET NO. 20230136-PU  
ORDER NO. PSC-2024-0045-PCO-PU  
ISSUED: February 22, 2024

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

MIKE LA ROSA, Chairman  
ART GRAHAM  
GARY F. CLARK  
ANDREW GILES FAY  
GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFFS

BY THE COMMISSION:

Background

On December 15, 2023, Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC or Company) filed a petition seeking our approval of revisions to its optional Budget Billing Program tariffs for both its electric and natural gas divisions. FPUC has proposed to expand its optional Budget Billing Program (Program) to include certain small general service customers, to remove unnecessary language related to bill format, and to revise the terms and conditions of the Program. Furthermore, FPUC has proposed to add details to the electric budget billing tariffs to align with its natural gas Program tariffs. Overall, the Company states that the proposed tariff revisions are intended to provide consistency across the business units under FPUC's parent company, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation. On January 17, 2024, staff issued a data request to FPUC. The Company's responses were received on January 31, 2024.

By way of background, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation will be replacing FPUC's current Customer Information and Billing System (CIS) provided by ECIS, a Vertex business solutions product which the Company has been using for over 20 years, at the completion of the current contract on December 31, 2024. Chesapeake Utilities Corporation is currently working with SAP (a software company for the management of business processes) and IBM to transition to FPUC's new billing system known as 1CX with an estimated transition date of August 2024.<sup>1</sup> The Company explained that as it is working through the process of changing to a new billing system, the need for consistency for the Program for both electric and natural gas divisions was heightened. As a result, FPUC filed the instant petition.

---

<sup>1</sup> Whether to approve the new billing system is not an issue before us in this docket.

This Order is to suspend the proposed tariffs. We have jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Decision

FPUC has proposed revisions to its Budget Billing Program and associated tariff sheets for its electric (Sheet Nos. 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 44.1, 45, 46, 46.1, and 46.2) and natural gas (Sheet Nos. 6.253 and 6.254) divisions.

Pursuant to Section 366.06(3), F.S., we may withhold consent to the operation of all or any portion of the new rate schedules by delivering to the utility requesting such a change a reason or written statement of a good cause for doing so within 60 days. Our staff has propounded one data request, and needs sufficient time to review the response to this data request, gather any additional data, analyze all pertinent information, and present us with an informed recommendation on the proposed Program revisions and tariff modifications.

We find that the reason stated above is a good cause consistent with the requirement of Section 366.06(3), F.S. Therefore, we suspend the Company's proposed tariffs in order to allow our staff sufficient time to adequately and thoroughly examine the appropriateness of the Company's requests and present us with an informed recommendation.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Florida Public Utilities Company's proposed revisions to its optional Budget Billing Program tariffs for its electric (Sheet Nos. 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 44.1, 45, 46, 46.1 & 46.2) and natural gas (Sheet Nos. 6.253 & 6.254) divisions are hereby suspended. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall remain open pending our decision on FPUC's proposed revisions to its optional Budget Billing Program and associated tariffs.



By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 22nd day of February, 2024.



---

ADAM J. TEITZMAN  
Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 413-6770  
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.

SPS

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.