

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for limited proceeding for recovery of incremental storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Elsa, Eta, Isaias, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storm Fred, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

DOCKET NO. 20230020-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2024-0141-CFO-EI
ISSUED: May 3, 2024

ORDER GRANTING DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION
DOCUMENT NO. 00385-2024)

On February 19, 2024, Duke Energy Florida, LLC (DEF) filed its Request for Confidential Classification of its response to the Office of Public Counsel's (OPC) First Set of Interrogatories Nos. 9 and 21 and OPC's First Request to Produce Documents Nos. 7, 8, 17, and 33 (Document No. 00385-2024).

Request for Confidential Classification

DEF contends that the information provided in response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories Nos. 9 and 21 and OPC's First Request to Produce Documents Nos. 7, 8, 17, and 33 contains information of a confidential nature, which is proprietary confidential business information within the meaning of Section 366.093(3), F.S.

DEF contends that the information is proprietary and confidential business information within the meaning of Section 366.093(3), F.S. This information is intended to be and is treated by DEF as private, and its confidentiality has been maintained. This information consists of the negotiated terms of contracts and mutual aid agreements, contractor invoices, Excel spreadsheets calculating invoice payments and explanations concerning invoices for line crew contractors providing restoration work. Therefore, DEF contends that this information is protected by Section 366.093(3)(e), F.S. Releasing the bid and contract data contained in these responses also would impair the competitive businesses of both DEF and the contractors providing line crews in violation of Section 366.093(3)(d), 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:

(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 service 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 appears to be information concerning contracts and mutual aid agreements, contractor invoices, Excel spreadsheets calculating invoice payments and explanations concerning invoices for line crew contractors providing restoration work, the disclosure of which could impair the competitive business of both DEF and its contractors. Thus, the information identified in Document No.00385-2024, 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 DEF 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 Duke Energy Florida, LLC's Request for Confidential Classification for its response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories Nos. 9 and 21 and OPC's First Request to Produce Documents Nos. 7, 8, 17, and 33 (Document No. 00385-2024) is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 00385-2024), 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.

By ORDER of Commissioner Art Graham, as Prehearing Officer, this 3rd day of May, 2024.



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.

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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.