#### STATE OF FLORIDA

COMMISSIONERS: E. LEON JACOBS, JR., CHAIRMAN J. TERRY DEASON LILA A. JABER BRAULIO L. BAEZ MICHAEL A. PALECKI



DIVISION OF POLICY ANALYSIS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON CHARLES H. HILL DIRECTOR (850) 413-6800

## Hublic Service Commission

June 28, 2001

#### VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS

The Honorable David P. Boergers Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE Washington, D.C. 20426

RE: Docket No. ERO1-2205-000, Florida Power & Light and Tampa Electric Company, Request for Approval of Transmission Pricing Plan

### Dear Mr. Boergers:

Enclosed are an original and fourteen copies of the Florida Public Service Commission comments in the above docket. Please date stamp and return one copy in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,

Cynthia B. Miller, Esquire

Bureau of Intergovernmental Liaison

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Internet E-mail: contact@psc.state.fl.us

Robert V. Elias, Esquire Division of Legal Services

CBM:tf Enclosures Florida Public Service Commission Docket No. ER01-2205-000

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developed in the FPSC dockets which, as noted, will not come to fruition until November. Thus, we urge FERC to consider this information from the FPSC proceedings as the FERC makes its final determinations in this proceeding. We believe that the information gathered by our proceedings could be beneficial to FERC, the stakeholders, and the ratepayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia B. Miller, Esquire

Bureau of Intergovernmental Liaison

Robert V. Elias, Esquire Division of Legal Services

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

DATED: June 28, 2001

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Florida Power & Light Company Tampa Electric Company	) ) ) )	Docket No. ER01-2205-000
	)	

### FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION COMMENTS

The Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) filed a notice of intervention on June 21 and intends to actively participate in this docket. The FPSC files the following comments to alert the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that we have opened interrelated dockets regarding the impact on the retail ratepayers of the Joint Applicants' (Florida Power & Light, Tampa Electric Company, and Florida Power Corporation) participation in GridFlorida Regional Transmission Organization. To that end, the FPSC is currently compiling data and conducting analysis in preparation for our dockets as well as to augment FPSC participation in FERC proceedings related to GridFlorida. As a result of the fruits of this labor, the FPSC will have valuable input to share with the FERC. Recognizing the implementation deadlines established by FERC on the overall GridFlorida implementation, we have expedited our dockets, with decisions anticipated in November. Attached is the FPSC Order which delineates the procedure for resolution of the issues raised by the Joint Applicants in our dockets.

The petition filed by Florida Power & Light and Tampa Electric Company in this docket at FERC seeks a decision in 60 days. We believe the FERC would benefit from the information to be

#### BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Review of Florida Power & Light Company's proposed merger with Entergy Corporation, the formation of a Florida transmission company ("Florida transco"), and their effect on FPL's retail rates.

In re: Review of Tampa Electric Company and impact of its participation in GridFlorida, a Florida Transmission Company, on TECO's retail ratepayers.

In re: Review of Florida Power Corporation's earnings, including effects of proposed acquisition of Florida Power Corporation by Carolina Power & Light. DOCKET NO. 001148-EI

DOCKET NO. 010577-EI

DOCKET NO. 000824-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-01-1372-PCO-EI
ISSUED: June 27, 2001

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

E. LEON JACOBS, JR., Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ
MICHAEL A. PALECKI

ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART JOINT MOTION TO ESTABLISH A DOCKET AS TO THE PRUDENCE OF THE FORMATION OF AND PARTICIPATION IN GRIDFLORIDA, INC.

#### BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 11, 2001, Florida Power Corporation (FPC), Florida Power & Light Company (FP&L) and Tampa Electric Company (TECO)

filed a Joint Motion to establish a separate generic docket to determine, on an expedited basis, the prudence of the formation of, and their participation in, the GridFlorida Regional Transmission Organization (GridFlorida RTO). At the May 15, 2001, Agenda Conference, we voted to require FPC and FP&L to file Minimum Filing Requirements (MFRs) based on a proposed 2002 test year to address potential overearnings, as well as the impact of the proposed formation and participation in the GridFlorida RTO. A 2002 test year overlaps with the first year of planned operation of GridFlorida. The same data and subsequent discovery are required to address both overearnings and the impact of GridFlorida on the retail rates of FPC and FP&L. While TECO is not under a stipulation to address overearnings, a separate docket has been opened for it as well, to determine the likely effect of its participation in GridFlorida on its retail rates.

#### Joint Movants' Position

On October 16, 2000, the Joint Movants submitted their responses in compliance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 2000, requesting authorization from the FERC to create GridFlorida RTO, a for-profit RTO. These responses were supplemented on December 15, 2000. On March 28, 2001, the FERC issued its order provisionally granting RTO status to GridFlorida, finding that the compliance filing by the Joint Movants complied with the minimum characteristics and functions of an RTO as described in Order No. 2000. The order further directed the Joint Movants to make additional compliance filings reflecting ordered revisions within sixty days of the March 28, 2001, order.

On May 3, 2001, FPSC staff filed recommendations in Docket Nos. 000824-EI and 001148-EI which raised issues concerning the reasonableness of the utilities' committing their retail and wholesale loads to GridFlorida. The costs and rates relating to GridFlorida were also raised by FPSC staff.

The Joint Movants assert that the RTO issues are "...generic in nature and equally applicable to each of the Joint Movants." They further maintain that because issues have been raised regarding the prudence of forming and participating in GridFlorida, it is necessary that the issues be considered on an expedited and consolidated basis. The Joint Movants suggest that an expedited

proceeding would "minimize the period for which there is uncertainty as to the future development of GridFlorida, Inc."

#### RTO Issues

The form, function, and degree of participation by the Joint Movants in a peninsular Florida RTO were solely of their choosing. Although a number of important implementation details remain to be resolved, the FERC's March 28, 2001, order signaled the end of the overall design phase of a peninsular Florida RTO. The form and function of a peninsular Florida RTO has been defined. GridFlorida is to be a for-profit, stand-alone, transmission company.

GridFlorida is scheduled to become operational by December 15, 2001. However, the Joint Movants have recently issued a press release indicating that RTO development activities have been suspended pending the formal prudence investigations undertaken by this Commission. The many remaining issues concerning market design, RTO rates, and the work necessary to begin operation (staffing, computer programming, maintenance planning, etc.) cast further doubt as to whether the December 15, 2001, date is realistic. In addition, the Joint Movants have made the commitment to support the startup costs of GridFlorida, initially in the form of loans by the participants followed by a public sale of stock. These startup costs will likely also be included in RTO costs. This raises several issues which are clearly company specific.

While FPC, FP&L, and TECO are, at present, the only announced participants in GridFlorida, the involvement of each will be distinct. The commonality among them is that they each must comply FP&L and TECO plan to divest their with FERC Order No. 2000. transmission facilities to GridFlorida. Initially, FPC intends to retain ownership but turn over operational control of transmission facilities to GridFlorida. FPC and FP&L have to other providers service transmission historically been TECO has historically been a peninsular Florida utilities. purchaser of intrastate and interstate transmission services. Each utility is likely to incur different levels of cost and receive different levels of benefits. Clearly, there are more differences among the Joint Movants than commonalities. Having chosen the form and function of GridFlorida through the collaborative process, each regulated utility must now demonstrate that its decision to

participate in GridFlorida is in the best interests of its retail customers. Just as it is not feasible to have joint rate cases, a generic docket is neither the best nor most efficient mechanism to determine the reasonableness and impact of individual participation in the RTO.

Examination of the impact of participation in the RTO cannot be complete without consideration of the general impact on rates of the costs related to the RTO. Consequently, considering the RTO issues within each individual docket is the best course.

#### Ratemaking

When assessing the impact of the RTO on ratepayers, there are two basic issues which we must address - prudence and cost recovery. In the context of a ratemaking proceeding, the issue of prudence has a very specific and limited meaning. In order to address this ratemaking aspect of prudence, we must look at:

- (1) the specific costs to be borne by the company's ratepayers;
- (2) the specific benefits that the company's ratepayers can expect to receive;
- (3) whether, on a company-by-company basis, the costs to be paid by the company's ratepayers are outweighed by the benefits they will receive; and
- (4) whether the timing of any recovery of costs through customer rates is commensurate with the timing of the benefits received.

Once the issue of prudence of costs has been addressed, the second issue is: Who should pay -- ratepayers or stockholders? If it is determined that the ratepayers should pay all or a portion of the costs associated with GridFlorida, we must determine whether cost recovery should take place in base rates or through recovery clauses. Finally, rate structure issues must be addressed to determine what percentage of total costs should be paid by each customer class. In addition to these general ratemaking issues, there are other issues linked to the specific nature of each

company's participation in GridFlorida, such as the decision to transfer the ownership of transmission facilities to GridFlorida. The decision to disaggregate the retail transmission function is a fundamental change in the way electricity is provided to Floridians. A determination that such actions are sound should be based on the best information available.

#### **DECISION**

We believe this review should take place in the current dockets, because there are more differences in determining the impacts of costs and benefits than there are commonalities. The need to comply with the FERC Order No. 2000 is what the Joint Movants have in common. The facts will differ for each company, and there will need to be determinations as to what the costs and benefits are for each individual company. The decision to conduct the review in the current dockets does not preclude consolidation for hearing at a later time if it subsequently appears more efficient.

We are mindful of the fact that the effort to form GridFlorida has taken place over the course of a year and a half. Even so, there is a need to have these answers before the Energy 2020 Study Commission finishes its work in December of 2001. Also, the determinations made in this review might be helpful to the Florida Legislature, if available before the upcoming 2002 regular legislative session. In any event, this review is necessary to provide guidance and minimize uncertainty in the marketplace.

We foresee these matters proceeding in two phases in each docket. Phase 1 will deal with the RTO related issues, and proceed on an expedited basis. We will not change retail rates or allocate any of the costs or benefits associated with GridFlorida in Phase 1. Each utility will file a petition specifically setting forth the issues it wants the Commission to decide, and the relief it seeks. Each petition should indicate the decisions that the utility believes it needs to proceed forward on the implementation of GridFlorida. The burden is on the utilities. We direct staff to work with the companies to determine the MFRs necessary to support the examination of the RTO related issues in this expedited portion of the proceedings. It should be further understood that any ruling or decision in Phase 1 shall not preclude us from taking

specific rate action in the Phase 2 ratemaking portion of the dockets.

Phase 2 will address the general rate proceedings initiated by this Commission in these dockets by our previous vote to require the filing of MFRs to address overearnings issues. Phase 2 also will include the specific ratemaking aspects, including but not limited to cost recovery, of the formation and participation in the GridFlorida RTO.

For these reasons, we grant the Joint Motion in part with respect to expediting the decision on GridFlorida and deny the Joint Motion with respect to establishing a separate generic docket to determine the prudence of the formation of and participation in the GridFlorida RTO. Each utility (FPC, FP&L, and TECO) shall, no later than June 28, 2001, file in the existing docket, a separate petition, specifically requesting such affirmative relief with respect to its participation in GridFlorida as it believes appropriate. No later than July 30, 2001, each utility shall file direct testimony and exhibits in support of its petition. The Commission will make a decision on each petition within 90 days of the filing of the utility's direct testimony and exhibits.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the Joint Motion to Establish a Separate Generic Docket to Determine, on an Expedited Basis, the Prudence of the Formation of and the Participation by FPC, FP&L, and TECO in GridFlorida is granted in part and denied in part, as set forth in this Order. It is further

ORDERED that each utility (FPC, FP&L, and TECO) shall, no later than June 28, 2001, file a separate petition, specifically requesting such affirmative relief with respect its participation in GridFlorida as it believes appropriate. No later than July 30, 2001, each utility shall file direct testimony and exhibits in support of its petition. The Commission will make a decision on each petition within 90 days of the filing of the utility's direct testimony and exhibits. It is further

ORDERED that these dockets shall remain open.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this  $\underline{27th}$  day of  $\underline{June}$ ,  $\underline{2001}$ .

/s/ Blanca S. Bayó
BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

This is a facsimile copy. Go to the Commission's Web site, <a href="http://www.floridapsc.com">http://www.floridapsc.com</a> or fax a request to 1-850-413-7118, for a copy of the order with signature.

(SEAL)

DDH

#### 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, if issued by a Prehearing Officer; (2) reconsideration within 15 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code, if issued by the Commission; or (3) 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 Director, Division of Records and Reporting, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, 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. review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Florida Power & Light Company	)	
Tampa Electric Company	)	Docket No. ER01-2205-000
	)	

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Comments of the Florida Public Service Commission is being sent today by U.S. Mail to all parties on the attached service list.

Onthia B. Miller, Esquire

Bureau of Intergovernmental Liaison

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

DATED: June 28, 2001

#### SERVICE LIST

Margaret M. Schaff, Esquire Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 29754 Fir Drive, Suite B Evergreen CO 80439-8716

Robert W. Claussen, Gen. Manager Alabama Municipal Electric Authority P.O. Box 5220 Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5220

David Friedman, Director American Forest & Paper Association 1111 Nineteenth Street NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036-3603

Robert Berry Automated Power Exchange, Inc. 5201 Great America Parkway Santa Clara, CA 95054-1122

Alycia L. Goody, Esquire Calpine Eastern The Pilot House 2nd Floor Lewis Wharf Boston, MA 02110

Mr. Kendall Bowman Carolina Power & Light Co. P O Box 1551 Raleigh, N.C. 27602-1551

Ms. Lida Decker Constellation Power Source Generation, Inc. 111 Market Place, Suite 500 Baltimore, M.D. 21202-4035

Paul R. Newton PBO5E Duke Energy Corporation P O Box 1244 Charlotte, NC 28242-0001

Lee E. Barrett, Esquire
Duke Energy North American LLC
5400 Westheimer Court
Houston, TX 77056-5310

Joe N. Linxwiler, Jr. Fred Saffer & Associates 2111 East Michigan Street, Suite 219 Orlando, FL 328006-4983

Randolph L Elliott, Esquire Miller Balis & O'Neil, P.C. 1140 Nineteenth Street NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036-6601

Keith R. McCrea Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20004-2404

James R. Crossen Automated Power Exchange, Inc. 5201 Great America Parkway Santa Clara, CA 95054-1122

Michael J. Zimmer, Esquire % Calpine Eastern Baker & McKenzie 815 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, DC 20006-4004

Gary A. Lambert, Jr., Exec. V.P. Competitive Power Ventures, Inc. 35 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107 Braintree, MA 02184-8703

Mr. Harvey Reed Constellation Power Source Generation, Inc. 111 Market Place - I Baltimore, M.D. 21202-4035

Jennifer L. Key Steptoe & Johnson 1330 Connecticut Avenue NW Washington, DC 20036

Leslie J. Paugh Landers & Parsons 310 West College Avenue Tallahassee, FL 32301-1406 Mary J. Doyle, Dir of Regulatory Policy Dynegy, Inc. 805 15th Street NW, Suite 510-A Washington, DC 20005-2207

Julie Simon, Director Electric Power Supply Association 1401 H Street NW, F1 11 Washington, DC 20005-2102

Jeffrey Watkiss, Esquire Bracewell & Patterson, LLP % Enron Power Marketing, Inc. 2000 K St., N.W., Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20006-1809

Scott A. Goorland Florida Dept of Environmental Protection 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard MS 35 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Roger A. Fontes Florida Municipal Power Agency 8553 Commodity Circle Orlando FL 32819-9002

Robert A. Jablon Spiegel & McDiarmid 1350 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100 Washington, D.C. 20005-4710

C. Martin Mennes Florida Power & Light Company 4200 West Flagler Street Miami, FL 33134-1606

Mike Naeve, Esquire Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP 1440 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005-2111

Larry F. Eisenstat, Esquire Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin, & Oshinsky LLP 2101 L Street NW Washington, DC 20037-1594 Edward A. Ross, Senior Director Dynegy, Inc. 1000 Louisana Street, Suite 5800 Houston, TX 77002-5006

Ms. Christi L. Nicolay, Director Enron Corporation % Enron Power Marketing, Inc. P.O. Box 1188 Houston, TX 77251-1188

Sarah G. Novosel, Esquire Enron Corporation 1775 First Street NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20006-2418

Mr. Albert B. Malmsjo R. W. Beck Olympia Place, Suite 300 800 N Magnolia Avenue Orlando, FL 32803-3252

Claude L'Engle Florida Municipal Power Agency 8553 Commodity Circle Orlando, Florida 32819-9002

Frederick M. Bryant, General Counsel Florida Municipal Power Agency 2061 Delta Way Tallahassee, FL 32303-4227

John S. Moot, Esquire Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP 1440 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005-2111

W. G. Walker, III Florida Power & Light Company 215 S Monroe Street, Suite 810 Tallahassee, FL 32301-1839

Henry L. Southwick, Director Florida Power Corporation 6565 38TH Avenue North St. Petersburg, FL 33710-1628 James P. Fama Leboeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, LLP P O Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

Douglas F. John, Esq. John & Hengerer 1200 17th St., NW, Ste 600 Washington, DC 20036-3013

William D. DeGrandis Paul, Hastings, Janosky & Walker 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 10 Washington, DC 20004-2400

Gary D. Bachman, Esquire Van Ness Feldman 1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW, FL 7 Washington, DC 20007-3837

Paul H. Elwing, Manager Lakeland Electric & Water Utilities Dept of Electric and Water Utilities 501 E. Lemon St. Lakeland, FL 33801-5050

Stephen G. Kozey, V.P. and General Counsel Midwest Independent Transmission System 5517 W 74th Street Indianapolis, IN 46208-4184

Donna M. Sauter McDermott, Will & Emery for Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc. 600 13th Street NW Washington DC 20005-3005

Mr. Dallas M. Peavey, Jr. Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia 1470 Riveredge Parkway, NW Atlanta, GA 30328-4640

Mr. Gary Schaeff Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia 1470 Riveredge Parkway NW Atlanta, GA 30328-4640 Darrell Dubose, General Manager Gainesville Regional Utilities Post Office Box 147117 Gainesville, FL 32614-7117

Julian Brix Georgia Transmission Corporation Post Office Box 1349 Tucker, GA 30085-1349

Mr. Ted Hobson JEA 7720 Ramona Boulevard W Jacksonville, FL 32221-3453

Robert G. Miller, President Kissimmee Utility Authority Post Office Box 423219 Kissimmee, FL 34742-3219

Mace Hunter, Manager Lakeland Electric & Water Utilities Dept of Electric and Water Utilities 501 E. Lemon St. Lakeland, FL 33801-5050

Stephen L. Teichler Duane, Morris & Heckscher 1667 K Street NW, Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20006-1643

Doron F. Ezickson McDermott, Will & Emery for Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc. 28 State Street Boston, MA 02109-1775

Glen R. Ortman Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, Et.al. for Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia 901 15th Street NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005-2327

Richard Wakefield KEMA Consulting for Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia 4400 Fair Lake Court Fairfax VA 22033-3801 Wallace F. Tillman, General Counsel National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. 4301 Wilson Blvd Arlinton, Virginia 22203-1867

Mr. Ronald L. Vaden
Director of Utilties
City of New Smyrna Beach
Post Office Box 100
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170-0100

Paul Savage NRG Energy, Inc. 901 Marquette Ave, Suite 2300 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3265

George B. Taylor, Jr.
Oglethorpe Power Corporation
Post Office Box 1349
Tucker, GA 30085-1349

Gus R. Cepero Okeelanta Corp. P.O. Box 86 South Bay, FL 33493-8600

Mr. Thomas E. Washburn Vice President, Transmission Business Unit Orlando Utilities Commission P.O. Box 3193 Orlando, FL 32802-3193

John K. Hawks PG&E National Energy Group 7500 Old Georgetown Rd., 13th Floor Bethesda, MD 20814-6133

William H. Penniman Sutherland Asbil & Brennan LLP 1275 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20004-2404

Mr. John Meyer Reliant Energy Northeast Generation, Inc 1111 Louisiana Street, 10th Floor Houston, TX 77002-5200 Susan N. Kelly, Esquire Miller, Balis, O'Neil, P.C. for National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. 1140 19th Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036-6607

Mr. Harvey L Reiter Morrison & Hecker, LLP 1150 18th Street NW, Suite 800 Washington DC 20036-3845

Steven A. Weiler Leonard, Street & Deinard Suite 900, South Building 601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 2004-2601

William D. DeGrandis Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 10 Washington, DC 20004-2400

Randolph Q. McManus Baker & Botts, L.L.P. The Warner 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20004-2400

Wallace Duncan, Esquire Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. 1615 M Street, NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036-3213

John Giddens Utility Business Affairs Reedy Creek Energy Services, Inc. P.O. Box 10000 Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000

Michael C. Briggs, Senior Counsel Reliant Energy Incorporated 801 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 620 Washington, DC 20004-2615

Timothy Woodbury, V.P. Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc. P. O. Box 272000 Tampa, FL 33688-2000 Mr. William T. Miller Miller, Balis & O'Neil, P.C. 1140 19th Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036-6607

Jon L. Brunenkant, Esquire Brunenkant & Haskell, LLP 805 15th Street, NW, Suite 1101 Washington, DC 20005-2289

Catherine D. Taylor, Esquire SCANA Corporation 1426 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201-2834

Greg H. Williams Esquire Cameron McKenna LLP 2175 K Street NW, 5th Floor Washington, DC 20037-1831

Jonathan D. Schneider, Esquire Huber Lawrence & Abell 1001 G Street NW, Suite 1225 Washington, DC 20001-4545

Leon Jourolmon, Jr.
Southeastern Power Administration
U.S. Dept of Energy
2 S Public Square
Elberton, GA 30635-2448

Glenn A. Sheffield, Director Southern Natural Gas Company Post Office Box 2563 Birmingham, AL 35202-2563

Pete N. Koikos City of Tallahassee Wholesale Energy Services 100 West Virginia Street, Floor 5 Tallahassee, FL 32301-1143

Michael J. Rustum, Esquire Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky LLP 2101 L Street NW Washington, DC 20037

Neil Levy Kirkland & Ellis 655 15th Street NW, Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20005-5701 Mr. Peter I. Trombley Shell Energy Services Company, LLC 1221 Lamar Street, Suite 1000 Houston, TX 77010-3000

Amy Gold
Shell Energy Services Company, LLC
1221 Lamar Street, Suite 1000
Houston, TX 77010-3000

Mr. Charles A. White South Carolina Electric & Gas Company 1426 Main Street Columbia, SC 29201-2834

Mr. Stephen R. Pelcher South Carolina Public Service Authority P. O. Box 2946101 Moncks Corner, South Carolina 29461-6101

Lawrence A. Gollomp US Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20585-0001

Denver Rampey, Jr. Asst Administrator Southeastern Power Administration U.S. Dept of Energy 2 S Public Square Elberton, GA 30635-2448

Patrick B. Pope Southern Natural Gas Company Post Office Box 2563 Birmingham, AL 35202-2563

Angela Llewellyn Tampa Electric Company Post Office Box 111 Tampa, FL 33601-0111

Scott Helyer, Manager Tenaska, Inc. 1701 E. Lamar Blvd., Suite 100 Arlington, TX 76006-7303

Andrew N. Chau Tractebel, Inc. 1177 West Loop S, Suite 900 Houston, TX 77027-9083 Tim W. Muller Williams Companies, Inc. 1 One Williams Center, Suite 41-3 Tulsa, OK 74172

Secretary Alabama Public Service Commission 100 N. Union Street P.O. Box 991 Montgomery, AL 36130

Jack Shreve, Esq., Public Counsel Florida Office of Public Counsel 111 W. Madison St., Room 812 Tallahassee, FL 32399-6588 Garson Knapp, Administrator Williams Energy Services Company 1 Williams Center, MS 35-7 Tulsa, OK 74172-0001

Secretary Georgia Public Service Commission 244 Washington Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30334-5799