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February 15, 1996

HAND DELIVERED

RECEIVED
FILE COPY

400 CLEVELAND STREET
P.O. BOX 186620 32317
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tallahassee

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

960183-EI

Re: Petition for Approval of Late Payment
Charge by Tampa Electric Company

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing in the above-styled matter is the original and fifteen (15) copies of Tampa Electric Company's Petition for Approval of Late Payment Charge.

Please acknowledge receipt and filing of the above by stamping the duplicate copy of this letter and returning same to this writer.

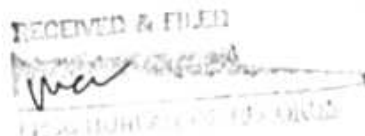
Thank you for your assistance in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,


James D. Beasley

JDB/pp
Enclosures

cc: Connie Kummer (w/enc.)

RECEIVED & FILED

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
01827 FEB 15 96
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for Approval)
of Late Payment Charge by)
Tampa Electric Company.)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 960183-EI
FILED: February 15, 1996

PETITION

Tampa Electric Company ("Tampa Electric" or "the company") files this its Petition for approval of revisions to its service charges tariff which would provide for a late payment charge, and in support thereof says:

1. Tampa Electric is an investor-owned electric utility operating under the jurisdiction of this Commission and serving retail customers in Hillsborough and portions of Polk, Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The company's principal offices are located at 702 North Franklin Street, Tampa, Florida 33602.

2. The persons to whom all notices and other documents should be sent in connection with this docket are:

Mr. Lee L. Willis
Mr. James D. Beasley
MacFarlane Ausley Ferguson
& McMullen
Post Office Box 391
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Ms. Jana Hathorne
Regulatory Specialist
Tampa Electric Company
Post Office Box 111
Tampa, Florida 33601

3. In this petition, Tampa Electric seeks approval of a late payment charge to be applied to customers' past due balances. The purpose of the late payment charge is to more properly collect the costs associated with unpaid balances on customer accounts from those customers who do not pay their bills on time. In addition, a late payment charge should encourage prompt payment, thereby helping Tampa Electric reduce expenses associated with unpaid

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

balances. Tampa Electric's present tariff does not include a late payment charge on past due balances.

4. The late payment charge will apply when a customer fails to pay a bill by the past due date indicated on the customer's bill. The proposed late payment charge for customers, except for accounts of federal, state and local governmental entities, is 1.5 percent of any unpaid prior past due billings. The above-referenced governmental entities are subject to the imposition of a late payment charge in accordance with Section 215.422, Florida Statutes (state agencies), Section 218.70 - .79, Florida Statutes (local governmental agencies), and 31 U.S.C. 3901-3907 (federal governmental agencies). Tampa Electric seeks authority to bill a late charge for past due balances for these governmental agencies at a rate no greater than allowed, and in a manner permitted, by applicable law.

5. In prior dockets, the Commission approved similar late payment charges for other Florida electric utilities. The most recent such approval is reflected in Commission Order No. PSC-95-1087-FOF-EI (Docket No. 95073-EI, In Re: Petition for approval of late payment charge and field collection charge by Florida Power Corporation), and In Re: Tariff Proposed by Florida Power & Light Company, Docket No. 900836-EI, Order No. 23895 (December 18, 1990). Consistent with the prior actions of the Commission, and for the reasons hereinabove stated, Tampa Electric requests the Commission's approval for the Company's late payment charge as set forth in the proposed revised tariff sheet (Eighth Revised Sheet

No. 3.030) attached to this petition as Exhibit A. A copy of the proposed revised sheet in legislative format is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

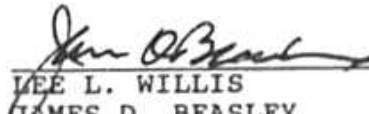
6. Upon the Commission's approval of Tampa Electric's proposed late payment charge, the Company will modify its monthly customer bills to reflect the applicable charge and the past due date after which the bills are subject to imposition of such charge.

7. Tampa Electric requests that the Commission approve this petition, and grant its Staff authority to administratively approve the effective date of Eighth Revised Sheet No. 3.030 to coincide with the date on which the Company's billing system will be capable of implementing and administering the late payment charge, which date is currently estimated to be May 1, 1996.

WHEREFORE, Tampa Electric respectfully requests that the Commission (a) approve the late payment charge set forth in Exhibit A to this petition and (b) authorize its Staff to administratively approve the effective date of the revised tariff sheet upon proper notification by the Company.

DATED this 15th day of February, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,



LEE L. WILLIS
JAMES D. BEASLEY
Macfarlane Ausley Ferguson & McMullen
Post Office Box 391
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(904) 224-9115

ATTORNEYS FOR TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY

SERVICE CHARGES

A \$38.00 service charge will be made for the establishment of each initial service connection.

A \$35.00 service charge will be made for each reestablishment of service after such service has been discontinued as provided for in Section 5, Part 2.14 of this Tariff.

A \$16.00 service charge will be made for all other connections including the changing of an existing customer's account to another customer's name.

An \$8.00 collection charge will be made when a service representative visits a premises for the purpose of discontinuing service for nonpayment of a delinquent account and does not discontinue service because the customer (1) pays, (2) makes arrangement to pay, or (3) cannot be contacted at the time of the call.

A service charge of \$15 or 5% of the amount of the check, whichever is greater, shall be added to the customer's bill for electric service for each check dishonored by the bank upon which it is drawn. Termination of service shall not be made for failure to pay the returned check charge.

Charges for services due and rendered which are unpaid as of the past due date are subject to a Late Payment Charge of 1.5%, except the accounts of federal, state, and local governmental entities, agencies, and instrumentalities. Accounts of federal, state, and local governmental agencies, and instrumentalities are subject to a Late Payment Charge at a rate no greater than allowed, and in manner permitted, by applicable law.

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