ORIGINAL
TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
NO. 990001-EI

FILED: 10/1/99

1		BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION		
2	PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY			
3		OF		
4		THOMAS L. HERNANDEZ		
5				
6	Q.	Please state your name, address, occupation and employer.		
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8	A.	My name is Thomas L. Hernandez. My business address is		
9		702 North Franklin Street, Tampa, Florida 33602. I am		
10		Vice President-Regulatory Affairs for TECO Energy, Tampa		
11		Electric Company's ("Tampa Electric" or "company")		
12		parent.		
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14	Q.	Please provide a brief outline of your educational		
15		background and business experience.		
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17	A.	I graduated from Louisiana State University in 1982 with		
18		a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. My		
19		responsibilities at Tampa Electric have included		
20		engineering and management positions in Production,		
21		Generation Planning, Energy and Market Planning, and		
22		Fuels and Environmental Services. I was named Vice		
23		President-Regulatory Affairs for TECO Energy in March		
24	1998. DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE			
25		11904 OCT-1 #		

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Q. Have you previously testified before this Commission?

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A. Yes. I testified before this Commission in the last annual planning hearing Docket No. 910004-EU. I also provided a description of Tampa Electric's planning process at the FPSC Staff workshop on March 3, 1994. I also submitted testimony in Docket No. 930551-EI which was the numeric conservation goals proceeding for Tampa Electric. I testified in Docket No. 960409-EI regarding the prudence of Polk Unit One and, most recently, I testified in Docket No. 980693-EI regarding the company's flue gas desulfurization system for Big Bend Units 1 and 2.

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Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

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The purpose of my testimony is to urge the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") to approve a revision regulatory treatment afforded the current company's existing wholesale power sales agreement with the Florida Municipal Power Agency ("FMPA") beginning January 1, 2000 and ending March 15, 2001, the expiration of the agreement. As discussed below, date significant benefits to transaction creates net ratepayers. While this transaction provides overall net

transaction this of benefits. regulatory treatment significant loss on the company. Tampa imposes a Electric urges this Commission to approve a revenue flowthrough treatment of this sale, which avoids harming the company while still providing benefits to customers. This treatment would begin at the expiration of existing rate stipulation agreement approved by Order No. PSC 96-1300-S-EI ("Stipulation") and would be consistent with sound regulatory policy as reflected in previous Commission proceedings.

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I will also discuss the appropriate regulatory treatment generation-related gains economy for the on transaction which are short-term, cost-based transactions between electric utilities. These sales are made either through the Florida Energy Broker Network ("EBN" "broker") or outside the broker. I will also discuss the appropriate regulatory treatment for transmission revenue received from such sales not made through the broker. Finally, I will explain why the Commission should not eliminate the 20 percent shareholder incentive established in Order No. 12923, issued January 24, 1984 should consider Docket 830001-EU-B and why it in additional incentives.

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- Q. Have you prepared an exhibit to support your testimony?

A. Yes I have. My Exhibit No. _____ (TLH-1) was prepared under my direction and supervision and consists of one document.

Regulatory Treatment for FMPA Wholesale Agreement

Q. Please describe the FMPA wholesale power supply agreement.

A. The FMPA wholesale power supply agreement is a letter of commitment dated October 2, 1996, as amended by letter agreements dated November 25, 1997, April 30, 1998, and October 14, 1998 that provides for long-term interchange service by Tampa Electric to FMPA in accordance with the Agreement for Interchange Service dated April 1, 1986, as supplemented by Service Schedule D (Long-Term Interchange Service) dated December 20, 1998 ("Agreement"). The original Agreement provides for the sale of specified amounts of capacity and associated energy from Tampa Electric's Big Bend Units 2 and 3, and Gannon Units 5 and 6 from December 16, 1996 through March 15, 2001.

The amounts of contracted capacity made available under the Agreement ranged from 35 megawatts in 1997 to 105 megawatts through December 15, 1999. For the period December 16, 1999 through March 15, 2001, the contracted base capacity will be 150 megawatts. The Agreement provides that capacity would be available to FMPA any time generating resources from Big Bend Units 2 and 3, and Gannon 5 and 6 are available.

In March 1998, Tampa Electric began serving FMPA through third-party resources. The Agreement was formally amended to reflect that FMPA's capacity needs could be met with power supplied from third party purchased power agreements instead of Tampa Electric's generating resources.

Q. Why is making wholesale sales important to Tampa Electric?

A. Making cost effective wholesale sales which provide revenues greater than incremental costs of making such sales is good for the company's retail customers as well as its shareholders. Since its 1985 rate case, when this Commission gave the company an incentive to keep retail prices down by increasing wholesale revenues, the company

worked hard to optimize those sales. The current anticipated levels of such wholesale revenue has been one of several significant variables that the company has which have managed resulted in reduced prices customers in spite of the pressure of increasing costs. Retail customers benefit through low prices and shareholders benefit in the increase in probability of the company earning its allowed rate of return.

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Q. Has the Commission provided the company incentives to enter into transactions like the FMPA sale?

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Yes, most definitely. In the company's 1985 rate order, the Commission reduced retail revenue requirements by \$37 based on Tampa Electric's existing sale million capacity and energy to Florida Power and Light Company. In that proceeding, the Commission challenged the company to make up the deficit in revenue requirements by making up to \$37 million in wholesale sales. The Commission treated the wholesale sales by allowing the company to credit 100% of the non-fuel revenue from such sales above retail jurisdiction. 1987, line in the In Commission approved a proposal by the company to credit fuel revenues based on the incremental fuel cost from off-system sales to the retail customer fuel adjustment

clause ("Fuel Clause") which had encouraging wholesale sales. In the company's 1992 rate case, the Commission separated certain of the company's wholesale sales at system average cost, certain others at unit embedded cost, while still other sales were not separated from the retail jurisdiction. that were not separated from the retail jurisdiction, net revenues were shared 80/20. There are good, sound policy reasons for this.

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What regulatory treatment has the Commission prescribed Q. for the costs and revenues associated with the Agreement during the stipulation?

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During the February 1997 fuel adjustment hearing, raised regarding cost recovery of non-fuel revenues associated with sales such as the Agreement. The Commission opened Docket No. 970171-EU to establish the regulatory treatment of costs and revenues associated with such sales. In its Order No. PSC-97-0262-FOF-EI issued March 11, 1997 the Commission set out its basic policy with respect to the regulatory treatment for the recovery of fuel costs of long-term, firm, power sales. Under this policy a utility is required to credit average system fuel costs through the Fuel Clause

unless it demonstrates, on a case-by-case basis, that each new sale provides net benefits to retail ratepayers in which case incremental costs can be credited.

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During the hearing conducted in August 1997 in Docket No. 970171-EU, Tampa Electric demonstrated that the sale to FMPA contributed net present value benefits of \$9 million (1997 dollars) to the company's retail customers as shown in my exhibit. In making its decision in this docket, the Commission concluded that solely because of the terms Stipulation, Tampa Electric was required separate the capital and operating and maintenance costs ("O&M") of the FMPA sales from the retail jurisdiction at average embedded cost. Furthermore, in light of the fact that the Commission, in Order No. PSC-97-1273 FOF-EI, recognized that the FMPA sale provided overall benefits to retail ratepayers, the company was permitted to credit the Fuel Clause and Environmental Cost Recovery Clause ("ECRC") with revenue amounts equal to the system incremental fuel and SO2 allowance costs, respectively, resulting from the FMPA sale. In the event that fuel revenues received under the contract were less than the differential costs for fuel and SO2, the company was ordered to reduce retail operating revenues by the amount of shortfall.

Did Tampa Electric follow the Commission's order Q. treating the costs and revenues associated with the FMPA wholesale power supply agreement?

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FMPA sale from the retail

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Α. To the extent that Tampa Electric's resources were being used to supply FMPA, from inception of the agreement and continuing December 31, 1999, Tampa Electric has and will continue

SO₂) associated with the

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jurisdiction at average embedded costs. In addition, 11 whenever such retail generating resources were used to 12

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incremental fuel revenues and credited the ECRC with 14 incremental SO₂ allowance revenues associated with the 15

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(The fuel and SO2 costs were documented in the company's

sale as described in the hearing in Docket No. 970171-EU.

1997 and 1998 Fuel Clause and ECRC filings.) Finally, if

and SO_2 revenues and incremental costs, the company made

to separate the capital and O&M costs (excluding fuel and

serve the sale the company credited the Fuel Clause with

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there was a shortfall between incremental fuel revenues

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up the difference with additional credits from retail

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revenues.

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- What was the effect of separating the sale at average Q. system embedded costs?

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This separation treatment resulted in the allocation of costs that exceeded the non-fuel revenues from the sale by approximately \$0.7 to \$2.1 million per month. The net result of this regulatory treatment was that although the FMPA sale was shown to provide net benefits to ratepayers, the company was losing approximately \$0.7 to \$2.1 million per month serving the Agreement.

The FMPA sale is an incremental or opportunity sale.

Tampa Electric has no obligation to wholesale customers

to make these kinds of sales and would only do so in

those cases where net benefits accrue to the general body

of ratepayers and the company's shareholders are not harmed. Separating FMPA sales on an average cost basis,

creates a tremendous disincentive to Tampa Electric to

make these types of sales in the future. The resulting

loss of benefits to our general body of ratepayers under

that treatment would be in no one's best interest.

Q. How did Tampa Electric serve the FMPA sale after February 1998?

A. In March 1998, Tampa Electric began serving FMPA partially through third party resources. The third party

resources consisted of purchased power agreements with Florida Power Corporation and PECO Energy Company and by April 28, 1998, the total amount of third-party supplied purchase power equaled the entire amount of contracted capacity to be supplied to FMPA under the Agreement. Therefore, since April 28, 1998, none of Tampa Electric's generating units have been used to serve the sale.

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Q. How did Tampa Electric treat the costs and revenues associated with the FMPA wholesale power supply agreement after February 1998?

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In every month that Tampa Electric was not serving FMPA Α. directly from its own generating resources, the purchase power costs and sales revenues were excluded from the retail jurisdiction. The amount of energy required to equaled **FMPA** sale the amount οf energy the purchased from third-party suppliers. Therefore, in each of those months the FMPA sale was served totally by third-party purchases and the fuel cost recovery factor was not affected in any way.

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Q. Why is Tampa Electric seeking different regulatory treatment for the FMPA wholesale power supply agreement for the period of January 1, 2000 through March 15, 2001?

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- When the Commission made its decision in Order No. PSC-97-1273-FOF-EU, it established the regulatory treatment for the duration of the Stipulation or through December 31, 1999. During its discussion at the agenda conference when the decision was made, the Commission made it clear Tampa Electric could seek alternative treatment after the Stipulation ended. We are now requesting different treatment since the benefits to ratepayers far exceed those contemplated in the original benefit analysis with Tampa Electric forced to make up this difference at a substantial loss to shareholders.

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Q. What is Tampa Electric's proposed treatment for the FMPA wholesale power supply agreement for the period January 1, 2000 through March 15, 2001?

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A. The company is proposing a revenue flow-through treatment that credits all revenues received from the FMPA sale to retail customers through the ECRC and Fuel Clause. The company will credit the ECRC with revenues to offset the incremental SO₂ costs. The SO₂ allowance costs will be determined by using the market price for SO₂ allowances and the weighted average SO₂ emission rate for Big Bend

Units 2 and 3 and Gannon Units 5 and 6. All remaining revenues will be credited to the Fuel Clause.

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Q. Why is this proposed treatment appropriate?

of providing service.

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The proposed FMPA treatment provides customers benefits A. derived from this type of wholesale sale, and eliminates created the absolute disincentive that is by the separation treatment required during the Stipulation. Tampa Electric's proposed regulatory treatment of reasonable, and is fair and sends appropriate signal rather than discouraging utilities from seeking future opportunities to reduce their costs

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Q. What are the overall total benefits for retail ratepayers resulting from the FMPA agreement?

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A. The appropriate way to review the overall total benefits of the Agreement is to review what was known and reasonably assumed at the time the Agreement was signed. As stated above, and shown in my exhibit, the company originally projected net present value benefits of \$9 million (1997 dollars) for the contract period. These benefits were determined based upon a cost

analysis of this wholesale power transaction during the period 1997 through 2001. In evaluating the benefits realized from the current regulatory treatment and those benefits to be obtained under the proposed regulatory treatment from January 1, 2000 through the end of the Agreement, the company has determined that \$13.5 million (1997 dollars) net benefits will be achieved as shown in my exhibit.

Q. Why should the Commission approve your proposed regulatory treatment of the FMPA sale?

A. It should be approved as a matter of sound regulatory policy consistent with the Commission's Order in Docket No. 970171-EU as well as a matter of basic fairness. The proposed regulatory treatment will provide additional net benefits for the remainder of the contract and these benefits will be passed through to customers without penalizing the company. The separation treatment based upon average embedded costs imposed during the Agreement, on the other hand, does in effect provide a severe penalty to the company.

It is simply unreasonable and unfair to continue to require a regulatory treatment which provides a financial

penalty and disincentive for entering into a transaction which has reasonable expectations of providing net benefits to customers. The reason separation was required initially was related to the Stipulation. The Stipulation term ends December 31, 1999 and accordingly separation treatment should end.

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Economy Sales Transactions

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Q. Please describe the appropriate regulatory treatment for generation costs associated with economy sales?

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A. For generation costs, revenues sufficient to cover the fuel costs associated with Schedules C and X transactions are credited through the Fuel Clause and revenues sufficient to cover the associated SO₂ credits are credited through the ECRC. Revenues are also credited to operating revenues to cover incremental variable O&M costs incurred by the company.

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Q. How are the gains from economy energy sales treated for regulatory purposes?

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A. Gains are realized by the company selling the energy as a result of the "split the savings" methodology used to

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calculate the transaction price of economy energy. The gain is simply the difference between the transaction price and the associated incremental fuel, O&M and SO2 costs of the seller. This Commission has long had a policy of encouraging these transactions by providing incentives for the utilities to engage in economy sales. On January 24, 1984, the Commission entered its Order No. 12923, Docket No. 830001-EU-B authorizing utilities to retain 20 percent of their gains on economy sales while providing net benefit to ratepayers. In its order the Commission agreed with Staff witness testimony that a positive incentive is desirable for the purpose maximizing the benefits of the Energy Broker Network: "We believe Staff's witness was correct in stating that "a positive incentive will preserve current levels of economy sales and may result in increased sales and that a 20 percent incentive is large enough to maximize the amount of economy sales and provide a net benefit to ratepayers." The Supreme Court of Florida affirmed the Commissions position in <u>Citizens v. Public Service</u> Commission, 464 So 2d 1194 (Fla. 1985). It was clear both then now that the Commission provided and incentive to engage in economy sales type transactions.

Q. What is the appropriate regulatory treatment for the generation-related gain on Schedule C and X transactions not made through the broker?

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The treatment should be the same as if it were made Α. through the broker. The broker is merely a computerizedbased, telephonically-linked, system driven by hardware In essence, it is a tool that facilitates and software. Schedule C transactions for those utilities that wish to use the system. There is no logical reason for making any distinction between types of economy sales based solely on the type of tools used by the buyer and seller their offers and document communicate the to Any generation-related gains associated transactions. with economy sales transactions should be treated the same way whether the broker is used or not since the incenting such transactions clearly should policy of and non-broker apply both broker transactions. to Accordingly, eighty percent of those gains assigned to the retail jurisdiction should be credited to ratepayers through the fuel clause. The company should retain 20 percent of the gain from a non-broker transaction.

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Q. What is the appropriate regulatory treatment for transmission revenues received from non-separated economy sales?

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A. Transmission revenues from economy sales should be separated on an energy basis. Eighty percent of those revenues should be credited to retail ratepayers through the Fuel Clause. The company should retain the remaining 20 percent.

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Q. Should the Commission eliminate the 20 percent shareholder incentive set forth in Order No. 12923, issued January 24, 1984 in Docket No. 830001-EU-B?

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In fact the Commission should increase Α. Definitely not. the incentive to give greater encouragement to utilities to enter into these types of transactions. Elimination of the 20 percent shareholder incentive will negatively sellers purchasers since fewer impact both and transactions will occur in the absence of incentives. The shareholder incentive encourages sellers to offer their as-available energy within the state and provides mutual benefits for customers of both sellers and buyers.

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Q. Why should utilities be incented to ensure there are mutual benefits for customers of both sellers and purchasers of energy?

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Α. Utilities should be incented to carry reserve margins in excess of their minimum planning margins to serve two purposes: one is to meet contingency needs of the state individual and statewide loads are higher expected due to extreme weather conditions or when generating unit availability is less than expected. The second purpose is to balance the market and business risk those utilities that depend on the market reliability purposes with those utilities that help meet market needs. It is appropriate for the Commission to provide incentives to utilities that have acknowledged the need for additional capacity and have modified their resource plans accordingly. Particularly, when such will maximize benefits incentives to their retail customers.

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Q. Please summarize the appropriate regulatory treatment for the generation-related gains on economy energy transactions, the appropriate regulatory treatment for transmission revenues received from economy sales, and

why the Commission should not eliminate the 20 percent shareholder incentive.

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Tampa Electric enters into hourly or multi-hour, costsavings" economy wholesale energy "split based, the transactions. These transactions can be made utilizing the broker or not utilizing the broker. The transactions result in "share the savings", of which eighty percent of transmission the energy-based generation gains and revenues are returned to ratepayers as a credit to the The remaining 20 percent is retained by the Fuel Clause. The 20 percent is critical in incenting and company. benefiting sellers, purchasers and ratepayers. Both sellers and buyers are able to offset and reduce fuel costs to ratepayers with sellers retaining a portion of The Commission should the gains within the company. consider enhancing incentives for seriously willing to provide generation resources utilities serve the needs of its ratepayers and the Florida market due to unexpected slumps in supply-side resources and/or Therefore, although the wholesale customer demand. market has changed considerably over the past few years, the incentives continue to serve an important purpose and continue to send a correct and positive message to wholesale market participants.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony? Yes, it does.

EXHIBIT NO. ____ DOCKET NO. 990001-EI TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY (TLH-1) PAGE 1 OF 1

FMPA Wholesale Power Sales Agreement

Net Benefits to Retail Ratepayers (As of October 1999)

Period	Net Benefits ('97\$ x 1000)		
1997 - 1999	\$	9,841	(1)
2000 - 2001	\$	3,699	(2)
Total Net Benefits	\$	13,540	
Original Net Benefits Estimate	\$	9,004	(3)

- Actual/estimated impact on deferred revenue refunds due to separation of production and transmission resources from the retail jurisdiction less fuel credits booked as above the line operating revenues per Order No. 970171-EU.
- (2) Includes estimated revenues and costs to serve the FMPA contract assuming current projections.
- (3) Original estimate provided by Tampa Electric Witness Branick in Document 4 of her prefiled testimony in Docket No. 970171-EU.