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April 27, 2000

Charles A. Guyton 850.222.3423

By Hand Delivery

Blanca S. Bayó, Director Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 4075 Esplanade Way, Room 110 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

In re: Petition for Determination of Need for an Electrical Power Plant in St. Lucie County by Panda Midway/Leesburg Power Partners, L.P. Docket Nos. 000289-EU and 000288-EU

Dear Ms. Bayó:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Florida Power & Light Company ("FPL") in Docket Nos. 000289-EU and 000288-EU are the original and fifteen (15) copies of Florida Power & Light Company's Response To Florida Power Corporation's Notice of Supplemental Authority, Suggestion of Lack of Jurisdiction, Supplement to Motion to Dismiss, And Motion For Immediate Stay Pending Dismissal.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Chooles & Sugar

Charles A. Guyton

Enclosure cc: Parties of Record

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for Determination of)	
Need for Electric Power Plant in Lake)	Docket No. 000288-EU
County by Panda Leesburg Power)	
Partners, L.P.)	
In re: Petition for Determination)	
of Need for an Electrical Power Plant in)	Docket No. 000289-EU
St. Lucie County by Panda Midway)	
Power Partners, L.P.)	Filed: April 27, 2000

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION'S NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITY, SUGGESTION OF LACK OF JURISDICTION, SUPPLEMENT TO MOTION TO DISMISS, AND MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE STAY PENDING DISMISSAL

Florida Power & Light Company ("FPL"), pursuant to Rule 28-106.204 of the Florida Administrative Code ("F.A.C."), hereby responds to Florida Power Corporation's Notice of Supplemental Authority, Suggestion of Lack of Jurisdiction, Supplement to Motion to Dismiss, And Motion For Immediate Stay Pending Dismissal filed in these proceedings on April 26, 2000. As a response FPL states:

1. The Commission should take notice of the Supreme Court's decision in <u>Tampa</u> <u>Electric Co. v. Joe Garcia</u>, 25 Fla. Law Weekly S294a (Fla. April 20, 2000). FPL agrees with FPC that the import of that decision is that the Commission is without jurisdiction to entertain, hear or grant either of the need petitions filed in these proceedings. Ideally, the petitioners would voluntarily dismiss their petitions without forcing the Commission or the petitioning interveners to expend further resources. However, in the absence of such a voluntary dismissal, the Commission, on its own initiative, should dismiss the petitions.

2. FPL also agrees with FPC that the <u>Duke</u> decision reinforces the appropriateness of granting FPL's and FPC's petitions to intervene in these proceedings. Both FPC and FPL were granted intervener status in the <u>Duke</u> case, and on appeal the Supreme Court reversed the Commission's decision based upon appeals taken by those proper interveners. FPC is correct in its characterization of the Court's decision as holding that it was the interveners, not the purported applicant, that were the proper parties in <u>Duke</u>.

3. FPL is in agreement with FPC that it is not necessary for the Commission to even rule on FPL's and FPC's intervener status in this case. The Commission can and should read the <u>Duke</u> decision as clearly holding that the Commission does not have jurisdiction to entertain or grant a petition such as the Panda petitions. Granting such a petition would exceed the Commission's authority. Therefore, without ever reaching whether FPL and FPC should be allowed to intervene, the Commission could dismiss the infirm petitions on its own initiative.

4. The value of addressing the fundamental jurisdictional issue first is poignantly demonstrated by the <u>Duke</u> case. There, the interveners attempted to have the Commission address its lack of jurisdiction to entertain the proceeding before proceeding to trial. The Commission declined, resulting in an extensive trial and the expenditure of significant, unnecessary resources by both the parties and the Commission.

5. FPL is also in accord that a stay of the current proceedings is warranted. Given the Court's decision in <u>Duke</u>, it is clear that the Commission does not have authority to hear or decide this case under the existing statutory scheme. Any further expenditure of resources by the parties,

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petitioning interveners or the Commission Staff, other than the processing of the dismissal of this case, cannot be justified. The preliminary schedule established in these proceedings did not afford interveners an opportunity for a fair trial. Racing to preserve such a schedule when it is clear that the Commission has no ultimate legal choice but to dismiss the petitions serves no legitimate purpose.

WHEREFORE, FPL respectfully responds to FPC's Notice of Supplemental Authority, Suggestion of Lack of Jurisdiction, Supplement to Motion to Dismiss, And Motion For Immediate Stay Pending Dismissal filed in these proceedings on April 26, 2000 by stating that it should be granted in its entirety.

Respectfully submitted,

Steel Hector & Davis LLP Suite 601 215 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Attorneys for Florida Power & Light Company

Bv: Matthew M. Childs, P.A

Charles A. Guyton

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Florida Power & Light Company's Response To Florida Power Corporation's Notice of Supplemental Authority, Suggestion of Lack of Jurisdiction, Supplement to Motion to Dismiss, And Motion For Immediate Stay Pending Dismissal has been furnished by hand delivery (*) or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the following counsel for parties of record on this the 27th day of April, 2000.

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