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September 17, 2002

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Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: In re: Review of GridFlorida Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) Proposal, Docket No. 020233-El

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed, please find an original and twenty (20) copies of the Motion for Reconsideration of the City of Lakeland, Florida d/b/a Lakeland Electric, Kissimmee Utility Authority, the City of Gainesville, Florida, d/b/a/ Gainesville Regional Utilities, and the City of Tallahassee, Florida, which are being submitted in the above-captioned proceeding. Please date-stamp and return the five (5) extra copies *via* the enclosed postage pre-paid return envelope. I have also included a diskette containing a WordPerfect version of the comments.

Thank you very much for your assistance and please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 429-8801 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

FPSC-COHMISSION CLERK

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In re: Review of GridFlorida Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) Proposal Docket No. 020233-El Filed: September 18, 2002

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LAKELAND ELECTRIC, KISSIMMEE UTILITY AUTHORITY, GAINESVILLE REGIONAL UTILITIES, AND THE CITY OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA,

Pursuant to Rule 25-22.060 of the Florida Administrative Code, the City of Lakeland, Florida d/b/a Lakeland Electric (Lakeland), the City of Tallahassee, Florida (Tallahassee), Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA), and the City of Gainesville, Florida d/b/a Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) – collectively referred to herein as the Florida Municipal Group (FMG)¹ – submit this Motion for Reconsideration of the Commission's September 3, 2002, order in the abovecaptioned proceeding (September 3rd order).²

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FMG urges the Commission to (i) reconsider its decision to hold a hearing on market design issues at this time, and (ii) reconsider its acceptance of the bright-line, 69 kV standard for determining which facilities participating owners must turn over to GridFlorida for operational purposes.

BACKGROUND

On December 20, 2001, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. 010577-EI that addressed certain components of the GridFlorida RTO proposal (December 20th order).³ The September 3rd order reviewed GridFlorida's modified RTO filing submitted in purported

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

¹ The FMG is an *ad hoc* advocacy group. Each member of the FMG has intervened independently in this proceeding and reserves the right to express individual views at any time.

² Order No. PSC-02-1199-PAA-EI.

³ Order No. PSC-01-2489-FOF-EI.

compliance with the December 20th order. The Commission convened a hearing to review certain market design proposals that were found to be non-compliant and accepted other proposals that were found to be compliant (including the proposal to adopt a bright-line, 69 kV standard for determining which facilities a participating owner must turn over to the RTO for operational purposes).

DISCUSSION

The FMG members urge the Commission to reconsider its decision (i) to convene a hearing on market design issues at this time, and (ii) to accept the bright-line, 69 kV standard.

A. <u>The Commission Should Reconsider its Decision to Convene a Hearing on Market</u> <u>Design Issues at this time.</u>

The September 3rd order found certain GridFlorida market design proposals to be noncompliant with the December 20th order, including proposals to adopt locational marginal pricing, financial transmission rights, market clearing prices, and unbalanced schedules. Nonetheless, the Commission recognized that such proposals "may be of benefit to retail ratepayers" and initiated a hearing process to review the proposals further.⁴

Although the FMG members fully support the Commission's desire to play a critical role in determining GridFlorida's market design, they urge the Commission to reconsider its decision to convene a hearing on these issues at this time. As the Commission is well-aware, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proposed a Standard Market Design (SMD) in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) issued on July 31, 2002.⁵ FERC has since modified

⁴ September 3rd order at p. 69.

⁵ Remedying Undue Discrimination through Open Access Transmission Service and Standard Market Design, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking issued in FERC Docket No. RM01-12-000 (July 31, 2002) (SMD NOPR).

the comment schedule for the NOPR, included dates for both initial and reply comments, and scheduled at least three technical conferences.⁶

The FMG members see no practical value (and increased burdens and complexities) in addressing the same issues, at the same time, in two parallel and interrelated proceedings. Instead, the Commission should defer the hearing at this time pending FERC's completion of the SMD rulemaking. This approach is consistent with the recommendation advanced by the FMG in their July 12, 2002, supplemental post-workshop comments.⁷ Once a final SMD is available, this Commission will have a model against which it can analyze GridFlorida's market design proposals. Indeed, GridFlorida will ultimately be required to justify any deviations from the SMD that is adopted by FERC, so deferring a hearing until after a final SMD is available will enable the Commission to develop a more sustainable record for any SMD variations that are adopted.

B. <u>The Commission Erred in Accepting, as a Final Order, the Proposed Bright-Line,</u> 69 kV Standard for Determining which Facilities a Participating Owner must turn over to the Operational Control of the RTO.

For largely the same reason that the Commission should defer a hearing on market design issues at this time, the Commission should also reconsider its decision in the September 3rd order to accept GridFlorida's proposed bright-line, 69 kV standard for determining which facilities a participating owner must turn over to the RTO for operational purposes.

The FMG objected to the bright-line test in their comments on GridFlorida's March 20,

2002 compliance filing, through their counsel's oral remarks at the May 29, 2002, workshop held

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⁶ Initial comments are due by November 15, 2002, with reply comments due by December 20, 2002. Technical conferences are scheduled for October 2 and 3, 2002, and December 11, 2002. FERC has also reserved a week in January 2003 to hold additional technical conferences that may be deemed necessary.

See FMG Supplemental Post-Workshop Comments at pp. 2-4.

in this proceeding, and in post-workshop comments.[®] The Commission has yet to address the FMG's substantive comments on this issue, principally, that the standard may inappropriately. require participating owners to relinquish control of facilities with a nominal voltage rating of 69 kV or above, but that nonetheless perform a <u>local distribution function</u>. Instead, the September 3rd order accepted the bright-line standard on the sole basis that it was found to comply with the December 20th order, did not violate federal law, and in any event was a matter for determination by the FERC.[®] The December 20th order was similarly brief, finding that the proposed bright-line standard was not contested, and that there was "no evidence in the record suggesting that the demarcation point should be something other than 69 kV."¹⁰ The September 3rd and December 20th orders devote a total of three (3) pages to this issue, none of which address the fundamental issue of whether it is appropriate for the RTO to assume operational control of facilities that distribute power locally where the owner of the such facilities desires to retain that control.

FERC's proposed SMD – which embodies FERC's current thinking – does <u>not</u> reflect a bright-line test. Instead, it proposes to retain the seven-factor test adopted by Order No. 888 for demarcating transmission and distribution facilities on a <u>functional</u> basis (*i.e.* whether a facility performs a transmission or distribution function, and not merely the facility's nominal voltage rating).¹¹ The NOPR requests comments on several issues, including whether regional

⁸ See FMG Pre-Workshop Comments at pp. 16-19 (May 8, 2002); FMG Post-Workshop Comments at pp. 6-8 (June 21, 2002); Transcript of May 29, 2002 Workshop at pp. 105-107.

⁹ September 3rd order at pp. 37-39. Significantly, the FMG members were not even parties to the prudence review that produced the December 20th order.

¹⁰ December 20th order at p. 17.

¹¹ See SMD NOPR, slip op. at pp. 201-202 (PP 367-368).

variations on this issue should be accommodated and whether a bright-line test should be used "either in addition to or in lieu of the seven factor test[.]¹¹²

In short, the bright-line standard approved by the September 3rd order is at odds with the approach taken by FERC's proposed SMD, is not mandated by anything FERC has done in the GridFlorida RTO proceeding in Docket No. RT01-67-000, and the record supporting the Commission's acceptance of the bright-line standard is virtually non-existent. The Commission has simply not considered this issue fully, not analyzed the impact of a bright-line standard on Florida retail consumers, and not developed an adequate record to sustain its decision in any future FERC proceeding applying the SMD to GridFlorida. The 69 kV or above facilities that utilities may seek to keep out of the RTO have not even been identified as of yet.

The standard for defining transmission facilities subject to RTO control is squarely before FERC as part of its SMD rulemaking, and the FMG members urge the Commission to let that proceeding take its course before purporting to resolve this issue for GridFlorida. Thus, the FMG request that the Commission reverse the September 3rd order to the extent that it accepted the bright-line, 69 kV standard as a final order and defer resolution of this issue until after FERC has adopted an SMD. Alternatively, if the Commission elects to proceed to hearing on market design issues, the FMG members request that the bright-line, 69 kV issue be reserved for hearing as well, and that they be permitted to file testimony on the issue. Otherwise, no meaningful opportunity to do so before this Commission will have been provided with the result being that the FMG members' rights to procedural due process before this Commission will have been abridged.

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See SMD NOPR, slip op. at p. 204 (P 369) (emphasis added).

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the FMG moves for reconsideration of the September 3rd order and requests that the Commission (i) defer the hearing on market design issues, and (ii) reverse its acceptance of the bright-line, 69 kV standard.

Respectfully submitted,

. John Douglas I

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Counsel for the Florida Municipal Group

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Motion of Lakeland Electric, Kissimmee Utility Authority, Gainesville Regional Utilities, and the City of Tallahassee, Florida, has been furnished by U.S. Mail to the following this 18th day of September, 2002.

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