

P R O C E E D I N G S

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MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning, Commissioners.

I'm Ben Crawford with the Office of Industry Development and Market Analysis. With me is Kelley Corbari from the Office of General Counsel, and Traci Matthews with the Division of Engineering.

Item 8 is a petition for approval of modification of the standard interconnection agreements contained in tariffs by Florida Power & Light Company. As part of its petition, FPL requests a waiver of the portion of the net metering rule that requires customers to locate the manual disconnect switch for renewable energy systems adjacent to the meter.

FPL representatives are available to answer any questions, and staff is also available to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you.

FP&L.

MS. MONCADA: Maria Moncada from Florida Power & Light. We fully support staff's recommendation and are available to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. Commissioners?

Commissioner Edgar.

COMMISSIONER EDGAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I did ask to have the opportunity to ask a
2 question or two on this item. And in recognizing that I
3 was here when this rule was promulgated and discussed
4 and ultimately approved, and at that time we did have a
5 lot of discussion on this -- well, on all of it, but
6 also on this particular requirement regarding the manual
7 disconnect switch. And it was primarily, I believe, if
8 memory serves, a safety issue.

9 We also acknowledged at the time that we were
10 kind of venturing into some new areas policy wise, and
11 that we would learn and the customers would learn and
12 that the utilities would learn as we go. So the
13 opportunity to take a look at that requirement I'm very
14 comfortable with.

15 So my question is if indeed it is appropriate
16 from the information that is before us, I believe that
17 it is, to grant a permanent waiver of one requirement of
18 the rule, would it be appropriate to pursue a rule
19 amendment to that effect in addition to perhaps granting
20 the waiver at this point in time?

21 **MR. CRAWFORD:** If you -- if the Commission
22 would like to pursue opening up the net metering rule,
23 that would be within y'all's discretion. It would have
24 to be opening up the entire rule, of course. We
25 can't -- we cannot just do a narrowly focused change of

1 that one individual part.

2 That being said, the rule amendment process
3 would take somewhere in the neighborhood of one to two
4 years. It would not provide the immediate relief to the
5 specific customers that are trying to net meter with
6 Florida Power & Light and are currently, and are
7 currently the reason for this rule waiver. To come into
8 compliance with the rule, it would, it would sort of be
9 a separate -- it would have to be a separate proceeding
10 that would not provide that, that level of relief.

11 That being said, if -- and additionally, with
12 the, with the change in the -- with all of the other
13 changes that's in this petition, most -- very few
14 renewable energy systems will be required to have the
15 manual disconnect switch anymore. When, when the rule
16 was originally developed, it was seen more as a safety
17 issue for the, for the utility. But because nearly
18 all -- or maybe even literally all now -- systems are UL
19 1741 and the inverter -- or use the, use the inverter,
20 the manual disconnect switch is really there more for
21 customer peace of mind and the utility has not had to
22 use those switches. So it's -- this is more a customer
23 convenience issue at this point than it is really a
24 safety and reliability issue. That's just one of those
25 issues that's come up that we had anticipated when the

1 rule was put together that a little more operational
2 experience would give the company and give the
3 Commission and give the customers a little more, a
4 little more information to go on. And it's, it's found
5 that the reason why that requirement was put in
6 initially is really no longer relevant like it was, was
7 seen to be at the time.

8 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** All right. Thank you
9 very much. I appreciate that additional information.
10 And with that, I'm comfortable with the staff
11 recommendation.

12 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Is that a motion?

13 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Mr. Chairman, I move
14 approval of the item that is before us.

15 **COMMISSIONER BRISÉ:** Second.

16 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** It's been moved and
17 seconded, staff recommendation on item number 8. Any
18 further discussion?

19 Seeing none, all in favor, please say aye.

20 (Vote taken.)

21 Those opposed? By your action, you've
22 approved item number 8.

23 I want to thank everybody for coming out
24 today, and I hope you all have a safe trip back to your
25 homes, and please stay warm. This meeting is adjourned.

(Proceeding adjourned at 11:09 a.m.)

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1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
2 COUNTY OF LEON)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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4 I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission
5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing
6 proceeding was heard at the time and place herein
7 stated.

8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
14 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
15 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
17 financially interested in the action.

18 DATED THIS 21st day of January,
19 2014.

20
21 Linda Boles

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