BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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| In re: Petition for approval of tariff modifications to natural gas tariff, in compliance with recent amendment to Florida statutes and Commission rules, by Peoples Gas System. | DOCKET NO. 170090-GU  ORDER NO. PSC-17-0231-TRF-GU  ISSUED: June 15, 2017 |

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIE I. BROWN, Chairman

ART GRAHAM

RONALD A. BRISÉ

JIMMY PATRONIS

DONALD J. POLMANN

ORDER MODIFYING PEOPLES GAS SYSTEMS’

TARIFF SHEET NOS. 5.301, 5.301-1 AND 5.301-2

BY THE COMMISSION:

On April 20, 2017, Peoples Gas System (Peoples or Company) filed a petition requesting Commission approval of amendments to Tariff Sheet Nos. 5.301, 5.301-1, and 5.301-2 (Deposits). During the 2015 session, the Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 7109 which was incorporated into Chapter 2015-129, Laws of Florida. Among other things, the legislation created Section 366.05(1)(b) and (c), Florida Statutes (F.S.). Paragraph (1)(b) addresses billing periods and Paragraph (1)(c) addresses customer deposits. These laws became effective on July 1, 2015. This Commission adopted amendments to Rules 25-7.085 (Customer Billing) and 25-7.083 (Customer Deposits), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), respectively, to implement the laws enacted in July 2015.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Peoples is requesting tariff modifications at this time to ensure that the Company’s tariff language continues to conform to the applicable statutes and Commission rules. On May 15, 2017, Peoples filed an amended version of Tariff Sheet No. 5.301 to reflect scrivener’s editorial changes. This Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Sections 366.03, 366.05, and 366.06, F.S.

DECISION

Peoples’ proposed tariff modifications are designed to conform Peoples’ tariff to the applicable statutes and Commission rules. The Company’s proposed tariff modifications address customer deposits. At this time, Peoples does not have tiered rate schedules; therefore, Peoples is not proposing any changes to its tariff as a result of changes to Section 366.05(1)(b), F.S., and Rule 25-7.085, F.A.C.

Customer Deposits

Section 366.05(1)(c), F.S., provides that for an existing account, the total deposit may not exceed two months of average actual charges. For a new service request, the total deposit may not exceed two months of projected charges. Once a new customer has had continuous service for a 12-month period, the amount of the deposit shall be recalculated using actual data. Any difference between the projected and actual amounts must be resolved by the customer paying the additional amount that may be billed by the utility or the utility returning any overcharge.

We amended Rule 25-7.083(1), F.A.C., to state that a utility’s methodology for determining customer deposits for existing and new accounts shall conform to Section 366.05(1)(c), F.S.[[2]](#footnote-2) The prior rule language already required that the total amount of a deposit not exceed twice the average monthly bill.

Peoples’ proposed revisions to Tariff Sheet No. 5.301 conform to the new statutory language regarding the recalculation of the deposit after 12-months. Peoples’ proposed amendments to Tariff Sheet No. 5.301 comport with the statute by providing that: (a) if the recalculated deposit amount based on the previous 12-months billing history is less than the customer’s current deposit amount, the difference between the deposit amounts will be refunded or applied as a credit to the customer account; and (b) if the recalculated deposit amount exceeds the customer’s current deposit amount, the Company may request an additional deposit amount. Peoples also proposed some administrative revisions to Tariff Sheet Nos. 5.301-1 and 5.301-2 to conform to Rule 25-7.083, F.A.C.

Pursuant to Rule 25-7.083(7), F.A.C., utility customers receive refunds of their deposits with interest after a period of 23 months of continuous service, assuming their payment record is satisfactory. Therefore, for the majority of utility customers, the deposit amount recalculation after a 12-month period of continuous service occurs only once.

Having reviewed the applicable statutes, Commission rules, and proposed tariffs filed by Peoples, we find that the tariff sheet revisions conform to the applicable statutes and Commission rules. Thus, we approve Peoples’ requested modifications to Tariff Sheet Nos. 5.301, 5.301-1, and 5.301-2, as reflected in Attachment A, effective June 5, 2017.

Based on the above, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Peoples Gas System’s modifications to Tariff Sheet Nos. 5.301, 5.301-1 and 5.301-2, as reflected on Attachment A, are hereby approved effective June 5, 2017. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of issuance of the Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any charges held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 15th day of June, 2017.

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|  | /s/ Carlotta S. Stauffer |
|  | CARLOTTA S. STAUFFER  Commission Clerk |

Florida Public Service Commission

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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

SBr

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

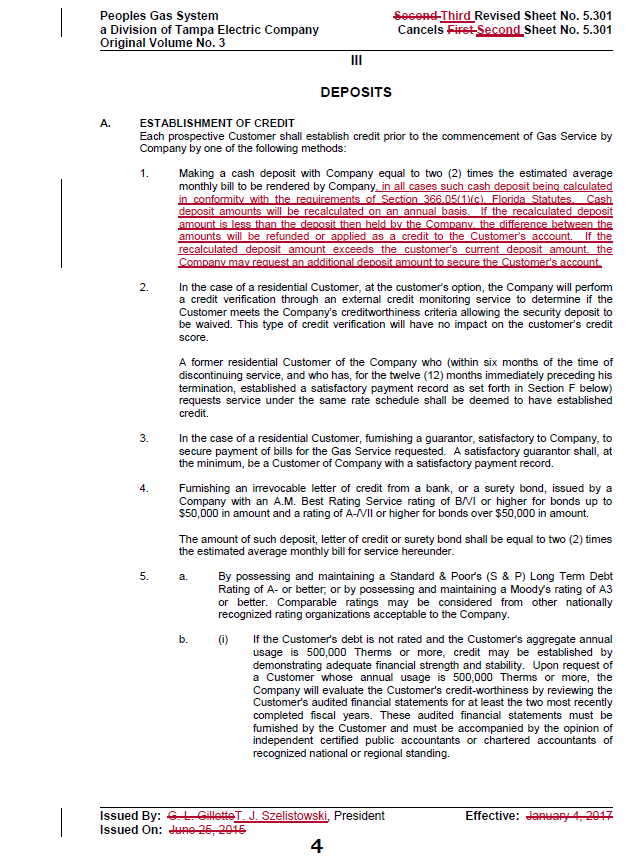
The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

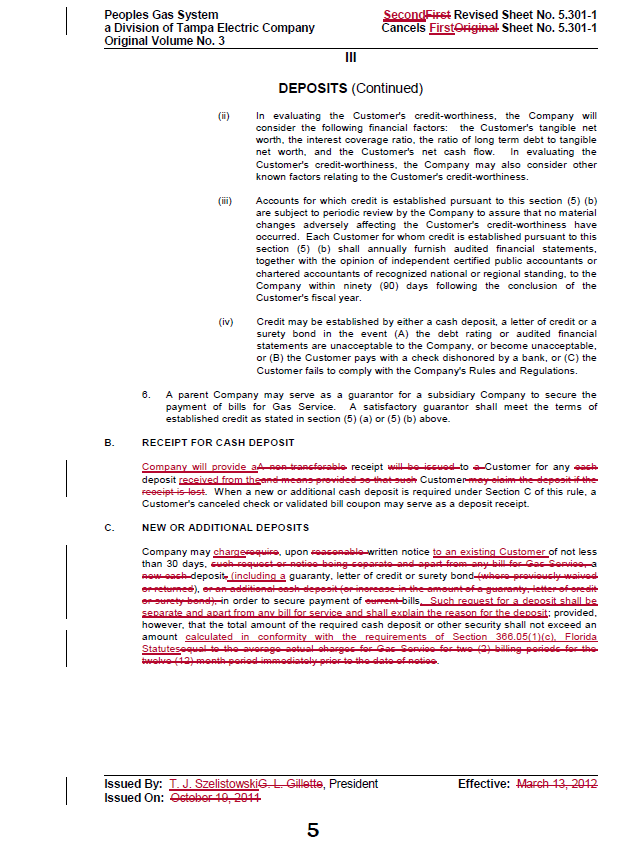
Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

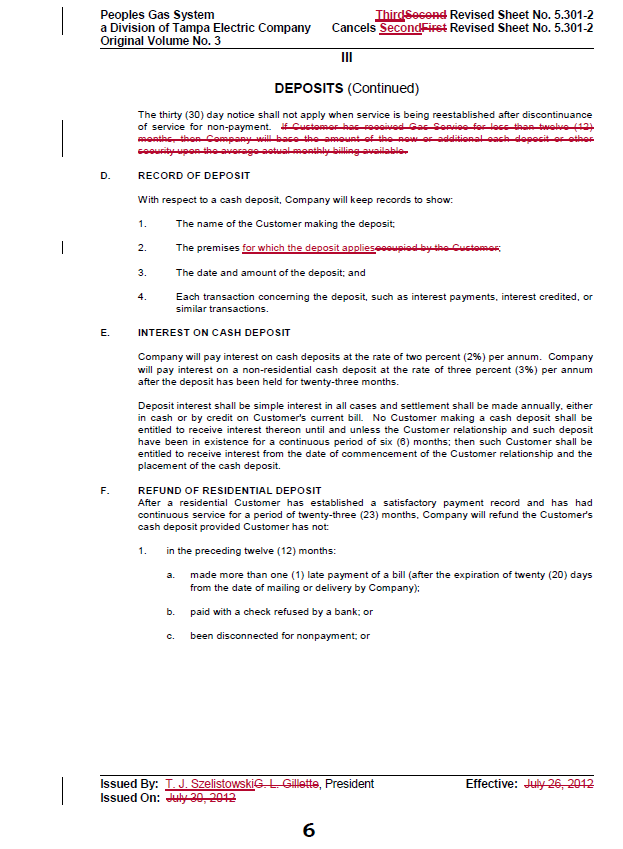
The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on July 6, 2017.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.







1. Order No. PSC-16-0024-FOF-PU, issued January 12, 2016, in Docket No. 150241-PU, In re: Proposed amendments to Rules 25-6.093, Information to Customers; 25-6.097, Customer Deposits; 25-6.100, Customer Billings; 25-7.079, Information to Customers; 25-7.083, Customer Deposits; and 25-7.085, Customer Billing, F.A.C. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)