



Matthew R. Bernier
Associate General Counsel

February 19, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Adam Teitzman, Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: *Petition by Duke Energy Florida, LLC, for limited proceeding for recovery of incremental storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Elsa, Eta, Isaias, Ian, Nicole and Tropical Storm Fred; Docket No. 20230020-EI*

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Please find enclosed for electronic filing on behalf of Duke Energy Florida, LLC ("DEF"), DEF's Request for Confidential Classification for certain information provided in its Responses to the Office of Public Counsel's ("OPC") First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-21) and OPC's First Request to Produce Documents (Nos. 1-35). The filing includes the following:

- DEF's Request for Confidential Classification
- Slip-sheet for confidential Exhibit A
- Redacted Exhibit B (two copies)
- Exhibit C (justification matrix), and
- Exhibit D (affidavits of Shelly Ross, Geoffrey Haslett and William Fountain)

DEF's confidential Exhibit A that accompanies the above-referenced was submitted with DEF's Notice of Intent to Request Confidential Classification on January 29, 2024, document number 00385-2024, under separate cover.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please feel free to call me at (850) 521-1428 should you have any questions concerning this filing.

Respectfully,

/s/Matthew R. Bernier

Matthew R. Bernier

MRB/mw
Enclosures

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for limited proceeding for recovery of incremental storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Elsa, Eta, Isaias, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storm Fred, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

Docket No. 20230020-EI

Dated: February 19, 2024

**DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION**

Duke Energy Florida, LLC, (“DEF” or “Company”), pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), submits this Request for Confidential Classification for certain information provided in its Response to the Office of the Public Counsel’s (“OPC”) First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-21) and OPC’s First Request to Produce Documents (Nos. 1-35), filed on January 29, 2024, concurrently with DEF’s Notice of Intent to Request Confidential Classification. This Request is timely. *See* Rule 25-22.006(3)(a)1, F.A.C. In support of this Request, DEF states:

1. DEF’s Response to OPC’s First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-21), specifically questions 9 and 21 and DEF’s Response to DEF’s Response to OPC’s First Request to Produce Documents (Nos. 1-35), specifically questions 7, 8, 17 and 33, contain information that is “confidential proprietary business information” under Section 366.093(3), Florida Statutes.

2. The following exhibits are included with this request:

a. Sealed Composite Exhibit A is a package containing unredacted copies of all the documents for which DEF seeks confidential treatment. Composite Exhibit A was submitted separately in a sealed envelope labeled “CONFIDENTIAL” on January 29, 2024, document number 00385-2024. In the unredacted versions, the information asserted to be confidential is highlighted in yellow.

b. Composite Exhibit B is a package containing two copies of redacted versions of the documents for which the Company requests confidential classification. The specific information for which confidential treatment is requested has been blocked out by opaque marker or other means.

c. Exhibit C is a table which identifies by page and line the information for which DEF seeks confidential classification and the specific statutory bases for seeking confidential treatment.

d. Exhibit D contains affidavits attesting to the confidential nature of information identified in this request.

3. As indicated in Exhibit C, the information for which DEF requests confidential classification is “proprietary confidential business information” within the meaning of Section 366.093(3), F.S. Specifically, the information provided in DEF’s Response to OPC’s First Set of Interrogatories, questions 9 and 21 and DEF’s Response to OPC’s First Request to Produce Documents, specifically questions 7, 8, 17, and 33, relates to sensitive business information such as internal practices and procedures, contract information and to sensitive line crew contractor costs involved in the restoration work related to Hurricanes Eta, Elsa, Ian, Isaias, and Tropical Storm Fred, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the Company to negotiate contracts on favorable terms. *See* § 366.093(3)(d), F.S.; Affidavits of Shelly Ross, Geoffrey Haslett, and William Todd Fountain. Additionally, if the information at issue was disclosed, DEF’s efforts to obtain competitive contracts that provides economic value to both DEF and its customers could be compromised by competitors changing their purchasing behavior within the relevant markets. *See* Affidavits of Shelly Ross, Geoffrey Haslett, and William Todd Fountain at ¶ 5.

4. Furthermore, the information at issue relates to the competitive interests of DEF, the disclosure of which would impair DEF’s competitive business. § 366.093(3)(e), F.S.; *See id.* at ¶ 5.

Accordingly, such information constitutes “proprietary confidential business information” which is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act pursuant to Section 366.093(1), F.S.

5. Public disclosure of the confidential information would violate the confidentiality provisions in DEF’s contracts and would impair DEF’s ability to contract for services such as line crew assistance on competitive and favorable terms. *See* § 366.093(3)(d), F.S.; Affidavits of Shelly Ross, Geoffrey Haslett, and William Todd Fountain at ¶ 3. If other third parties such as competitors are aware of the negotiated terms of the contracts and mutual assistance agreements, they may offer DEF less competitive contractual terms in future contractual negotiations. *Id.* Accordingly, such information constitutes “proprietary confidential business information” which is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act pursuant to Section 366.093(1), F.S.

6. Furthermore, the responsive contractor invoices, Excel spreadsheets calculating the invoices payments, and the interrogatory explanations concerning those invoices and Excel spreadsheets, reflect contractual vendor costs of the companies providing line crew contractors involved in the restoration work. DEF must ensure that sensitive business information contained in the invoices, as well as Excel spreadsheets calculating the invoices payments and the interrogatory explanations concerning those invoices are kept confidential, the disclosure of which would impair the Company’s efforts to contract for goods and services on favorable terms. *See* § 366.093(3)(e), F.S.; Affidavits of Shelly Ross, Geoffrey Haslett, and William Todd Fountain at ¶ 3.

7. The information identified as Exhibit “A” is intended to be and is treated as confidential by the Company. *See* Affidavits of Shelly Ross, Geoffrey Haslett, and William Todd Fountain at ¶ 4. The information has not been disclosed to the public, and the Company has treated and continues to treat this information as confidential. *Id.*

8. DEF requests that the information identified in Exhibit A be classified as “proprietary confidential business information” within the meaning of section 366.093(3), F.S., that the information remain confidential for a period of at least 18 months as provided in section 366.093(4) F.S., and that the information be returned as soon as it is no longer necessary for the Commission to conduct its business.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, DEF respectfully requests that this Request for Confidential Classification be granted.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 19th day of February, 2024.

/s/Matthew R. Bernier

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FLRegulatoryLegal@duke-energy.com

Attorneys for Duke Energy Florida, LLC

Duke Energy Florida, LLC
Docket No.: 20230020
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished via electronic mail this 19th day of February 2024 to all parties of record as indicated below.

/s/Matthew R. Bernier
Attorney

<p>Suzanne Brownless Office of General Counsel Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850 sbrownle@psc.state.fl.us</p>	<p>Charles J. Rehwinkel / Patty Christensen / Marshall Willis Office of Public Counsel 111 W. Madison St., Rm 812 Tallahassee, FL 32399 rehwinkel.charles@leg.state.fl.us christensen.patty@leg.state.fl.us Willis.Marshall@leg.state.fl.us</p>
<p>Stephanie U. Eaton Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC 110 Oakwood Drive, Suite 500 Winston-Salem, NC 27103 seaton@spilmanlaw.com</p>	<p>Derrick Price Williamson Steven W. Lee Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC 1100 Bent Creek Boulevard, Suite 101 Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 dwilliamson@spilmanlaw.com slee@spilmanlaw.com</p>

Exhibit A

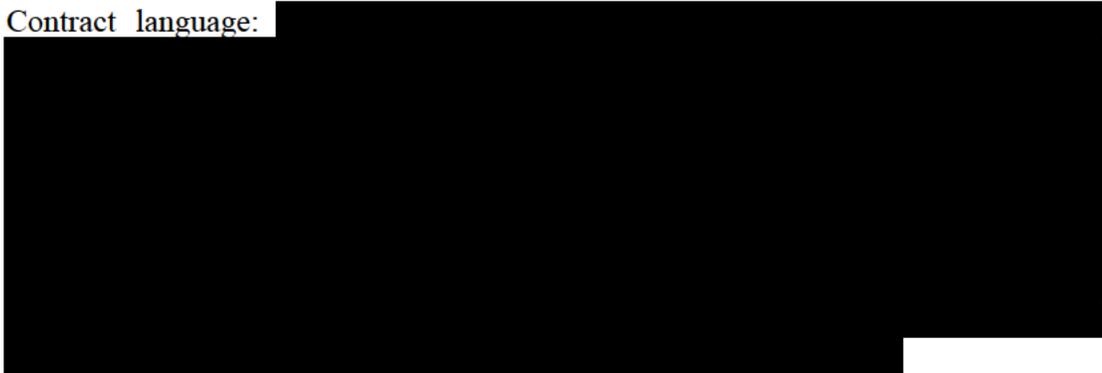
“CONFIDENTIAL”

(submitted under separate cover on January 29, 2024)

Exhibit B
(copy 1)

performing storm restoration activities for Level 1 and 2 storms. In a Level 3 storm, the contract language below would apply. Level ratings depend on estimated extent of damage, restoration time, crew requirements and other considerations. In addition, when Duke Energy has a need for additional resources above on-system resources to support a storm, there are established non-native storm contracts which were derived through a competitive RFP process. DEF utilizes a heat map which encompasses acceptance to Duke Energy Terms and Conditions and Pricing to prioritize which non-native vendors are contacted when there is a need for additional resources and which are released first as storm restoration concludes.

- Contract language:



Vegetation Management:

Vegetation Management has established strategic blanket contracts derived through a competitive RFP that are utilized for both embedded and day-to-day services, in addition to performing storm restoration activities for Level 1 and 2 storms. On-system/embedded vegetation management contractors bill uniform Time & Equipment rates for both “blue sky” and storm restoration activities. The only exception is that General Foreman are allowed to bill overtime rates for hours >40 in the event a significant storm event has been declared by Duke Energy.

Contract language:





10. **Contractor Rates.** Please describe each difference in contractor rates (line contractors and vegetation management contractors) that depend on the type or extent of the storm restoration services, e.g., the intensity of the storm. Specifically identify each relevant contract provision supporting your answer.

Response:

There are no differences in contractor line and vegetation management rates based on the type or extent of restoration services.

11. **Restoration vs Follow-Up.** Please provide a summary, separately by each named storm, which distinguishes costs included in the Company’s request broken down between “restoration” costs and “follow-up” costs. Provide in electronic format with all formulas intact. If the costs are distinguished by date, please explain.

Response:

DEF does not distinguish between “restoration” and “follow-up” costs. For purposes of this question, DEF understands “restoration” costs to refer to the costs associated with work performed immediately in response to a storm event in order to quickly and safely reconnect service to customers able to receive it, and “follow-up costs” to refer to the costs associated with the remaining work necessary to ensure the impacted system is compliant with applicable safety and reliability standards. Because the grid is not uniformly impacted by a storm, there is no true point of demarcation between “restoration” and “follow-up” work as those terms have been herein defined. All costs associated with work performed in response to a storm event are charged to the storm accounting codes and tracked accordingly. However, DEF considers an area “fully restored” when 98% of customers who are able to receive power have been restored. The dates at which DEF considered the system as a whole restored for each named storm at issue is provided in Mr. Fountain’s testimony. Using the individual vendor invoices and comparing the dates costs were incurred to the dates DEF determined the system as a whole was “fully restored,” it would be theoretically possible to designate the costs as defined herein but only at a very high-level. As described above, the system is not impacted uniformly and therefore some areas may (or likely would) have been restored well-before the system as a whole (and this becomes even more true depending on how the system is divided - such as by work zone, county, municipality, individual neighborhoods, etc.). As DEF does not track storm costs in this manner and has not performed the calculation described, DEF cannot respond to the question.

21. **Mobilization/Demobilization.** For the named storms, please describe in detail the Company policy for determining whether mobilization/demobilization travel time is considered reasonable, why that policy should be considered reasonable, and whether the

Company (or any other entity) has performed a study supporting that policy. Identify all documents containing all or part of that policy.

Response:

REDACTED

DEF restates and incorporates its objection to this interrogatory submitted on January 29, 2024. Subject to and without waiving its objection to this request, The company policy regarding mobilization/demobilization during named storms was established as part of the Irma Settlement Agreement approved in Order No. PSC-2019-0232-AS-EI. The Scope and Method of Payment (SMP) document for non-embedded/nonnative crews addresses the following policies:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

These policies were deemed reasonable as part of the Irma Settlement Agreement and implemented as such.

No study has been performed to support this policy.

Please see the SMP provided in response to OPC's First POD, Question 17.

REDACTED

DOCUMENTS BEARING BATES
NUMBERS 20230020-DEF-00000007
THROUGH 20230020-DEF-00000044
HAVE BEEN REDACTED IN THEIR
ENTIRETY

REDACTED

DOCUMENTS BEARING BATES
NUMBERS 20230020-DEF-00000045
THROUGH 20230020-DEF-00000066
HAVE BEEN REDACTED IN THEIR
ENTIRETY

REDACTED

DOCUMENTS BEARING BATES
NUMBERS 20230020-DEF-00000067
THROUGH 20230020-DEF-00000081
HAVE BEEN REDACTED IN THEIR
ENTIRETY

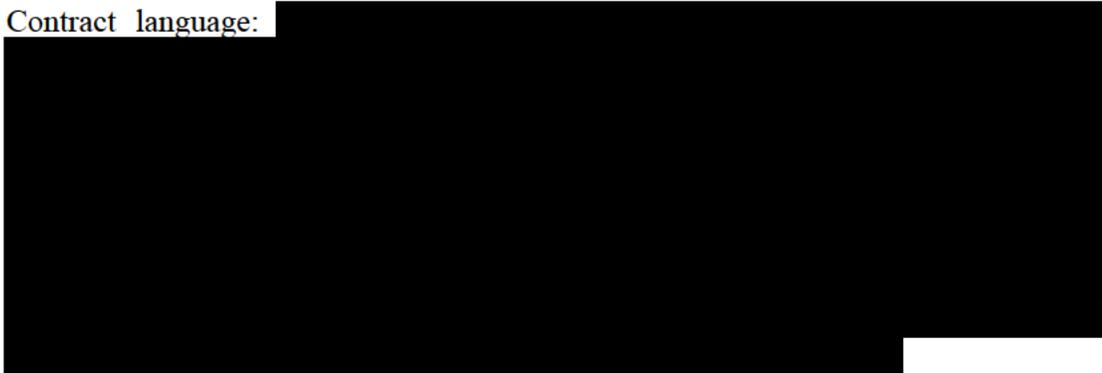
REDACTED

DOCUMENTS BEARING BATES
NUMBERS 20230020-DEF-00000086
THROUGH 20230020-DEF-00033304
HAVE BEEN REDACTED IN THEIR
ENTIRETY

Exhibit B
(copy 2)

performing storm restoration activities for Level 1 and 2 storms. In a Level 3 storm, the contract language below would apply. Level ratings depend on estimated extent of damage, restoration time, crew requirements and other considerations. In addition, when Duke Energy has a need for additional resources above on-system resources to support a storm, there are established non-native storm contracts which were derived through a competitive RFP process. DEF utilizes a heat map which encompasses acceptance to Duke Energy Terms and Conditions and Pricing to prioritize which non-native vendors are contacted when there is a need for additional resources and which are released first as storm restoration concludes.

- Contract language:



Vegetation Management:

Vegetation Management has established strategic blanket contracts derived through a competitive RFP that are utilized for both embedded and day-to-day services, in addition to performing storm restoration activities for Level 1 and 2 storms. On-system/embedded vegetation management contractors bill uniform Time & Equipment rates for both “blue sky” and storm restoration activities. The only exception is that General Foreman are allowed to bill overtime rates for hours >40 in the event a significant storm event has been declared by Duke Energy.

Contract language:





10. **Contractor Rates.** Please describe each difference in contractor rates (line contractors and vegetation management contractors) that depend on the type or extent of the storm restoration services, e.g., the intensity of the storm. Specifically identify each relevant contract provision supporting your answer.

Response:

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11. **Restoration vs Follow-Up.** Please provide a summary, separately by each named storm, which distinguishes costs included in the Company’s request broken down between “restoration” costs and “follow-up” costs. Provide in electronic format with all formulas intact. If the costs are distinguished by date, please explain.

Response:

DEF does not distinguish between “restoration” and “follow-up” costs. For purposes of this question, DEF understands “restoration” costs to refer to the costs associated with work performed immediately in response to a storm event in order to quickly and safely reconnect service to customers able to receive it, and “follow-up costs” to refer to the costs associated with the remaining work necessary to ensure the impacted system is compliant with applicable safety and reliability standards. Because the grid is not uniformly impacted by a storm, there is no true point of demarcation between “restoration” and “follow-up” work as those terms have been herein defined. All costs associated with work performed in response to a storm event are charged to the storm accounting codes and tracked accordingly. However, DEF considers an area “fully restored” when 98% of customers who are able to receive power have been restored. The dates at which DEF considered the system as a whole restored for each named storm at issue is provided in Mr. Fountain’s testimony. Using the individual vendor invoices and comparing the dates costs were incurred to the dates DEF determined the system as a whole was “fully restored,” it would be theoretically possible to designate the costs as defined herein but only at a very high-level. As described above, the system is not impacted uniformly and therefore some areas may (or likely would) have been restored well-before the system as a whole (and this becomes even more true depending on how the system is divided - such as by work zone, county, municipality, individual neighborhoods, etc.). As DEF does not track storm costs in this manner and has not performed the calculation described, DEF cannot respond to the question.

21. **Mobilization/Demobilization.** For the named storms, please describe in detail the Company policy for determining whether mobilization/demobilization travel time is considered reasonable, why that policy should be considered reasonable, and whether the

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Response:

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REDACTED

DOCUMENTS BEARING BATES
NUMBERS 20230020-DEF-00000045
THROUGH 20230020-DEF-00000066
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ENTIRETY

REDACTED

DOCUMENTS BEARING BATES
NUMBERS 20230020-DEF-00000067
THROUGH 20230020-DEF-00000081
HAVE BEEN REDACTED IN THEIR
ENTIRETY

REDACTED

DOCUMENTS BEARING BATES
NUMBERS 20230020-DEF-00000086
THROUGH 20230020-DEF-00033304
HAVE BEEN REDACTED IN THEIR
ENTIRETY

**DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA
Confidentiality Justification Matrix**

DOCUMENT/RESPONSES	PAGE/LINE	JUSTIFICATION
<p>DEF's Response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories, question Nos. 9 and 21</p>	<p>Question 9: all information in the second paragraph under Line Construction, after "language" and before "Vegetation Management" and the remaining information in the Vegetation Management paragraph after "language" is confidential.</p> <p>Question 21: all information after "policies" and before "These policies" is confidential</p>	<p>§366.093(3)(d), F.S. The document in question contains confidential information, the disclosure of which would impair DEF's efforts to contract for goods or services on favorable terms.</p> <p>§366.093(3)(e), F.S. The document in question contains confidential information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.</p>
<p>DEF's Response to OPC's First Request to Produce Documents (1-35), questions 7, 8, 17, and 33</p>	<p>Question 7: the documents bearing Bates Nos. 20230020-DEF-00000007 through 20230020-DEF-00000044 are confidential in their entirety.</p> <p>Question 8: The documents bearing Bates Nos. 20230020-DEF-00000045 through 20230020-DEF-00000066 are confidential in their entirety.</p> <p>Question 17: The documents bearing Bates Nos. 00000067 through 20230020-DEF-00000081 are confidential in their entirety.</p> <p>Question 33: The documents bearing Bates Nos. 20230020-DEF-00000086 through 20230020-DEF-00033304 are confidential in their entirety</p>	<p>§366.093(3)(d), F.S. The document in question contains confidential information, the disclosure of which would impair DEF's efforts to contract for goods or services on favorable terms.</p> <p>§366.093(3)(e), F.S. The document in question contains confidential information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.</p>

Exhibit D

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM TODD FOUNTAIN

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for limited proceeding for recovery of incremental storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Elsa, Eta, Isaias, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storm Fred, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

Docket No. 20230020-EI

Dated: February 19, 2024

**AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM TODD FOUNTAIN IN SUPPORT OF
DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION**

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF PINELLAS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority duly authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared William Todd Fountain, who being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says that:

1. My name is Todd Fountain. I am over the age of 18 years old, and I have been authorized by Duke Energy Florida (hereinafter "DEF" or the "Company") to give this affidavit in the above-styled proceeding on DEF's behalf and in support of DEF's Request for Confidential Classification (the "Request"). The facts attested to in my affidavit are based upon my personal knowledge.

2. I am the General Manager of Emergency Preparedness for Customer Delivery responsible for DEF's annual hurricane season readiness, and when hurricanes

strike, I serve as the Incident Commander for restoration, and I reside organizationally within Duke Energy Corporation.

3. DEF is seeking confidential classification for information provided in its response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-21), specifically questions 9 and 21 and DEF's Response to OPC First Request to Produce Documents (Nos. 1-35), specifically questions 7, 17 and 33, submitted January 29, 2024, for this docket. The confidential information at issue is contained in confidential Exhibit A to DEF's Request and is outlined in DEF's Justification Matrix that is attached to DEF's Request as Exhibit C. DEF is requesting confidential classification of this information because it contains proprietary confidential business information, the disclosure of which would impair the Company's ability to contract on favorable terms.

4. Strict procedures are established and followed to maintain the confidentiality of the Company's internal policies and procedures, including restricting access to those persons who need the information to assist the Company, and restricting the number of, and access to the information. At no time since receiving the information in question has the Company publicly disclosed that information. The Company has treated and continues to treat the information at issue as confidential.

5. This concludes my affidavit.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Dated the 13th day of February, 2024.



(Signature)
William Todd Fountain
General Manager of Emergency
Preparedness for Customer Delivery

13 THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT was sworn to and subscribed before me this day of February, 2024 by William Todd Fountain. He is personally known to me or has produced his _____ driver's license, or his _____ as identification.

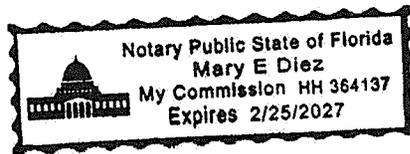


(Signature)
MARY E. DIEZ
(Printed Name)

(AFFIX NOTARIAL SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF Florida
2-25-2027
(Commission Expiration Date)

Commission HH 354137
(Serial Number, If Any)



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Exhibit D

AFFIDAVIT OF GEOFFREY HASLETT

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for limited proceeding for recovery of incremental storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Elsa, Eta, Isaias, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storm Fred, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

Docket No. 20230020-EI

Dated: February 19, 2024

**AFFIDAVIT OF GEOFFREY HASLETT IN SUPPORT OF
DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION**

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF CITRUS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority duly authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared Geoffrey Haslett, who being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says that:

1. My name is Geoffrey Haslett. I am over the age of 18 years old, and I have been authorized by Duke Energy Florida (hereinafter "DEF" or the "Company") to give this affidavit in the above-styled proceeding on DEF's behalf and in support of DEF's Request for Confidential Classification (the "Request"). The facts attested to in my affidavit are based upon my personal knowledge.

2. I am a Emergency Preparedness Manager in the Emergency Preparedness - Florida Department supporting Duke Energy's operations in Transmission and Distribution Operations, and I reside organizationally within Duke Energy Corporation.

3. DEF is seeking confidential classification for information provided in its response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-21), specifically questions 9 and 21 and DEF's Response to OPC First Request to Produce Documents (Nos. 1-35), filed January 29, 2024, for this docket. The confidential information at issue is contained in confidential Exhibit A to DEF's Request and is outlined in DEF's Justification Matrix that is attached to DEF's Request as Exhibit C. DEF is requesting confidential classification of this information because it contains proprietary confidential business information, the disclosure of which would impair the Company's ability to contract on favorable terms.

4. Strict procedures are established and followed to maintain the confidentiality of the Company's internal policies and procedures, including restricting access to those persons who need the information to assist the Company, and restricting the number of, and access to the information. At no time since receiving the information in question has the Company publicly disclosed that information. The Company has treated and continues to treat the information at issue as confidential.

5. This concludes my affidavit.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Dated the 13 day of February, 2024.

Geoffrey Haslett
(Signature)

Geoffrey Haslett
Emergency Preparedness Manager
Emergency Preparedness - Florida

THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT was sworn to and subscribed before me this 13 day of February, 2024 by Geoffrey Haslett. He is personally known to me or has produced his X driver's license, or his FIPI as identification.

Samantha Anderson
(Signature)

Samantha Anderson
(Printed Name)

(AFFIX NOTARIAL SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FL

3/8/2025
(Commission Expiration Date)

HH101 942
(Serial Number, If Any)

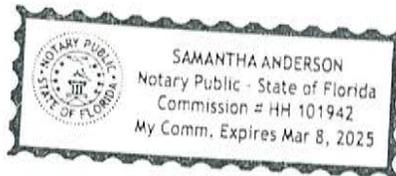


Exhibit D

AFFIDAVIT OF SHELLY ROSS

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for limited proceeding for recovery of incremental storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Elsa, Eta, Isaias, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storm Fred, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

Docket No. 20230020-EI

Dated: February 19, 2024

**AFFIDAVIT OF SHELLY ROSS IN SUPPORT OF
DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION**

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF MARION

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority duly authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared Shelly Ross, who being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says that:

1. My name is Shelly Ross. I am over the age of 18 years old, and I have been authorized by Duke Energy Florida (hereinafter "DEF" or the "Company") to give this affidavit in the above-styled proceeding on DEF's behalf and in support of DEF's Request for Confidential Classification (the "Request"). The facts attested to in my affidavit are based upon my personal knowledge.

2. I am a Manager Finance II in Power Grid Operations - Florida Business Support Finance Department supporting Duke Energy's operations in Transmission and Distribution Operations, and I reside organizationally within Duke Energy Business Services.

3. DEF is seeking confidential classification for information provided in its response to OPC's First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-21), specifically questions 9 and 21 and DEF's Response to OPC First Request to Produce Documents (Nos. 1-35), filed January 29, 2024, for this docket. The confidential information at issue is contained in confidential Exhibit A to DEF's Request and is outlined in DEF's Justification Matrix that is attached to DEF's Request as Exhibit C. DEF is requesting confidential classification of this information because it contains proprietary confidential business information, the disclosure of which would impair the Company's ability to contract on favorable terms.

4. Strict procedures are established and followed to maintain the confidentiality of the Company's internal policies and procedures, including restricting access to those persons who need the information to assist the Company, and restricting the number of, and access to the information. At no time since receiving the information in question has the Company publicly disclosed that information. The Company has treated and continues to treat the information at issue as confidential.

5. This concludes my affidavit.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Dated the 16 day of February, 2024.

Shelly Ross

(Signature)

Shelly Ross
Manager Finance II
Power Grid Operations - Florida Business
Support Finance Department

THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT was sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of February, 2024 by Shelly Ross. She is personally known to me or has produced her _____ driver's license, or her _____ as identification.

Charles T. Collins

(Signature)

CHARLES T. COLLINS

(Printed Name)

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF _____

8-15-2026

(Commission Expiration Date)

(Serial Number, If Any)

(AFFIX NOTARIAL SEAL)

