

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Petition for approval of ) DOCKET NO. 961255-EI  
proposed changes to Sheet No. ) ORDER NO. PSC-96-1522-FOF-EI  
6.121 of retail tariff regarding ) ISSUED: December 16, 1996  
Rate Schedule RS-1 Budget )  
Billing Plan (Optional Rider) by )  
Florida Power Corporation. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

SUSAN F. CLARK, Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
JOE GARCIA  
JULIA L. JOHNSON  
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

Florida Power Corporation (FPC) filed proposed modifications to Tariff Sheet No. 6.121, allowing FPC to remove any customer from the Budget Billing Plan (BBP) whose account becomes 60 days delinquent. Currently, there are 655 customers on the BBP whose accounts are more than 60 days delinquent.

Consistent with FPC's existing tariff language, upon termination of the plan the customer will be responsible to pay his or her account balance in full. To discontinue service to the customer, FPC will still follow Rule 25-6.105 (5)(g), Florida Administrative Code, regarding discontinuance of service for non-payment.

Currently, FPC sends a disconnection notice to all residential customers, including those customers on the BBP, whose balance is 60 days or more delinquent. In compliance with Rule 25-6.105 (5)(g), Florida Administrative Code, the customer is notified five days prior to the actual disconnection of service. During this period the customer has the opportunity to request an extension or settle the account in order to continue service.

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Regardless of whether the customer settles his or her account to retain service, FPC prohibits any customer whose account is 60 days or more delinquent to remain on the BBP. After a customer is removed from the BBP, he or she will have to wait twelve months before becoming eligible to participate in the BBP. FPC contends that a customer is less apt to default on his or her account if the opportunity to accumulate large unpaid balances is minimized.

FPC shall notify on a prospective basis all BBP customers who are in danger of becoming 60 days delinquent that FPC will remove the customer from the BBP if their account becomes 60 days or more delinquent. All new customers will be made aware of FPC's policy when they sign up for the BBP.

We find that FPC's tariff modifications will benefit the Company and its ratepayers, therefore, we approve FPC's revised tariff.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Florida Power Corporation's proposed Tariff Sheet No. 6.121, allowing FPC to remove any customer from the Budget Billing Plan (BBP) whose account becomes 60 days delinquent, as discussed above, is approved. It is further

ORDERED that Florida Power Corporation's proposed tariff is effective November 26, 1996. It is further

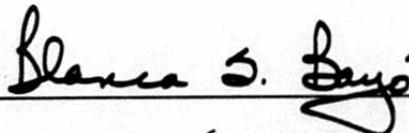
ORDERED that Florida Power Corporation shall notify customers of the proposed tariff revisions, as discussed above. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirement set forth below, the tariff shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, this docket shall be closed.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 16th  
day of December, 1996.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Blanca S. Bayó", written over a horizontal line.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), 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.

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 action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on January 6, 1997.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

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.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date this Order becomes final, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.