

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Energy conservation cost recovery
clause.

DOCKET NO. 20190002-EG
ORDER NO. PSC-2019-0450-CFO-EG
ISSUED: October 23, 2019

ORDER GRANTING GULF POWER COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION
AND MOTION FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER
(DOCUMENT NO. 07529-2019)

On August 12, 2019, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Gulf Power Company (Gulf) filed a Request for Confidential Classification (request) of certain information contained in its response to Office of Public Counsel's (OPC) First Production of Documents (POD), specifically Nos. 1 and 5 (Document No. 07529-2019). This request was filed in Docket No. 20190002-EG.

Request for Confidential Classification

GPC is claiming confidentiality of the entire DVD produced in response to OPC's First POD, Nos. 1 and 5. GPC contends that the information contained on the DVD constitutes proprietary and confidential business information entitled to protection under Section under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. GPC asserts that this information is intended to be and is treated by GPC as private and has not been publicly disclosed.

GPC contends that the information provided in its response to OPC's First POD, Nos. 1 and 5, represents payments made pursuant to contract which both GPC and its vendor treat as confidential. GPC further contends that disclosure of this information would negatively impact GPC's ability to effectively negotiate for goods and services in the future. In addition, GPC asserts that if such terms are publicly disclosed, potential counterparties may refuse to enter into competitive contracts with GPC. Therefore, GPC argues that such information is entitled to confidential classification pursuant to Section 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S.

Ruling

Section 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) has found to contain proprietary business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from Chapter 119, F.S. Section 366.093(3), F.S., defines proprietary confidential business information as information that is intended to be and is treated by GPC as private, in that disclosure of the information would cause harm to GPC's ratepayers or business operations, and has not been voluntarily disclosed to the public. Section 366.093(3), F.S., provides that proprietary confidential business information includes, but is not limited to:

(d) Information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms.

(e) Information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.

Upon review, it appears the above-referenced information satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The information described above and in GPC's request appears to contain information concerning company-specific avoided costs relating to fuel, generation, transmission, and distribution and information regarding payments made pursuant to a contract with GPC's vendor for technical services associated with the 2020 FEECA Goalsetting process. Thus, the information identified in Document No. 07529-2019 shall be granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 366.093(4), F.S., the information for which confidential classification is granted herein shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. At the conclusion of the 18-month period, the confidential information will no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless GPC or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.

Motion for Temporary Protective Order

GPC also seeks protection of the documents as provided in Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. Section 366.093(2), F.S., directs that all records produced pursuant to a discovery request for which proprietary confidential status is requested shall be treated by any party subject to the public records law as confidential and exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., the public records law. Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C., codifies the Commission's policy regarding the protection of confidential information from public disclosure during the discovery process in a manner that is not overly burdensome to both parties. Rule 25-22.006(6)(a), F.A.C., in pertinent part, states:

In any formal proceeding before the Commission, any utility or other person may request a protective order protecting proprietary confidential business information from discovery. Upon a showing by a utility or other person and a finding by the Commission that the material is entitled to protection, the Commission shall enter a protective order limiting discovery in the manner provided for in Rule 1.280, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

Ruling

Upon consideration of GPC's assertions of the confidential nature of the information contained in portions of the discovery responses, Document No. 07529-2019, GPC's Motion for

Temporary Protective Order is hereby granted. As a result, this information shall be protected from disclosure pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C.

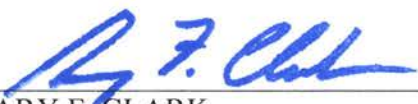
Based on the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Commissioner Gary F. Clark, as Prehearing Officer, that Gulf Power Company's Request for Confidential Classification and Motion for Temporary Protection Order of Document No. 07529-2019 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 07529-2019, for which confidential classification has been granted, shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. At the conclusion of the 18-month period, the confidential information will no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless Gulf Power Company or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information. It is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be the only notification by the Commission to the parties of the date of declassification of the materials discussed herein.

By ORDER of Commissioner Gary F. Clark, as Prehearing Officer, this 23rd day of October, 2019.



GARY F. CLARK
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 413-6770
www.floridapsc.com

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

GAP

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.