# **Ruth Nettles**

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Sent:	Thursday, April 30, 2009 10:57 AM
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Subject:	Electronic Filing Document No. 090079-El

Attachments: PEF Object to OPC 5th Prod of Documents.pdf

\* Matthew R. Bernier, Carlton Fields, P.A., 215 South Monroe Street, Ste. 500, Tallahassee, FL 32301, <u>mbernier@carltonfields.com</u>

is the person responsible for this electronic filing;

\* The filing is to be made in Docket 090079-EI, In re: Petition for rate increase in rates by Progress Energy Florida, Inc.;

\* The total number of pages is 6;

\* The attached document is Progress Energy Florida, Inc.'s Objections to OPC's Fifth Request for Production of Documents (Nos. 123-126).

Thank you.

# CARLTON FIELDS

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# **BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In re: Petition for increase in Rates by Progress Energy Florida, Inc. Docket No. 090079-EI Submitted for filing: April 30, 2009

### PEF'S OBJECTIONS TO OPC'S FIFTH REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS (NOS. 123-126)

Pursuant to Fla. Admin. Code R. 28-106.206, Rule 1.350 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Order Establishing Procedure in this matter, Progress Energy Florida, Inc. ("PEF") hereby serves its objections to the Office of Public Counsel's ("OPC") Fifth Request for the Production of Documents (Nos. 123-126) and states as follows:

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIONS**

PEF will make all responsive documents available for inspection and copying at the offices of PEF, 106 E. College Ave., Suite 800, Tallahassee, Florida, 32301 at a mutually-convenient time, or will produce the documents in some other manner or at some other place that is mutually convenient to both PEF and OPC for purposes of inspection, copying, or handling of the responsive documents.

With respect to the "Definitions" and "Instructions" in OPC's Requests for Production, PEF objects to any definitions or instructions that are inconsistent with PEF's discovery obligations under applicable rules. If some question arises as to PEF's discovery obligations, PEF will comply with applicable rules and not with any of OPC's definitions or instructions that are inconsistent with those rules. Furthermore, PEF objects to any definition or request that seeks to encompass persons or entities other than PEF who are not parties to this action and thus are not subject to discovery. No responses to the requests will be made on behalf of persons or

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entities other than PEF. PEF also objects to OPC's request that PEF provide documents in a specific electronic format. Furthermore, PEF objects to any request that calls for PEF to create documents that it otherwise does not have because there is no such requirement under the applicable rules and law.

Additionally, PEF generally objects to OPC's Requests to the extent that they call for documents protected by the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, the accountantclient privilege, the trade secret privilege, or any other applicable privilege or protection afforded by law. PEF will provide a privilege log in accordance with the applicable law or as may be agreed to by the parties to the extent, if at all, that any document request calls for the production of privileged or protected documents.

Further, in certain circumstances, PEF may determine upon investigation and analysis that documents responsive to certain requests to which objections are not otherwise asserted are confidential and proprietary and should be produced only under an appropriate confidentiality agreement and protective order, if at all. By agreeing to provide such information in response to such a request, PEF is not waiving its right to insist upon appropriate protection of confidentiality by means of a confidentiality agreement, protective order, or the procedures otherwise provided by law or in the Order Establishing Procedure. PEF hereby asserts its right to require such protection of any and all information that may qualify for protection under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Order Establishing Procedure, and all other applicable statutes, rules and legal principles.

PEF generally objects to OPC's Requests for Production to the extent that they call for the production of "all" documents of any nature, including, every copy of every document responsive to the requests. PEF will make a good faith, reasonably diligent attempt to identify and obtain responsive documents when no objection has been asserted to the production of such documents, but it is not practicable or even possible to identify, obtain, and produce "all" documents. In addition, PEF reserves the right to supplement any of its responses to OPC's Requests for Production if PEF cannot produce documents immediately due to their magnitude and the work required to aggregate them, or if PEF later discovers additional responsive documents in the course of this proceeding.

PEF also objects to any request that calls for projected data or information beyond the year 2010 because such data or information is wholly irrelevant to this case and has no bearing on this proceeding, nor is such data or information likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Furthermore, if a request does not specify a timeframe for which data or information is sought, PEF will interpret such request as calling only for data and information relevant to the years 2006-2010.

By making these general objections at this time, PEF does not waive or relinquish its right to assert additional general and specific objections to OPC's discovery at the time PEF's response is due under the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure and the Order Establishing Procedure. PEF provides these general objections at this time to comply with the intent of the Order Establishing Procedure to reduce the delay in identifying and resolving any potential discovery disputes.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS

Request 123: PEF objects to OPC's request number 123 because it seeks documents that, to the extent they may exist, are privileged from discovery by the attorney-client privilege and/or the work product doctrine. The request seeks documents "analyzing, discussing or evaluating" PEF's "options or scenarios" regarding its litigation strategy. PEF will not respond to any request with material that is privileged and not subject to discovery under the Order or the Rules of Civil Procedure. In response to this request, PEF will provide the analyses that are consistent with PEF's proposed treatment of these costs.

**Request 124:** PEF objects to OPC's request number 124 because it seeks documents that, to the extent they may exist, are privileged from discovery by the attorney-client privilege and/or the work product doctrine. The request seeks documents "analyzing, discussing or evaluating" PEF's "options or scenarios" regarding its litigation strategy. PEF will not respond to any request with material that is privileged and not subject to discovery under the Order or the Rules of Civil Procedure. In response to this request, PEF will provide the analyses that are consistent with PEF's proposed treatment of these costs.

Request 125: PEF objects to OPC's request number 125 because it seeks documents that, to the extent they may exist, are privileged from discovery by the attorney-client privilege and/or the work product doctrine. The request seeks documents "analyzing" PEF's "options or scenarios" regarding its litigation strategy. PEF will not respond to any request with material that is privileged and not subject to discovery under the Order or the Rules of Civil Procedure. In response to this request, PEF will provide the analyses that are consistent with PEF's proposed treatment of these costs.

Request 126: PEF objects to OPC's request number 126 because it seeks documents that, to the extent they may exist, are privileged from discovery by the attorney-client privilege and/or the work product doctrine. The request seeks documents "analyzing" PEF's options or scenarios regarding its litigation strategy. PEF will not respond to any request with material that is privileged and not subject to discovery under the Order or the Rules of Civil Procedure. In response to this request, PEF will provide the analyses that are consistent with PEF's proposed

treatment of these costs.

Respectfully submitted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

R. Alexander Glenn General Counsel John Burnett Associate General Counsel PROGRESS ENERGY SERVICE COMPANY, LLC Post Office Box 14042 St. Petersburg, FL 33733-4042 Telephone: (727) 820-5587 Facsimile: (727) 820-5519 James Michael Walls Florida Bar No. 0706242 Dianne M. Triplett Florida Bar No. 0872431 Matthew R. Bernier Florida Bar No. 0059886 CARLTON FIELDS, P.A. Post Office Box 3239 Tampa, FL 33601-3239 Telephone: (813) 223-7000 Facsimile: (813) 229-4133

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished

electronically and via U.S. Mail this 30th day of April, 2009 to all counsel of record as indicated

below.

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