

In re: Petition by Florida Power & Light Company
for Approval of 12-Month Extension of Voluntary
Solar Partnership Rider and Program

Docket No. 2019 _____
Filed: October 7, 2019

**Petition by Florida Power & Light Company for Twelve-Month
Extension of Voluntary Solar Partnership Rider and Program**

Florida Power & Light Company (“FPL” or “the Company”) pursuant to Section 366.075, Florida Statutes (2019), petitions the Florida Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for approval of a 12-month extension of the Company’s Voluntary Solar Partnership Rider and Program through December 31, 2020. In support, FPL states:

1. The Petitioner’s name and address:

Florida Power & Light Company
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, FL 33408

2. FPL requests that any pleading, motion, notice, order or other document filed or submitted in this proceeding be served upon the following individuals:

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3. In this petition, FPL seeks a 12-month extension of its Voluntary Solar Partnership (“VSP”) Rider and Program,¹ which offers all FPL customers an opportunity to contribute voluntarily toward the construction and operation of small-scale solar generation facilities located throughout FPL’s service territory in highly visible public locations, helping to spread awareness of solar energy. The future of the VSP Program, beyond its status as a pilot,

¹ Known to customers as “SolarNow.”

could be influenced by the introduction of FPL's proposed SolarTogether Program, which is the subject of an on-going docket. Until the Commission issues a ruling on FPL SolarTogether, the Company will not be in a position to present an informed recommendation to the Commission about the long-term plan for the VSP Program. Accordingly, FPL requests a 12-month extension so that the Company can (i) continue to offer customers a voluntary solar option pending the Commission's decision on the proposed FPL SolarTogether program; (ii) if FPL SolarTogether is approved, evaluate its impact on customer participation in the VSP Program; and (iii) develop an informed recommendation for the future of the VSP Program. In support of this Petition, FPL states:

4. By Order No. PSC-14-0468-TRF-EI ("Order 14-0468"), the Commission approved FPL's VSP Rider and Program, as reflected on Original Tariff Sheet No. 8.930. As originally approved, the VSP Program was a three-year pilot expiring December 31, 2017. By Order No. PSC-2017-0499-TRF-EI, the Commission extended the VSP Rider and Program through December 31, 2018; and by Order No. PSC-2018-0581-TRF-EI, the Commission extended it through December 31, 2019.

5. The VSP Program offers FPL customers the opportunity to help bring more solar energy installations into local communities by contributing on a voluntary basis.

6. Through 2019, the VSP Program has continued to increase visibility and awareness of solar energy through the construction and operation of small-scale solar facilities in local communities. As of August 31, 2019, a total of 49,147 customers were enrolled in the VSP Program. Participants' contributions have supported the installation of 145 solar structures at 63 high-visibility locations for a total of 2,325 kW of solar capacity, with an additional 218 kW under construction at 15 locations.

7. Consistent with Order 14-0468, FPL's total annual marketing and administrative expenses during the life of the VSP Program have not exceeded 20% of participant contributions, and FPL participant revenues have covered the associated net revenue requirements (revenue requirements minus system benefits). There has been no subsidization by the general body of FPL customers.

8. In March of this year, FPL petitioned for approval of a large-scale universal community solar program, FPL SolarTogether, which would provide customers another option to participate in the development of solar in Florida. *See In re Florida Power & Light Company's Petition for Approval of FPL SolarTogether Program and Tariff*, Docket No. 20190061-EI. Under FPL SolarTogether, customers would have the option to subscribe to kilowatts of capacity from cost-effective solar generation facilities, for which they would pay a monthly subscription charge. In exchange, participants would receive a subscription credit on their electric bills based on two factors of the participant's subscribed solar capacity: (1) the projected system benefits and (2) the energy produced. Over time, the credits are estimated to cover, and eventually exceed, participation costs, resulting in a net bill reduction.

9. The FPL SolarTogether Docket has not concluded. FPL anticipates that the Commission will make its decision in early 2020.

10. The VSP Program and FPL SolarTogether present different options for customers to participate in, and receive benefits from, additional solar generation in Florida. The launch of FPL SolarTogether could impact customers' decisions about whether to enroll or continue their participation in the VSP Program. It also could influence whether modifications should be made to the VSP Program, and if so, which ones.

11. FPL began communicating with customers about the potential FPL SolarTogether Program a few months ago, and is currently in the process of gathering information about the population of customers interested in participating in that program. In addition, FPL plans to analyze the data to determine whether there is overlap between those interested in FPL SolarTogether and those already enrolled in the VSP Program and whether that overlap will have an impact on the VSP Program in the future. A comprehensive assessment cannot be completed unless and until FPL SolarTogether is approved by the Commission and opens for enrollment.

12. Accordingly, until the Commission rules on FPL's SolarTogether petition, any recommendation about whether to continue, terminate or modify the VSP Program would be premature. FPL requests a 12-month extension, through December 31, 2020, in order to obtain a ruling on the proposed FPL SolarTogether Program, and if approved, open FPL SolarTogether for enrollment and evaluate its impact on VSP participation levels. During the requested 12-month period, FPL would complete the construction of VSP installations currently in progress.

13. Attached as Exhibit A is Third Revised Tariff Sheet 8.930, which sets forth the terms of participation in the extended VSP Program in both legislative and clean formats. As reflected therein, the terms are identical to those set forth in Revised Tariff Sheet 8.930, with changes only to the Tariff's expiration date – which is changed from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020 – and the effective date.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, FPL respectfully requests that the Commission approve Third Revised Tariff Sheet No. 8.930 and extend the VSP Program for one year, through December 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of October 2019.

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