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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Florida Power & Light Company.

DOCKET NO. 20250011-EI ORDER NO. PSC-2025-0220-PCO-EI ISSUED: June 19, 2025

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO INTERVENE BY FLORIDIANS AGAINST INCREASED RATES, INC.

By letter dated January 2, 2025, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) notified the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) that it would be filing a petition for base rate increase effective January 2026.¹ On February 28, 2025, FPL filed its petition for base rate increase, minimum filing requirements, and supporting direct testimony. Pursuant to Order No. PSC-2025-0075-PCO-EI, the undersigned Prehearing Officer scheduled the evidentiary hearing on FPL's petition for August 11 through August 22, 2025.

Motion to Intervene

By Motion dated June 9, 2025, Floridians Against Increased Rates, Inc. (FAIR) requested leave to intervene in this proceeding. FAIR states that it is a not-for-profit corporation "organized to advocate on behalf of Florida electric customers for lower electric rates in Florida." FAIR represents that it has 1,136 members, 986 of whom are retail customers of FPL. FAIR states that the substantial interests of its members who are FPL ratepayers will be directly affected by the Commission's action on FPL's request for a rate increase, and that this injury is of sufficient immediacy and of the type this proceeding is designed to protect. FAIR further states that protecting its members' interests in fair, just, and reasonable rates is within FAIR's general scope of corporate interest and activity. Finally, FAIR alleges that it is appropriate for the association to obtain relief in the form of fair, just, and reasonable rates on behalf of its members.

FAIR represents that it conferred with the following and was authorized to represent that they take no position on the petition to intervene: Florida Retail Federation, Inc., Walmart, Inc., Florida Industrial Power Users Group, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, the Federal Executive Agencies, Florida Rising, Inc., League of United Latin American Citizens Florida, Inc., Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida, Inc., EVGo Services, LLC, the Office of Public Counsel, Electrify America, and the Florida Energy for Innovation Association.

FAIR conferred with FPL and was authorized to represent that it takes no position pending review of the Motion.

No opposition to the petition to intervene has been filed, and the time for doing so has expired.

¹ See Rule 25-6.140, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

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Standards for Intervention

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C., persons, other than the original parties to a pending proceeding, who have a substantial interest in the proceeding and who desire to become parties may move for leave to intervene. A person claiming a substantial interest in the proceeding must plead sufficient facts to demonstrate an injury in fact which is of sufficient immediacy to entitle them to an evidentiary hearing, and that this injury is of a type or nature which the proceeding is designed to protect. *Agrico Chem. Co. v. Dep't cf Env't Regul.*, 406 So. 2d 478, 482 (Fla. 1st DCA 1981). An association such as FAIR that is seeking to intervene in an administrative proceeding on behalf of its members must specifically plead the following:

- (1) the substantial interests of a substantial number of its members may be substantially affected by the proceeding;
- (2) the subject matter of the proceeding is within the association's general scope of interest and activity; and
- (3) the relief requested is of a type appropriate for the association to receive on behalf of its members.

Fla. Home Builders Ass'n v. Dep't cf Lab. & Emp. Sec., 412 So. 2d 351, 354 (Fla. 1982).

Analysis and Ruling

"In determining whether a party has standing to seek a formal administrative hearing, the allegations contained in the party's petition must be taken as true." *Mid-Chattahoochee River* Users v. Fla. $D\epsilon p't cf Env't Prot.$, 948 So. 2d 794, 796 (Fla. 1st DCA 2006). Taken as true, FAIR's allegations are sufficient to support all elements of associational standing under *Florida Home Builders*. Therefore, FAIR's petition to intervene shall be granted, subject to proof of standing or stipulations that there are sufficient facts to support all elements for standing. *See Delgado v. Agency for Health Care Admin.*, 237 So. 3d 432, 437 (Fla. 1st DCA 2018) (proper pretrial stipulations to the facts supporting all elements of standing are binding upon the parties and the court). As an intervenor, FAIR takes the case as it finds it.

Based on the above representations, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Mike La Rosa, as Prehearing Officer, that the Motion to Intervene filed by Floridians Against Increased Rates, Inc. is hereby granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that Floridians Against Increased Rates, Inc. takes the case as it finds it. It is further

ORDERED that all parties to this proceeding shall furnish copies of all testimony, exhibits, pleadings, and other documents which may hereinafter be filed in this proceeding to:

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> Robert Scheffel Wright John T. LaVia, III Gardner, Bist, Bowden, Dee, LaVia, Wright, Perry & Harper, P.A. 1300 Thomaswood Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32308 (850) 385-0070 <u>schef@gbwlegal.com</u> <u>jlavia@gbwlegal.com</u>

By ORDER of Chairman Mike La Rosa, as Prehearing Officer, this <u>19th</u> day of <u>June</u>, <u>2025</u>.

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Mike La Rosa Chairman 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.

SPS

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

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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.