

July 17, 2026

VIA: ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Adam J. Teitzman
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Undocketed: 20260000-OT
Load Research Sampling Practices

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached for filing are Tampa Electric Company's answers to Staff's First Data Request (Nos. 1-7), propounded via electronic mail on June 17, 2026.

Thank you for your assistance in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Malcolm N. Means'.

Malcolm N. Means

MNM/bml
Attachment
Katy Patrick, TEC
TEC Regulatory Department
PSC Discovery

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
UNDOCKETED: REVIEW OF 2026 LRSP
STAFF'S FIRST DATA REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 1
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1. TECO's 2026 Load Research Report, dated April 28, 2026, has been filed with the Commission.
 - a. Describe any challenges the utility encountered in collecting complete and usable coincident and non-coincident monthly peak demand data consistent with its 2025 Load Research Sampling Plan for this period, as well as any "lessons learned."
 - b. If applicable, describe any internal processes or procedural changes the utility intends to implement before submitting its next Load Sampling Plan.

ANSWER:

- a. There are times when interval data is missing from one or more of the meters in the load research sample. We work closely with AMI Operations and Meter Operations to obtain this data, whether due to a communication issue when retrieving the data from the meter remotely, or a meter issue. Sometimes, the solution is requesting a new file of interval data from AMI Operations, where the communication issue has since been resolved. Other times, the solution is rolling a truck to the meter to manually probe it for interval data. We meet regularly with both areas to improve this process.
- b. Tampa Electric Company does not intend to implement any changes to internal processes or make procedural changes before submitting its next Load Sampling Plan.

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2. Provide the current status of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) deployment as of 2026 in subparts a through e below. Provide all responses in total and disaggregated format by rate class (e.g., residential, GS, GSD, etc.), where applicable. Specifically:
- a. Identify the number of customers in the utility's service area.
 - b. Identify the number and percentage of customers with AMI meters installed and available.
 - c. Of customers with AMI meters, identify the number and percentage for whom interval data is actively collected and available.
 - d. Explain the reasons for customer opt-outs from AMI meters or interval data collection.
 - e. State whether the utility has identified any patterns or trends in AMI opt-outs or data unavailability across customer groups, including but not limited to income levels, geographic areas, or other demographic characteristics. If so, describe those patterns and the data or analyses supporting them.

ANSWER:

- a. As of May 31, 2026, the total customer count for Tampa Electric Company's service area is 870,147.
- b. As of June 30, 2026, there are 870,372 AMI meters, 98.2 percent of the total meters installed and available.
- c. Of customers with AMI meters, the number and percentage for whom interval data is actively collected and available averages greater than 98 percent.
- d. The Load Research & Forecasting department does not collect the reasons for customer opt-outs.
- e. There has been no research done on AMI opt-outs to identify any patterns or trends.

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3. Describe whether the utility has evaluated the feasibility of using full-population AMI interval data, rather than statistically sampled load research data, for all customer classes under Rule 25-6.0437, F.A.C.
 - a. Provide any analyses comparing the relative costs of maintaining current load research sampling programs versus expanded AMI-based analysis.
 - b. State whether broader use of AMI interval data would be expected to increase, decrease, or have no material impact on overall load research program costs.

ANSWER:

- a. Load Research & Forecasting has considered the feasibility of using full-population AMI interval data, rather than statistically sampled load research data, for all customer classes under Rule 25-6.0437, F.A.C. However there has been no analysis to compare the relative costs of maintaining current load research sampling programs versus expanded AMI-based analysis.
- b. Having performed no analysis, we cannot state whether broader use of AMI interval data would be expected to increase, decrease, or have no material impact on overall load research program costs.

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4. Describe the methodologies used to ensure the accuracy and reliability of coincident peak demand data. Specifically:
- a. Explain how the utility verifies the accuracy and completeness of AMI interval data used to calculate coincident peak demand (e.g., identification of missing, anomalous, or erroneous interval values).
 - b. Explain how TECO ensures its load sampling plan measurements of its summer and winter peak demand estimates by class are not materially affected by missing, anomalous, or erroneous interval values, and are sufficiently accurate and reliable for planning and regulatory purposes.
 - c. State whether any post hoc analyses have been performed to evaluate the predictive accuracy of coincident peak demand estimates, including comparisons between traditional load sampling methodologies and full interval AMI data, if available. Provide summary results or supporting analyses.

ANSWER:

- a. Tampa Electric Company runs reports throughout the data collection year looking for missing data values on the sample points. The analyst communicates with the AMI Operations team to retrieve data from the meters if it is available. If the data is not available from the meter, the analyst edits the data with historical values to have a complete set of data for the data collection year.
- b. In addition to the missing data reports, a report is run in the LRS software system that compares the interval data total by billing cycle to the customer's billing data. This report is reviewed by the analyst, and any discrepancies are researched and resolved either by correcting the interval data or rebilling the customer invoice.
- c. Tampa Electric Company has not done any analyses of the comparison of the accuracy between traditional sampling plan methodology and full population sample methodology.

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- 5.** Explain if the utility has evaluated alternative methods or systems for validating interval data that may allow for broader utilization of available interval data in load research and related analyses? If so, describe those methods/systems and any associated evaluations or conclusions.

ANSWER:

Tampa Electric Company has not evaluated alternative methods for validating interval data that may allow for broader utilization of available interval data in load research and related analyses.

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6. Describe whether and how the utility uses artificial intelligence (AI) or advanced analytics in its data processing for satisfying the requirements of Rule 25-6.0437, F.A.C. Specifically:
- a. Explain any current or planned use of AI for validating or improving the quality of load research data.
 - b. If such technologies are used or under consideration, explain their potential to improve data validation and reduce costs, including any quantified or estimated impacts.

ANSWER:

- a. Tampa Electric Company currently does not use AI in validating or improving the quality of the load research data.
- b. A use case, not involving AI, has been created to compare the usage for AMI meters billed by reads to interval data for their respective billing periods. It is still in a testing phase, but we expect it to identify situations where there are data discrepancies that will lead to further improvement in load research data.

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7. In general, please provide any reasons why Rule 25-6.0437, F.A.C., should or should not be modified at this time.

ANSWER:

Although Load Research and Forecasting would not be opposed to moving toward using full-population AMI interval data to provide rate class usage statistics, there is still room for improvement in the data quality of interval data with AMI meters billed by reads.

The AMI infrastructure is going through a planned upgrade to improve its network hardware, communication devices, and technology solutions to improve the overall reliability of meter read rates. This project is planned to be completed at the end of 2027.

The current plan is to wait until the upgrade is completed before moving forward with any analysis to compare the current load research methodology with using a full-population methodology.

We do not feel the rule should be modified at this time.