

1 **IN RE: STORM PROTECTION PLAN COST RECOVERY CLAUSE**

2
3 **FPSC DOCKET NO. 20210010-EI**

4 **DIRECT TESTIMONY OF RON A. ADAMS**

5 **ON BEHALF OF DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC**

6
7 **May 3, 2021**

8
9 **I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS.**

10 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

11 **A. My name is Ron A. Adams. My business address is 107 E. Liberty St., York, SC 29745.**

12
13 **Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?**

14 **A. I am employed by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (“DEC”), as General Manager**
15 Transmission Vegetation Management Strategy team. DEC is an affiliate of Duke
16 Energy Florida (“DEF”) that provide various services to DEF and other affiliated
17 companies of Duke Energy Corporation (“Duke Energy”).

18
19 **Q. Please describe your duties and responsibilities in that position.**

20 **A. I am responsible for the design and implementation of the Transmission Vegetation**
21 Management (“TVM”) standards, programs and specifications in all of the states in
22 which Duke Energy provides electric services. I am responsible for the management of
23 the vegetation along the transmission corridor to ensure grid integrity and reliability,

1 clearance requirements for new construction, supporting the field TVM operations
2 teams with the execution of the programs and daily work activities, budgeting TVM
3 activities and ensuring compliance with state and federal regulatory standards. I also
4 communicate with state and federal authorities regarding Duke Energy's TVM policies
5 and practices.

6

7 **Q. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.**

8 **A.** I graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in Electrical
9 Engineering. I am a registered professional engineer in the States of North and South
10 Carolina and a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
11 ("IEEE"). I have 36 years of professional experience with Duke Energy in various
12 departments including engineering, construction and maintenance, field operations and
13 corporate governance with a passion for customer service and operational excellence.
14 In 2016, I moved from my role as Director, T&D Vegetation Management Governance
15 to Transmission.

16

17 **II. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY.**

18 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

19 **A.** The purpose of my testimony is to support the Company's request for recovery of
20 Transmission Vegetation Management costs associated with DEF's Storm Protection
21 Plan ("SPP") through the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause ("SPPCRC").
22 My testimony supports the Company's SPP Transmission Vegetation Management
23 costs projected for 2022, details the Company's 2022 SPP Transmission Vegetation

1 Management implementation activities, and explains how those activities are consistent
2 with DEF's SPP approved by the Commission in Docket No. 20200069-EI.

3

4 **Q. Do you have any exhibits to your testimony?**

5 **A.** No, but I am co-sponsoring portions of the schedules attached to Mr. Menendez's direct
6 testimony, included as part of Exhibit No. __ (CAM-2). Specifically, I am sponsoring
7 the cost portions of:

- 8 • Form 2P (Page 2 of 84, Line 3.2); and
- 9 • Form 4P (Page 81 of 84, Lines 1a and 1b).

10

11 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

12 **A.** In 2022, DEF will continue to utilize Integrated Vegetation Management ("IVM") to
13 minimize the impact of vegetation on the transmission assets. These investments and
14 costs are shown on Schedule Form 2P (Page 2 of 84, Line 3.2) and Form 4P (Page 81
15 of 84, Lines 1a and b). These activities are consistent with those shown in DEF's SPP
16 approved by the Commission in Docket No. 20200069-EI. As such, the Commission
17 should approve these projected costs for recovery through the SPPCRC.

18

19 **Q. Describe the activities that will be performed for Transmission Vegetation**
20 **Management.**

21 **A.** DEF's Transmission IVM program is focused on ensuring the safe and reliable
22 operation of the transmission system by minimizing vegetation-related interruptions
23 and maintaining adequate conductor-to vegetation clearances, while maintaining

1 compliance with regulatory, environmental, and safety requirements or standards. The
2 program activities focus on the removal and/or control of incompatible vegetation
3 within and along the right of way to minimize the risk of vegetation related outages
4 and ensure necessary access within all transmission line corridors.

5 The IVM program includes the following annual activities: planned corridor work
6 which is threat and condition-based, reactive work including hazard tree mitigation,
7 and brush management (herbicide, mowing, and hand cutting) within the corridor.

8 Planned work for DEF is prioritized and scheduled using a threat and condition-based
9 approach identified through remote sensing, aerial patrols and field assessments while
10 considering other factors such as the date of previous work and outage history. The
11 reactive work is identified through the remote sensing, annual aerial inspections and
12 on-going field inspections. The brush management is focused on managing the floor
13 of the corridor and is targeted on a three-to-four-year schedule.

14

15 **Q. Are the Programs and activities discussed above consistent with DEF's SPP?**

16 **A.** Yes, the planned activities are consistent with the Programs described in detail in
17 DEF's SPP, specifically Exhibit No. _ (JWO-2) in Docket No. 20200069-EI.

18

19 **Q. Are the costs associated with the activities discussed above consistent with DEF's**
20 **SPP?**

21 **A.** Yes, the costs associated with the activities discussed above are consistent with, though
22 not identical to, the estimated costs filed with the SPP. That said, the O&M costs have
23 increased moderately due to implementation of remote sensing for condition-based

1 work planning, which has identified more work in the short term and will increase
2 DEF's need to do more annual planned corridor work to improve and sustain system
3 reliability, integrity and resiliency.

4

5 **Q. Does that conclude your testimony?**

6 **A.** Yes.