# AUSLEY & MCMULLEN ORIGINAL

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March 12, 2004

## **HAND DELIVERED**

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

> Re: Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Recovery Clause

and Generating Performance Incentive Factor

FPSC Docket No. 040001-EI

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing in the above docket are the original and ten (10) copies of Tampa Electric Company's Request for Specified Confidential Treatment of portions of Forms 423-1(a), 423-2, 423-2(a) and 423-2(b) for the month of January 2004.

Please acknowledge receipt and filing of the above by stamping the duplicate copy of this letter and returning same to this writer.

Thank you for your assistance in connection with this matter.

RECEIVED & FILED

EPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

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LLW/pp Enclosures

cc:

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CMP

COM CTR

ECR GCL OPC MMS SEC

All Parties of Record (w/enc.)

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

#### BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Fuel and Purchased Power	)	
Cost Recovery Clause and	)	DOCKET NO. 040001-EI
Generating Performance Incentive	)	FILED: March 12, 2004
Factor.	)	
	)	

# TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR SPECIFIED CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Pursuant to §366.093, Fla. Stat., Tampa Electric Company ("Tampa Electric" or "the company") submits the following Request for Specified Confidential Treatment of the company's Forms 423-1(a), 423-2, 423-2(a) and 423-2(b) for the month of January 2004:

- 1. Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a detailed justification for the requested confidential treatment of the highlighted portions of Tampa Electric's 423 Forms for the month of January 2004.
- 2. Tampa Electric requests that the information for which Tampa Electric seeks confidential classification not be declassified until the dates specified in Exhibit "B" to this request. The time periods requested are necessary to allow Tampa Electric's affiliated companies to negotiate future contracts without their competitors (and other Customers) having access to information which would adversely affect the ability of these affiliates to negotiate future contracts. The period of time requested will ultimately protect Tampa Electric and its Customers.
- 3. The material for which classification is sought is intended to be and is treated by Tampa Electric and its affiliates as private and has not been disclosed.

WHEREFORE, Tampa Electric submits the foregoing as its request for confidential treatment of the information identified as Exhibit "A".

# DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE L. WILLIS

JAMES D. BEASLEY

Ausley & McMullen
Post Office Box 391
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
(850) 224-9115

ATTORNEYS FOR TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing Request for Specified Confidential Treatment, filed on behalf of Tampa Electric Company, has been furnished by hand delivery(\*) or U. S. Mail on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2004 to the following individuals:

Mr. Wm. Cochran Keating, IV\* Senior Attorney Division of Legal Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0863

Mr. James A. McGee Associate General Counsel Progress Energy Florida, Inc. Post Office Box 14042 St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Mr. Joseph A. McGlothlin Ms. Vicki Gordon Kaufman McWhirter, Reeves, McGlothlin, Davidson, Kaufman, & Arnold, P.A. 117 S. Gadsden Street Tallahassee, FL 32301

Mr. Norman Horton Messer Caparello & Self P. O. Box 1876 Tallahassee, FL 32302

Mr. John W. McWhirter McWhirter, Reeves, McGlothlin, Davidson, Kaufman & Arnold, P.A. 400 North Tampa Street, Suite 2450 Tampa, FL 33601-5126

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Ms. Susan Ritenour Gulf Power Company One Energy Place Pensacola, FL 32520

Mr. John T. Butler Steel Hector & Davis LLP 200 South Biscayne Boulevard Suite 4000 Miami, FL 33131-2398

Mr. William Walker Florida Power & Light Company 215 South Monroe Street – Suite 810 Tallahassee, FL 32301-1859

Mr. Jeffrey A. Stone Beggs & Lane Post Office Box 12950 Pensacola, FL 32591-2950

Mr. Robert Vandiver Associate Public Counsel Office of Public Counsel 111 W. Madison Street, Suite 812 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

## January 2004 Docket No. 040001-EI

## Request for Specified Confidential Treatment

## FORM 423-1(a)

Line(s)	<u>Column</u>	<u>Justification</u>
Tampa Electric H		(1) This information is contractual information which, if
Company: 1 – 38		made public, "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to
		contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section
		366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. The information shows the price
		which Tampa Electric has paid for No. 2 fuel oil per barrel for
		specific shipments from specific suppliers. This information
		would allow suppliers to compare an individual supplier's
		price with the market "for that date of delivery" and thereby
		determine the contract pricing formula between Tampa
		Electric and that supplier.

Disclosure of the invoice price would allow suppliers to determine the contract price formula of their competitors. The knowledge of each other's prices would give suppliers information with which to actually control the pricing in No. 2 oil by either all quoting a particular price or adhering to a price offered by a major supplier. This could reduce or

Dlam4 Names		FORM 423-1(a) (continued)
Plant Name: Line(s)	Column	Justification
		eliminate any opportunity for a major buyer, like Tampa Electric, to use its market presence to gain price concessions from any individual supplier. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased No. 2 fuel oil prices and, therefore, increased electric rates.
Tampa Electric Company: 1-38	I	(2) The contract data found in Columns I through O are algebraic functions of Column H. Thus, the publication of these columns together, or independently, could allow a supplier to derive the invoice price of No. 2 oil paid by Tampa Electric.
Tampa Electric Company: 1-38	J	(3) See item (2) above.
Tampa Electric Company: 1-38	K	(4) See item (2) above.
Tampa Electric Company: 1-38	L	(5) See item (2) above.
Tampa Electric Company: 1-38	M	(6) See item (2) above. In addition, for the fuel that does not meet contract requirements, Tampa Electric may reject

Plant	Name:
Line(	s)

#### Column

### Justification

the shipment, or accept the shipment and apply a quality adjustment. This is, in effect, a pricing term which is as important as the price itself and is therefore confidential for the reasons stated in paragraph (1) relative to price concessions.

# Tampa Electric Company: 1-38

N

(7) See item (2) above. In addition, this column is as important as H from a confidentiality standpoint because of the relatively few times that there are quality or discount adjustments. That is, Column N will equal Column H most of the time. Consequently, it needs to be protected for the same reason as set forth in paragraph (1).

# Tampa Electric Company: 1-38

O

(8) See item (2) above.

#### **FORM 423-2**

Plant Name: Line(s)	<u>Column</u>
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1): 1-8	G
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None	
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1	
Big Bend Station 1-2	
Gannon Station 1	
Polk Station 1	

#### Justification

(9) Disclosure of the effective purchase price "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla Stat. Additionally, prohibiting the purchase price would enable one to ascertain the total transportation charges by subtracting the effective price from the delivered price at the transfer facility, shown in Column I. Any competitor with knowledge of the total transportation charges would be able to use that information in conjunction with the published delivered price at the Electro-Coal Transfer Facility to determine the segmented transportation costs, i.e., the separate breakdown of transportation charges for river barge transport and for deep water transportation across the Gulf of Mexico from the transfer facility to Tampa. It is this segmented transportation cost data which is proprietary and confidential. The disclosure of the segmented transportation costs would have a direct impact on Tampa Electric's future fuel transportation contracts by informing potential bidders of current prices paid for services provided. That harm, which would flow to Tampa Electric and its Customers from such

Plant Name: Line(s)

Column

Justification

disclosure, was the subject of Prepared Direct Testimony of Mr. John R. Rowe, Jr. on behalf of Tampa Electric in Docket No. 860001-EI-D. A copy of Mr. Rowe's Direct Testimony from the September 29, 1986 hearing in that docket is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by reference made a part hereof.

In the Commission's Order No. 12645 issued in Docket No. 830001-EU on November 3, 1983 (In re: Investigation of Fuel Adjustment Clauses of Electric Utilities), the Commission prescribed the current 423 Form filings. In so doing, the Commission observed:

Next, we must determine whether any portion of the monthly reports should be accorded confidential treatment. We agree that certain portions of the confidential information. However, many portions of the monthly reports will not. The proprietary information for all types of fuel is transportation. Any breakout of transportation costs must be treated confidentially. In addition, F.O.B. mine prices for coal is proprietary in nature as is the price of fuel oil. Disclosure of separate transportation or F.O.B. mine prices would have a direct impact on a utility's future fuel and transportation contracts by informing potential bidders of current prices paid for services. Disclosure of fuel oil prices would have an indirect effect upon bidding suppliers. Suppliers would be reluctant to provide

Plant Name: Line(s)

Column

Justification

significant price concessions to an individual utility if prices were disclosed because other purchasers would seek similar concessions.

The vigorous competition discussed in Mr. Rowe's earlier testimony, as recognized by the Commission, justifies proprietary confidential treatment of the information in Column G.

Disclosure of this information "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods and services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. This information would inform other potential suppliers as to the price Tampa Electric is willing to pay for coal. This would give present and potential coal suppliers information which could be harmful to Tampa Electric's interests in negotiating coal supply agreements. This is much the same as paragraph (1) under Form 423-1(a) regarding No. 2 oil suppliers.

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1): 1-8 (10) The disclosure of this information "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. As was stated in (1), Columns G and H both need confidential

H

Plant	Name:
Line(	s)

## Column Justification

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1

Big Bend Station 1-2

Gannon Station

Polk Station

protection because disclosure of either column will enable competitors to determine the segmented transportation charges.

Accordingly, the same reasons discussed in (1) likewise apply with regard to Column H.

## FORM 423-2(a)

DI4 W	FORIVI 423-2(a)		
Plant Name: Line(s)	Column	Justification	
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1): 1-8  TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None  TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1  Big Bend Station 1-2	Н	(11) If the original invoice price is made public, one can subtract the original invoice price from the publicly disclosed delivered price at the Electro-Coal Transfer Facility and thereby determine the segmented river transportation cost. Disclosure of the river transportation cost "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. Additional justification appears in Exhibit "A" and in paragraph (1) of the rationale for confidentiality of Column G of Form 423-2	
Gannon Station 1		(Electro-Coal Transfer Facility - Big Bend Station).	
Polk Station 1			
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8	J	(12) This information, like that contained in Column H, would enable a competitor to "back into" the segmented	
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None		at the Electro-Coal Transfer Facility. This would be done by subtracting the base price per ton from the delivered price at	
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1		Electro-Coal, thereby revealing the river barge rate. Such disclosure "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section	
Big Bend Station 1-2		366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. Additional justification appears in	

Plant Name: Line(s)	Column	Justification
Gannon Station 1 Polk Station 1		366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. Additional justification appears in Exhibit "A" and in paragraph (1) of the rationale for confidentiality of Column G of Form 423-2 (Electro-Coal Transfer Facility - Big Bend Station).
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8  TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None  TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1  Big Bend Station 1-2  Gannon Station 1	L	(13) This information, if publicly disclosed, would enable a competitor to back into the segmented waterborne transportation costs using the already publicly disclosed delivered price of coal at the Electro-Coal Transfer Facility. Such disclosure "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. Additional justification appears in Exhibit "A" and in paragraph (1) of the rationale for confidentiality of Column G of Form 423-2 (Electro-Coal Transfer Facility - Big Bend Station).
Polk Station		

## FORM 423-2(b)

Plant Name: Line(s)	Column	Justification
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8  TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None  TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1  Big Bend Station 1-2  Gannon Station 1  Polk Station 1	G	"would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. Such disclosure would enable a competitor to "back into" the segmented transportation cost using the publicly disclosed delivered price for coal at the Electro-Coal Transfer Facility. This would be done by subtracting the effective purchase price per ton from the price per ton delivered at Electro-Coal, thereby revealing the river barge rate. Additional justification appears in Exhibit "A" and in paragraph (1) of the rationale for confidentiality of Column G of Form 423-2 (Electro-Coal Transfer Facility - Big Bend Station). Such disclosure would also adversely affect Tampa Electric's ability to negotiate future coal supply contracts.
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8	I	(15) Disclosure of the rail rate per ton would adversely affect the ability of Tampa Electric affiliate, Gatliff Coal, to negotiate favorable rail rates. Disclosure of the rail rates paid would effectively eliminate any negotiating leverage

Line(s) Column

Justification

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1)

Big Bend Station 1-2

Gannon Station

Polk Station

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8 K

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1)

Big Bend Station 1-2

Gannon Station

Polk Station

and could lead to higher rail rates. This would work to the ultimate detriment of Tampa Electric and its customers. Accordingly, disclosure of this information "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat.

(16) These columns contained information the disclosure of which "would impair the efforts of Tampa Electric to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Fla. Stat. Each of these columns provides specific information on segmented transportation costs which are the primary objects of this request. Additional justification appears in Exhibit "A" and in paragraph (1) of the rationale for confidentiality for Column G on 423-2 (Electro-Coal Transfer Facility - Big Bend Station).

Plant Name:	Column	Instification
Line(s)	<u>Column</u>	<b>Justification</b>
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8	L	(17) See item (16) above.
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None		
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1)		
Big Bend Station 1-2		
Gannon Station 1		
Polk Station 1		
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8	M	(18) See item (16) above.
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None		
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1)		
Big Bend Station 1-2		

## Plant Name:

Line(s)	<u>Column</u>	<b>Justification</b>
Gannon Station 1		
Polk Station 1		
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8	N	(19) See item (16) above.
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None		
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1		
Big Bend Station 1-2		
Gannon Station 1		
Polk Station 1		
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8	0	(20) See item (16) above.
TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None	l	,

Plant Name:

Polk Station

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Line(s) <u>Column</u> <u>Justification</u>

TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) 1 Big Bend Station 1-2 Gannon Station Polk Station (21) See item (16) above. P TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Big Bend Station (1) 1-8 TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Gannon Station (1) None TECO Bulk Terminal Transfer Facility Polk Station (1) Big Bend Station Gannon Station

## BEFORE THE

7	BEFOR	BEFORE THE				
2	FLORIDA PUBLIC SE	FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION				
3						
. 4	In the Matter of	DOCKET NO. 66 DOD1-EI-D				
. 6	Confidentiality of Fuel Cost Recovery Data.	AFTERNOON SESSION				
. 7		VOLUME II Pages 113 through 278				
•	RECIEVED					
8	DIVIDION OF DEGERACY REPORTING	FPSC Hearing Room Fletcher Building				
. 9	051 g 1365 · ·	101 Dast Gaines Street				
10	Florida Fublic Service Commission -	Tallahassee, Florida 32301				
11	-	Monday, September 29, 1986				
12	Met pursuant to adjournment at 1	: DD				
13	-					
14	BEFORE: CHAIRMAN JOHN R. MARKS	, III, Chairman				
15	COMMISSIONER GERALD L.	GUNTER BOLS				
16	COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MOCOMMISSIONER JOHN T. HE	יד הדד כווא				
.17	APPEARANCES:					
18		:				
19	(As heretofore noted.)					
20						
21						
22						
	<del></del>					
23	REPORTED BY:	CAROL C. CAUSSEAUX, CSR, RPR JAME FAUROT				
:	DOCUMENT NO.	JOY KELLY, CSR, RPR				
25	10020-86	OFFICIAL COMMISSION REPORTERS				
<i>[</i> 25]	10-5-26					
	Exhibit "A	,				

Exhibit "A" FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

# BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PREPARED TESTIMONY

OF .

### JOHN R. ROWE, JR.

. Will you please state your name, address and occupation.

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My name is John R. Rowe, Jr. My business address is 702 North Franklin Street, Tampa, Florida 33602. Assistant Vice President of Tampa Electric Company.

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11 Please describe your educational background and business 12 experience.

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14 A. I was educated in the public schools of Birmincham. Evansville, Indiana; Alabama: מֿמב Mtl Lebanon. Pennsylvania. I was graduated in June, 1962 from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management, and from the University of South Florida in March, 1971 with a Master of Business Administration degree. I am a Certified Public Accountant licensed to practice in Florida and a member of the American Institute of CPAs, the Florida Institute of CPAs, -- and the National Association of Accountants. Tampa Electric Company in July, 1962 and I have served in various capacities in the Personnel, Customer Accounting,

. Credit, General Accounting and Budget Departments over the 1 past 23 years. I became Assistant Controller in 1974. 2 Controller in 1981, and I was elected to my present 3 position as Assistant Vice President in April, 1984. 4 responsibilities include coordination 5 6 accounting and regulatory matters before this Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 7 (FPSC) 8 (FERC). I have presented testimony before this Commission 9 in other proceedings.

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What is the purpose of your testimony?

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The purpose of my testimony is to respond to various areas 13 Commission regarding anā company concern the confidentiality of certain fuel cost information supplied to the Commission. I intend to demonstrate why some of the data which is supplied in regular monthly reports on fuel costs to this Commission should be excluded from public disclosure as being "proprietary confidential business information" as defined by Section 366.093, Florida Statutes.

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Q. Does Tampa Electric object to providing the Commission 23 with 24 a report detailing all purchases fuel. 25 transportation and fuel handling services?

A. No. Tampa Electric does not object to continuing to furnish to the Commission the information it needs to review company expenditures for fuel, transportation and fuel handling services. However, as I will describe later, it is clearly in the best interests of the ratepayers and the company for this Commission to continue to treat certain of this information submitted as "Specified Confidential."

10 Q. What portion of the report should be confidential?

The cost of water transportation of coal which is billed to the regulated company by an affiliated company should be treated as confidential. Tampa Electric formed a water transportation system for the transport of coal in the 1950's which not only provides the necessary services for Tampa Electric but also enjoys additional economies as it provides competitive services to outside customers. This system has saved our electric customers many millions of dollars in transportation costs over the years and these savings are likely to continue in the future so long as the affiliated companies are able to maintain their competitive edge. Through this transportation system Tampa Electric's affiliated companies are able to move coal by river barges from sources in Kentucky, Oklahoma and

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Illinois to a terminal on the east bank of the Mississippi River south of New Orleans for the purpose of Off-loading, storing and transferring coal to ocean-going barges for transport to Tampa. These services are performed by TECO Transport and Trade companies: Mid-South Towing Company, which handles the coal by river barge; Electro Transfer Corporation, which operates the Storage transfer facility and Gulf Coast Transit Company which provides ocean-going tugs and barges to move coal across . the Gulf of Mexico.

Q. Are Tampa Electric affiliates faced with competition?

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Yes, the market for bulk commodity transportation is very competitive. Aside from the coal transportation services performed for Tampa Electric, the TBCO Transport and Trade affiliates currently transport coal ēns. other bulk commodities for other customers as well. The affiliates anticipate that additional markets for coal will develop in Florida for both industrial and electric power generation purposes, and hope to capture a portion of the transportation demand created by those markets. This market is very competitive.

Tampa Electric's transportation affiliates are not engaged solely in the one-way transportation of coal, however.

Mid-South Towing Company has provided, and continues to transportation upstream and downstream provide, both 2 services for other bulk commodities, including grain and Electro-Coal Transfer Corporation is phosphate products. involved in the direct vessel-to-vessel transfer of grain and other bulk commodities in addition to the transfer of coal and coke on diverse routes, including phosphates from Florida to New Orleans, and grain from New Orleans to international markets.

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As commercial enterprises, the affiliates face significant competition for each of the other transportation, transfer and storage services that they perform. Operators on the inland waterways include approximately 2,000 individual. carriers. In size these carriers range from operators of single towboats to those operating large fleets of vessels and barges. Only a very small percentage of inland waterway traffic is subject to regulation. Exempt carriers are not required to publish revenues, operating data rates or financial information.

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With reference to the river transportation of coal and ---- other bulk commodities, Mid-South Towing Company's principal competitors include, Sword others: the Ohio River Company; American Commercial Barge Line Company;

Dravo Mechling Corporation; and The Valley Line Company.
Mid-South Towing also faces intermodal competition from
the railroads.

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Electro-Coal Transfer Corporation competes with others for performance of transfer bns storage .services. Electro-Coal's principal competitors with both shoreside and ground storage capabilities International Marine Terminal; Burnside Terminals, Inc.; and New Orleans Bulk Terminal. A portion of the transfer market is also served by companies whose operations are mid-stream in the Mississippi River. Principal among these is Cooper-Smith Company.

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Finally, Gulfcoast Transit Company competes with many other companies to provide ocean-going tug and barge transportation service. Principal among those competitors are: Dixie Carriers, Inc.; St. Phillips Towing Company; Sheridan Towing Company; Red Circle Transport Company; and Beker Industries, Inc.

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22 Q. Would the disclosure of cost information expose the affiliates to substantial competitive harm?

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25 A. Yes. The cost of rendering bulk commodity transportation

service over a given distance varies little from one commodity to another. On a per-ton unit basis, it costs a barge company the same amount to transport a ton of grain, for example, as to transport a ton of coal. Rates for bulk commodity transportation service also tend to show little variation from one commodity to the next.

In such a highly competitive environment, a given company's market share is constantly at risk and must be carefully safeguarded. Competitors who are able to discern, either directly or indirectly, a given company's costs or profit margin are in a position to capture a portion of that company's market share by anticipating its future bids and selectively undercutting its prices. Similarly, such knowledge permits the company's customers, who may be paying different prices for similar services, to bargain for more favorable terms from the company and among its competitors.

The primary determinants of a company's profit margin, of course, are its costs and prices. Not surprisingly, given the relative ease with which both costs and prices may be translated from one type of bulk commodity shipment to another, competitors take great pains to conceal their costs and prices from each other. This fact accounts for

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the scarcity of published information concerning the financial workings of the unregulated segment of the industry.

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Tampa Electric's competitors and customers are aware that Tampa Electric's water transportation expense represents the affiliates' costs including a return on equity. company's cost represents the limit of its vulnerability in the sense that it cannot long survive in circumstances where costs exceed revenues. Sustained "underpricing" that perceived margin would have a, devastating the affiliates' business, and would make מסכט retention of market shares impossible. Competitors would be given access to very valuable information which will to price their service their enable those firms advantage.

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Q. How does the operation of the competitive business affect the cost of Tampa Electric's affiliated company transportation expense?

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The increased volumes allow for economies of scale that cannot be realized if Tampa Electric were the only customer of the affiliate. Moreover, since fixed costs are allocated between services provided to Tampa Electric

and others on a per ton basis, the backhaul and transfer of grain and other bulk commodities reduces the amount of allocated to Tampa Electric. costs affiliates' backhaul and other outside customer activity is lost or diminished, or if transfer activity is lost due to the disclosure of its competitive position, the cost of coal transportation to Tampa Electric would proportionately. Actions which hurt the affiliates' competitive position will, therefore, increase the cost of electricity supplied to Tampa Electric's customers. Commission therefore should carefully avoid the disclosure of the affiliates' costs and prices.

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Q. Is Tampa Electric satisfied with the Commission's current reporting requirements?

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No. The company believes that the Commission's current requirements for public disclosure run an unnecessary risk of placing Tampa Electric at a disadvantage in its ability to contract for fuel transportation services on the most favorable terms. This disclosure can also affect prices paid by Tampa Electric under existing contracts which depend on or could benefit further from outside business to reduce costs to Tampa Electric. Further, I believe that public disclosure of coal prices paid (without

transportation costs) does not increase competition among suppliers of coal but rather it serves to decrease the advantage of the purchaser in negotiating lower prices. If potential vendors of coal knew from public disclosure the prices being paid or paid in the past, I believe their tendency in bidding or reporting coal prices tend to center around known prices. In this way, the vendors know they can offer a price lower than the price that has been paid and exactly how much lower their price will be. If the present and past prices paid were not publicly available, the vendors would have to bid as low as they could in hopes that they would bid the best price to win the contract since they have no published guide to tell them how low to guote.

During all of this discussion you should keep in mind that Tampa Electric has no objection to continuing its full disclosure of fuel transportation cost information to the Commission on a specified confidential basis. The company is proud of its innovative transportation system and desires to continue to share all relevant transportation cost information with the Commission on a confidential basis.

25 Q. How does this Commission's fuel cost reporting

requirements affect the confidentiality of the proprietary transportation cost information?

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The Commission must be very careful in its requirements for public disclosure of various segments of fuel cost proprietary order protect the information in to information. requirement transportation cost A publicly report any one segment of costs could enable competitors and transportation customers to calculate the information sought to be protected.

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12 Q. Please illustrate how confidential information could be derived if the Commission's reporting requirements are changed?

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16 A.

This was fully discussed in Docket No. 830001-PU. On April 24, 1984, the Commission considered Tampa Electric's request for reconsideration of Order No. 12645, entered in the same docket (Generic Fuels Issues). Tampa Electric sought reconsideration of that portion of Order No. 12645 pertaining to which cost information should be considered confidential. Tampa Electric's specific concern was that disclosure of F.O.B mine mouth and F.O.B plant price for coal, in conjunction with available delivered prices at terminal facilities, would result in the disclosure of

proprietary confidential business information. The Commission agreed and determined that the F.O.B. mine mouth and plant prices should be reported on a "specified confidential" basis. The same circumstances exist today and the need for confidential treatment is just as critical now as it was in 1983.

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Q. Eow would you recommend the Commission approach its duty of implementing Section 366.093, Florida Statutes?

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In the case of Tampa Electric's transportation affiliates, the test should be: is there a reasonable probability the information in guestion will that disclosure of adversely affect the affiliated company and, ultimately, If so, then the Tampa Electric and its Customers? information should be treated as specified confidential information which is exempt from public disclosure. Section 366.093, Florida Statutes, does not appear to recuire a 100% probability of harm. In the case of bids or other contractual data, the test is only whether it would "impair" the efforts of the public utility contract for services on favorable terms. If certain information is disclosed and the disclosure only aids but does not guarantee a competitor's ability to compete with Tampa Electric's transportation affiliates, then this

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information ought to be protected, even though disclosure would not <u>cuarantee</u> that the competitor will take business away from the Tampa Electric affiliate. Any more stringent or absolute a standard for confidentiality would demand more than is required under the statute. Stated differently, if the statute is administered in such a way as to prohibit only the disclosure of a specific cost, but not a myriad of related information bits or "hints" which enable a resourceful competitor to pinpoint come very close to the specific cost, then the protection afforded by the statute will indeed be hollow. In short, we advocate fully disclosing to the Commission the information it needs to perform its utility oversight function but because of the extreme sensitivity of the information, we advocate disclosing as little as possible to publicly accessible sources. Utility customers are the ultimate beneficiaries of this protection, and we hope the Commission will continue to administer the statute in a manner which maximizes such protection.

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Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

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23 A. Yes, it does.

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(End of Prefiled Direct Testimony)

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FLORIDA)

#### **Date of Declassification:**

<b>FORM</b>	LINE(S)	COLUMN	<b>DATE</b>
423-1(a) (Page 1 of 2)	1 - 25	H - O	3/12/2006
423-1(a) (Page 2 of 2)	26-38-	H – O	3/12/2006
423-2	1 - 8	G - H	3/12/2006
423-2(a)	1 - 8	H,J,L	3/12/2006
423-2(b)	1 - 8	G,I,K,L, M,N,O,P	3/12/2006

#### Rationale:

### Fuel Oil Contract Data:

- 1. Tampa Electric requests that the confidential information relating to fuel oil contract data not be declassified until at least two years after it is classified confidential. Ideally, Tampa Electric's interests would be best protected by adopting a declassification date which is at least 6 months beyond the last day of the contract period under which the goods identified on Form 423-1(a) were purchased.
- 2. Tampa Electric's ability to negotiate future contracts for No. 2 and No. 6 oil would reasonably likely be impaired if pricing information as described above were disclosed during the contract period or prior to the negotiation of a new contract.
- 3. Tampa Electric typically renegotiates its No. 2 and No. 6 fuel oil contracts and fuel related services contracts prior to the end of such contracts. On occasion some contracts are renegotiated after the end of the current contract period. In this situation, renegotiations are normally completed within six months. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain the confidentiality of the information identified as confidential on Form 423-1(a) for six months after the end of the individual contract period the information relates to.
- 4. Tampa Electric's No. 2 contract was renegotiated effective October 1, 1990 and its No. 6 contract was renegotiated effective September 1, 1990.
- 5. In many instances the declassification date proposed above would be beyond two years from the date the information is classified. Therefore, and in order to simplify the determination of a date of declassification date, Tampa Electric is willing to settle for a declassification date which is two years from the date the material in question is initially classified. This will avoid having to refer to contract expiration dates which vary from contract to contract. At the same time, it will afford Tampa Electric some minimum period of protection from having this sensitive information disclosed publicly.

## Coal and Coal Transportation Data

- 6. Tampa Electric also seeks protection of the coal and coal transportation contract information specified as confidential for a minimum period of two years.
- 7. The need for two or more years of confidentiality is vital not only to Tampa Electric and its ratepayers, but to the vendors of coal and coal transportation services as well.
- 8. Bidders for the sale of coal will always seek to optimize their profit margin. Full knowledge of the prices paid by the utility for coal enables the bidder to increase the price bid and thereby optimize the bid from the viewpoint of the seller and to the detriment of the ratepayer. Tampa Electric firmly believes that the disclosure of information on prices paid within the last two years will increase the price Tampa Electric will be required to pay for coal and will be detrimental to ratepayers.
- 9. Recent bids received by Tampa Electric contained a \$4.17 per ton spread between the bids. The low bid undoubtedly would have been higher with full knowledge of prices paid by Tampa Electric. Bidders will always seek to optimize their profits by submitting bids that are as high as the market will bear. If market data is disclosed which discourages suppliers from bidding competitively, they will increase their bids to the level of past payments to other suppliers by the buyer.
- 10. The disclosure of rail transportation rates will result in demands by <u>other</u> shippers to lower any rates which are above the disclosed rates. The effect of disclosure will be to increase the lower rate as the transportation provided will seek to protect the rates charged on other routes. The delay of this disclosure for two years will be of direct benefit to ratepayers by delaying any increases that might occur as a result of such disclosure.
- 11. Gatliff Coal and TECO Transport & Trade sell coal and bulk commodity transportation services in the open non-regulated marketplace. The prices at which their goods and services are sold are not publicly disclosed anywhere by publication or voluntary dissemination because it would materially lessen their competitive posture with customers other than Tampa Electric. Outside customers who negotiate for coal or coal transportation services are placed at a competitive advantage for these goods or services if they know the cost of the goods or services.
- 12. An analyst for an outside customer of Gatliff or TECO Transport who reads the written transcripts of public fuel hearings or reads the written orders of the FPSC can easily discover that until November 1, 1988, Tampa Electric paid cost for coal from Gatliff and for coal transportation from TECO Transport. Further, the publication of the stipulation agreement between the parties in 1988 indicated that the initial benchmark price was close to cost and subsequent testimony indicates the revised contract escalates from cost.
- 13. As long as an outside customer does not know how such an escalation clause changes price, the cost cannot be calculated. However, publicizing the price of coal or coal transportation services will tell an outside customer how much the escalation has been and make it easy for him to calculate cost. Because of seasonality of costs in both businesses, a full year's cost data is necessary for an accurate cost measurement.

- 14. A second year must pass before one full year can be compared with a second year to measure the escalation accurately. So a perceptive vendor seeks two years of data to make his cost estimates. The competitive industries recognize that data beyond two years is not helpful to them, as enough factors may change in that time frame for costs to be much different from what was incurred. Any date less than two full years old is extremely valuable to outside customers in contracting for services with Gatliff or TECO Transport. The difference of small amounts per ton can mean millions of dollars' difference in cost.
- 15. A loss of outside business by Gatliff or TECO Transport will affect not only Gatliff or TECO Transport, but if large enough it could affect the credibility of the companies. The prices negotiated with Tampa Electric by these vendors took into consideration their costs and revenues at the time of negotiation, including the revenues from outside customers. A significant loss of outside business could cause Gatliff or TECO Transport to fail, since under market pricing regulation Tampa Electric will not make up the difference to them in cost. In turn, a failure of these vendors would leave Tampa Electric and its customers with only higher cost alternatives for Blue Gem coal and for coal transportation to Tampa, a higher cost that would be paid by Tampa Electric's ratepayers. So the continued credibility of Gatliff and TECO Transport is important to protect Tampa Electric's ratepayers from higher cost alternatives.

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