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March 20, 2000

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Blanca Bayo, Clerk Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

RE: DOCKET NO. 000288-EG - IN RE: Petition for Determination of Need for Electrical Power Plant in Lake County by Panda Leesburg Power Partners, L.P.

DOCKET NO 000289-EG - Petition for Determination of Need for Electrical Power Plant in St. Lucie County by Panda Midway Power Partners, L.P.

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed please find the original and fifteen (15) copies of the Motion to Consolidate Hearings to be filed in the above-cited dockets. Also enclosed is a copy of the motion to be stamped and returned to us for our files.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

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Suzanne Brownless

c: 3085

cc: Steve Crain, P.E.
Jeff Schroeter, P.E.
Bill Lamb, Esq.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

03592 MAR 218

FPSC - RECORDS / A SPORTING

## BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE: Petition for Determination of Need for Electrical Power Plant in Lake County by Panda Leesburg Power Partners, L.P. DOCKET NO. 000288-EG

IN RE: Petition for Determination of Need for Electrical Power Plant in St. Lucie County by Panda Midway Power Partners, L.P. DOCKET NO. 000289-EG

## MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE HEARINGS

Pursuant to Rule 28-106.204, Florida Administrative Code, Panda Leesburg Fower Partners, L.P. (Panda Leesburg) and Panda Midway Power Partners, L.P. (Panda Midway), move that the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) consolidate for hearing the abovecited dockets, and in support thereof state as follows:

- 1. On March 6, 2000, pursuant to the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act, §§403.501-518, Florida Statutes, and §403.519, Florida Statutes, both Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg filed Petitions for Determination of Need for Electrical Power Plants to be located in St. Lucie and Lake Counties, respectively.
- 2. Pursuant to Rule 25-22.080(2), Florida Administrative Code, the Commission is required to set a date for hearing within 90 days of the receipt of these petitions. Thus, the 90 days for hearing runs on June 6, 2000. The Commission Staff has requested that Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg waive this 90 day hearing requirement. Panda Leesburg and Panda Midway have agreed to such a waiver contingent upon hearing dates being found that are relatively near term.

- 3. Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg are both Exempt Wholesale Generators (EWGs) under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. 15 U.S.C.S. §§ 79z-5a (1994 and Supp. 1997). In light of the recent decisions in the Duke/New Smyrna Beach EWG¹ and the Okeechobee Generating Company EWG need determination cases², Staff has tentatively reserved hearing dates of July 12, 13 and 14, 2000, for hearing before all five commissioners. These dates are the first available dates for all five commissioners. Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg believe that these dates will provide sufficient time for a consolidated hearing for these two dockets and are acceptable to Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg.
- 4. Since both the Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg dockets involve EWG need determinations and both applicants are wholly owned by Panda Energy International, Inc. (PEI), the consolidation of the hearing for these two dockets will allow the Commission to most efficiently use its limited hearing time. The common testimony regarding the technical, managerial and financial ability of PEI to develop these projects can be presented once rather than twice. Further, discovery can be coordinated and consolidated on these issues if the dockets are combined for hearing. Due to the need for all five commissioners to participate in these dockets,

In re: Joint petition for determination of need for an electrical power plant in Volusia County by the Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and Duke Energy New Smyrna Beach Power Company Ltd., L.L.P., Docket No. 9871042-EM.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In re: Petition for determination of need for an electrical power plant in Okeechobee County by Okeechobee Generating Company, L.L.C., Docket No. 991462-EU.

separate hearing dates for each of these projects would inevitably significantly delay the FPSC's final decision for one of the projects.

5. Staff supports the consolidation of these dockets for hearing purposes. There are no other parties to this docket at this time.

WHEREFORE, Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg move this Commission to consolidate the hearings for Dockets Nos. 000288-EG and 000289-EG for the purposes of hearing.

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Attorney for Panda Midway and Panda Leesburg Power Partners, L.P.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been provided by hand delivery to the following on March 21, 2000:

Bob Elias, Esq. Bureau Chief, Electric and Gas Florida Public Service Comm. 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Suzane Brownless, Esq.

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c: 3084