

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition by Tampa
Electric Company d/b/a Peoples
Gas System for approval of
revisions to natural gas tariff,
to extend applicability of Trip
Charge/Collection at Customer
Premises to West Florida Region.

DOCKET NO. 001059-GU
ORDER NO. PSC-00-1907-TRF-GU
ISSUED: October 18, 2000

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of
this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ

ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO NATURAL GAS
TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

On August 4, 2000, Tampa Electric Company d/b/a Peoples Gas System (Peoples), submitted a petition, along with tariff modifications, to extend the applicability of its Trip Charge/Collection. Peoples' tariff charge entitled "Trip Charge/Collection at Customer Premises" currently applies to all of its service areas except Ocala and Panama City (the West Florida Region). Jurisdiction in this matter is vested by Sections 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, Florida Statutes.

The purpose of Peoples' petition is to extend the applicability of the Trip Charge/Collection to Peoples' West Florida Region. This charge was approved us in Docket No. 911150-GU, Order No. PSC-92-0924-FOF-GU. This charge applies when an employee, agent, or representative of Peoples makes a trip to the customer's premises for the purpose of terminating gas service or providing final notice of termination for nonpayment of bills. During this time, the customer would have the opportunity to avoid termination by submitting payment of the bill including the trip charge fee. However, if the customer is not available once the company representative arrives, this charge would not apply and

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termination of services would occur. The charge for the company representative coming to the premises is ten dollars, which is less than the twenty-five dollar charge the customer would incur to restore service, if terminated.

Peoples incurs additional expenses when a customer's natural gas service is terminated because of nonpayment of bills. By allowing the Company to accept payment, including the trip charge, the Company and the customer save time and expense associated with reconnection. Extending the applicability of the Trip Charge into the West Florida Region is expected to impact 350 customer accounts who reach "Final Notice" status every month in the Ocala and Panama City areas combined. Thus, with the \$10 trip charge, the total annual trip charge revenue would be \$42,000 (350 X 12 X \$10.) A one percentage point increase in return on equity for Peoples is approximately \$2,642,000. An increase in revenues of \$42,000 would increase Peoples return on equity by approximately 1.6 basis points.

Accordingly, we approve Peoples' petition, and approve modifications in the company's tariff sheets which would extend the applicability of Trip Charge/Collection at Customer Premises to the West Florida Region. This would make the charge applicable to all of Peoples' service areas, possibly prevent termination of natural gas services for customers and prevent a service charge for restored services.

Based on the foregoing, it is

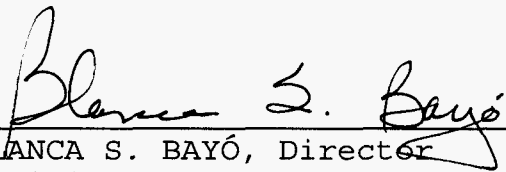
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that the Petition by Tampa Electric Company d/b/a Peoples Gas System to revise its natural gas tariff, to extend applicability of trip charge/collection at customer premises to the West Florida region, is granted. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of issuance of the Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any charges held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

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By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 18th
day of October, 2000.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

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.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on November 8, 2000.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.