

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

VOTE SHEET

August 29, 2006

Docket No. 060198-EI – Requirement for investor-owned electric utilities to file ongoing storm preparedness plans and implementation cost estimates.

Issue 1: Are each of the investor-owned electric utility plans for vegetation management for distribution equivalent to or better than a three-year trim cycle in terms of cost and reliability for purposes of preparing for future storms?

Recommendation: The plans filed by Tampa Electric Company and Florida Public Utilities Company comply with the three-year trim cycle requirement of Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI. Staff believes the proposed alternative plan filed by Florida Power & Light Company is reasonably consistent with the compliance options provided by the Order. In addition, staff believes the phase-in approach proposed by Tampa Electric Company and Florida Power & Light Company is reasonable for initial implementation. The alternative plans filed by Progress Energy Florida and Gulf Power Company are based on their current vegetation management programs and do not contain a method or sufficient data for staff to conduct the necessary ongoing review to ensure that the alternative plans are equivalent to or better than a three-year trim cycle in terms of cost and reliability for purposes of preparing for future storms. Staff believes their current plans should be revised and staff will work with the companies to bring their plans to full compliance with the Order. Staff recommends that all plans and plan implementation should be re-evaluated annually to assess the need for any adjustment. This annual assessment should be conducted consistent with the discussion in Issues 5 and 9.

APPROVED

Approved with the clarification that Progress and GPC's plans will be filed within 30 days.

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING

Handwritten signatures of majority commissioners on a set of four horizontal lines.

Four horizontal lines for dissenting signatures, currently blank.

REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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Issue 2: Does each investor-owned electric utility's plans for auditing its joint-use attachment agreements include pole strength assessments and attachment verification?

Recommendation: Yes. Each utility's plan for auditing its joint-use attachment agreements includes pole strength assessments, but plans should be re-evaluated annually to assess the need for any adjustment. This annual assessment should be conducted consistent with the discussion in Issue 9.

APPROVED

Issue 3: Is each investor-owned electric utility's plan for a transmission structure inspection program equivalent to a six-year inspection cycle methodology in terms of cost and reliability?

Recommendation: Yes. Each utility's transmission structure inspection plan is consistent with the intent of the Order. Staff recommends continued monitoring of each utility's transmission structure inspection program. This annual assessment should be conducted consistent with the discussion in Issue 9.

APPROVED

Issue 4: Is each investor-owned electric utility's plan for hardening existing transmission structures adequate for purposes of preparing for future storms?

Recommendation: Yes. Based on the available information, the Commission should find that each utility's transmission plan for hardening existing transmission structures is consistent with the intent of Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI. As utilities implement their forensic data collection procedures, each utility will become better able to address the adequacy of its efforts to prepare for future storms. Staff recommends continued monitoring of each utility's plans for hardening existing transmission structures consistent with the discussion in Issue 9.

APPROVED

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Issue 5: Are each investor-owned electric utility's plans for a transmission and distribution geographic information system (Initiative 5), post-storm data collection, and forensic reviews (Initiative 6), and assessing performance of overhead and underground systems (Initiative 7) adequate for purposes of improving its storm restoration activities and evaluation of its storm hardening options?

Recommendation: Yes. The Commission should find that each utility's plans are consistent with the Order. Each utility's implementation of its plan should be monitored consistent with the discussion in Issue 9.

APPROVED

Issue 6: Are the utility plans for increased coordination with local governments adequate to foster better communication between the utilities and the cities and counties they serve, not only prior to and immediately after a storm, but year-round to identify and address issues of common concern?

Recommendation: Yes. While no objective metrics exist to quantify community coordination, the investor-owned electric utilities have filed draft plans which appear to inform and encourage joint participation with cities and counties and resolve common issues. Staff recommends continued monitoring of the implementation of the plans as discussed in Issue 9.

APPROVED

Issue 7: Is each investor-owned electric utility's plan for collaborative research on effects of hurricane winds and storm surge adequate to further the development of storm resilient electric utility infrastructure and technologies that reduce storm restoration costs and outages to customers reasonable?

Recommendation: While efforts are underway, the collaborative research plans of the investor-owned electric utilities are incomplete at this time. The plans do not establish a sufficiently detailed schedule for selecting collaborative research activities and establishing funding levels. Staff will keep the Commission informed on the progress of these activities.

APPROVED

Approved with the understanding that what the companies have filed to date is approved, and that staff will continue to work with the companies on this issue.

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Issue 8: Is each of the investor-owned electric utilities' natural disaster preparedness and recovery plan adequate?

Recommendation: The Commission should find that each utility natural disaster preparedness and recovery plan is consistent with the intent of Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI. The plans are "living documents" and subject to constant revision as new lessons are learned. They will be reviewed and updated annually with lessons learned from storms and forensics data that is collected and analyzed. The plans will be relied on by EOC and PSC staff during training and actual emergencies.

APPROVED

Issue 9: Should the Commission authorize staff to monitor and report on the investor-owned electric utility storm hardening plans?

Recommendation: Yes. The storm hardening initiatives should be monitored and reported in the following manner:

Initiatives 1 through 7 – These initiatives should be monitored through the Commission's annual review of distribution service reliability performance because the storm hardening initiatives involve reliability performance activities.

Initiative 8 – This initiative for increased coordination with local governments should be monitored through Commission's review of electric utilities' dialogue with local governments and selected review of utility activities in this area.

Initiative 9 – This initiative for collaborative research on effects of hurricane winds and storm surge should be monitored by the Commission by reviewing the electric utilities' participation in studies and projects undertaken by the collaborative research efforts.

Initiative 10 – This initiative regarding the electric utilities' natural disaster preparedness and recovery plans should be monitored by the Commission by reviewing and maintaining current copies of the plans.

Each utility should file updates of its storm hardening plans by March 1, 2007. Staff's 2007 review of investor-owned electric utility reliability performance should include an additional section addressing utility ongoing storm hardening initiatives.

APPROVED

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Issue 10: What information has been provided to the Commission regarding each municipal electric utility's and each rural electric cooperative utility's ongoing storm hardening plans?

Recommendation: INFORMATIONAL ISSUE ONLY – NO DECISION REQUIRED.

Issue 11: Should this docket be closed?

Recommendation: No. If no timely protest is filed by a person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action portions of the order arising from this recommendation, a consummating order will be issued. If the Commission approves staff's recommendation in Issue 1, the docket should remain open for PEF and GULF to file an updated vegetation management plan which includes appropriate means of evaluating the effectiveness of their programs.

APPROVED