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Ruth Nettles

| From: | Rhonda Dulgar [rdulgar@yviaw.net] |
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| Sent: | Monday, March 23, 2009 2:25 PM |
| То: | Jennifer Spina; Kenneth Wiseman; Lisa Purdy; Mark Sundback; John T. Butler; R. Wade Litchfield; Thomas Saporito; J.R. Kelly; Anna Williams; Filings@psc.state.fl.us; Jean Hartman; Lisa Bennett; Martha Brown; Linda Quick; Schef Wright |
| Subject: | Electronic Filing - Docket 080677-El |

Attachments: 080677.FRF.PetitionToIntervene.3-23-09.doc

a. Person responsible for this electronic filing:

Robert Scheffel Wright Young van Assenderp, P.A. 225 South Adams Street, Suite 200 Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 222-7206 swright@yvlaw.net

b. 080677-EI

In Re: Petition for Increase in Rates by Florida Power & Light Company.

c. Document being filed on behalf of the Florida Retail Federation.

d. There are a total of 10 pages.

e. The document attached for electronic filing is the Petition to Intervene of the Florida Retail Federation.

(see attached file: 080677.FRF.PetitionToIntervene.3-23-09.doc)

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Rhonda Dulgar Secretary to Schef Wright Phone: 850-222-7206 FAX: 850-561-6834

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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In Re: Petition for Increase In Rates) By Florida Power & Light Company

DOCKET NO. 080677-EI FILED: MARCH 23, 2009

PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE FLORIDA RETAIL FEDERATION

The Florida Retail Federation ("FRF"), pursuant to Chapters 120 and 366, Florida Statutes,¹ and Rules 25-22.039, 28-106.201, and 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code ("F.A.C."), hereby petitions to intervene in the above-styled docket. As it did in 2002 and 2005, the FRF stands fully ready to participate in good faith in any negotiations toward resolving this case via another stipulation and settlement.

In summary, the FRF is an established association with more than 9,000 members in Florida, many of whom are retail customers The FRF respectfully petitions for intervention to of FPL. protect its members' interests in having the Commission determine the fair, just, and reasonable rates to be charged by FPL beginning January 1, 2010, upon the expiration of the current Stipulation and Settlement, In Re: Petition for Rate Increase by Florida Power & Light Company, FPSC Docket No. 050045-EI, Order No. PSC-05-0902-S-EI (September 14, 2005), and in having the Commission take such other action to protect the interests of the FRF's members and of all of FPL's customers as the Commission may deem appropriate. The interests of the many members of the FRF

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

¹ All references herein to the Florida Statutes are to the 2008 edition thereof.

who are FPL customers will be directly affected by the Commission's decisions in this case, and accordingly, the FRF is entitled to intervene to protect its members' substantial interests. In further support of its Petition to Intervene, the Florida Retail Federation states as follows.

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the Petitioner are as follows:

Florida Retail Federation 227 South Adams Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301 Telephone (850) 222-4082 Telecopier (850) 226-4082.

2. All pleadings, orders and correspondence should be directed to Petitioner's representatives as follows:

Robert Scheffel Wright, Attorney at Law John T. LaVia, III, Attorney at Law Young van Assenderp, P.A. 225 South Adams Street, Suite 200 Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (850) 222-7206 Telephone (850) 561-6834 Facsimile.

3. The agency affected by this Petition to Intervene is: Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850.

4. The Florida Retail Federation is an established association of more than 9,000 members in Florida. Many of the FRF's members are retail electric customers of FPL; these members purchase electricity from FPL pursuant to several different FPL rate schedules. The FRF's members require adequate, reasonably

priced electricity in order to conduct their businesses consistently with the needs of their customers and ownership.

5. Statement of Affected Interests. In this docket, the Commission will decide whether to approve FPL's request for a general rate increase. FPL initiated this docket by filing a Test Year Notification on November 17, 2008, and then filed its petition and Minimum Filing Requirements on March 18, 2009. FPL's petition seeks a base rate increase of \$1.044 billion per year in January 2010, followed by an additional \$247 million per year in January 2011. The Commission will necessarily have to decide whether any rate increases are justified, and if so, the Commission will also have to approve the rates and charges that would enable FPL to recover any authorized increase in FPL's base rate revenues. As the representative of its many members who are FPL retail customers, the Florida Retail Federation's and its members' substantial interests will be affected by any action that the Commission takes in this docket.

6. The FRF's substantial interests are of sufficient immediacy to entitle it to participate in the proceeding and are the type of interests that the proceeding is designed to protect. To participate as a party in this proceeding, an intervenor must demonstrate that its substantial interests will be affected by the proceeding. Specifically, the intervenor must demonstrate that it will suffer a sufficiently immediate injury in fact that

is of the type the proceeding is designed to protect. Ameristeel Corp. v. Clark, 691 So. 2d 473 (Fla. 1997); Agrico Chemical Co. v. Department of Environmental Regulation, 406 So.2d 478 (Fla. 2d DCA 1981), rev. denied, 415 So. 2d 1359 (Fla. 1982). Here, the FRF is the representative of a large number of its more than 9,000 members who are retail electric customers of FPL, and these members' substantial interests will be directly affected by the Commission's decisions regarding FPL's retail electric rates. Thus, the interests that the FRF seeks to protect are of sufficient immediacy to warrant intervention, and its members' interests in having the Commission set rates for FPL that are fair, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory are exactly the interests that this proceeding is designed to protect. This is a general rate case, and the FRF seeks to protect its members' substantial interests as they will be affected by the Commission's decisions determining FPL's rates.

7. <u>Associational Standing</u>. Under Florida law, to establish standing as an association representing its members' substantial interests, an association such as the Florida Retail Federation must demonstrate three things:

- a. that a substantial number of its members, although not necessarily a majority, are substantially affected by the agency's decisions;
- b. that the intervention by the association is within the

association's general scope of interest and activity; and

c. that the relief requested is of a type appropriate for an association to obtain on behalf of its members.

Florida Home Builders Ass'n v. Dep't of Labor and Employment Security, 412 So. 2d 351, 353-54 (Fla. 1982). The FRF satisfies all of these "associational standing" requirements. A substantial number of the FRF's more than 9,000 members are located in FPL's service area and receive their electric service from FPL, for which they are charged FPL's applicable retail rates. The FRF exists to represent its members' interests in a number of venues, including the Florida Public Service Commission: indeed, the FRF was an intervenor in FPL's general rate case in 2005 and a signatory to the Stipulation and Settlement that resolved the issues in that docket. Finally, the relief requested -- intervention and the lowest rates consistent with applicable laws and rules -- is across-the-board relief that will apply to all of the FRF's members in the same way, according to the retail rate schedules under which they receive service; therefore, the requested relief is of the type that is appropriate for an association to obtain on behalf of its members.

8. <u>Disputed Issues of Material Fact</u>. The FRF believes that the disputed issues of material fact in this proceeding will

include the issues listed below, as well as many more specific issues of the type that are normally raised and litigated in general rate cases. Naturally, at this early point in this docket, the issues stated below are broad, general issues, and the FRF expects that, as in past rate cases, numerous additional, specific issues will be identified and developed as this docket progresses.

- Issue: What are the appropriate jurisdictional values of FPL's Plant in Service, Accumulated Depreciation, and Rate Base for setting FPL's rates to be effective as of January 1, 2010?
- Issue: What are the appropriate jurisdictional values of FPL's operation and maintenance expenses for setting FPL's rates in this case?
- Issue: What is the appropriate capital structure for FPL for the purpose of setting FPL's rates in this case?
- Issue: What is the appropriate rate of return on equity for FPL for the purpose of setting FPL's rates in this case?
- Issue: What are the appropriate rates to be charged by FPL for its services to each customer class?

The FRF reserves all rights to raise additional issues in accordance with the Commission's rules and the Order Establishing Procedure in this case.

9. Statement of Ultimate Facts Alleged. It is FPL's burden to prove that it is entitled to any rate relief, and to prove that requirement, FPL must prove that its existing rates and charges are not fair, just, and reasonable. It has been four years since FPL's last general rate proceeding was resolved by the current Stipulation and Settlement, which expires at the end of this year, and it has been more than 20 years since the Commission last decided disputed issues in an FPL general rate case. A substantial number of the FRF's more than 9,000 members are FPL's retail customers, and accordingly, their substantial interests are subject to determination in and will be affected by the Commission's decisions in this docket. As the representative association of its members who are FPL customers, the FRF is entitled to intervene herein and entitled to a hearing as to the fair, just, and reasonable rates to be charged by FPL upon the expiration of the Stipulation and Settlement.

10. <u>Statutes and Rules That Entitle the Florida Retail</u> <u>Federation to Relief</u>. The applicable statutes and rules that entitle the FRF to relief include, but are not limited to, Sections 120.569, 120.57(1), 366.04(1), 366.05(1), 366.06(1)&(2), and 366.07, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.039 and Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code.

11. <u>Statement Explaining How the Facts Alleged By the</u> Florida Retail Federation Entitle the FRF to the Relief

Requested. Rules 25-22.039 and 28-106.205, F.A.C., provide that persons whose substantial interests are subject to determination in, or may be affected through, an agency proceeding are entitled to intervene in such proceeding. A substantial number of the FRF's more than 9,000 members are FPL's retail customers, and accordingly, their substantial interests are subject to determination in and will be affected by the Commission's decisions in this docket. Accordingly, as the representative association of its members who are FPL customers, the FRF is entitled to intervene herein. The above-cited sections of Chapter 366 relate to the Commission's jurisdiction over FPL's rates and the Commission's statutory mandate to ensure that FPL's rates are fair, just, and reasonable. The facts alleged here by the FRF demonstrate (a) that the Commission's decisions herein will have a significant impact on FPL's rates and charges, (b) that a substantial number of the FRF's members will be directly impacted by the Commission's decisions regarding FPL's rates and charges, and (c) accordingly, that these statutes provide the basis for the relief requested by the FRF in its Petition to Intervene.

CONCLUSION

The Florida Retail Federation is an established association that, consistent with its purposes and history of intervening in Commission proceedings to protect its members' interests, seeks

to intervene in this general rate case docket to protect its members' substantial interests in having the Commission set rates for Florida Power & Light Company that are fair, just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory. The interests of the FRF's members that the FRF seeks to protect via its intervention and participation in this case are immediate and of the type to be protected by this proceeding.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, the Florida Retail Federation respectfully requests the Florida Public Service Commission to enter its order GRANTING this Petition to Intervene and requiring that all parties to this proceeding serve copies of all pleadings, notices, and other documents on the FRF's representatives indicated in paragraph 1 above.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of March 2009.

<u>s/Robert Scheffel Wright</u> Robert Scheffel Wright <u>swright@yvlaw.net</u> John T. LaVia, III <u>jlavia@yvlaw.net</u> Young van Assenderp, P.A. 225 South Adams Street, Suite 200 Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (850) 222-7206 Telephone (850) 561-6834 Facsimile

> Attorneys for the Florida Retail Federation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was furnished to the following, by electronic and U.S. Mail, on this <u>23rd</u> day of March, 2009.

Anna Williams/Jean Hartman Lisa Bennett/Martha Brown Florida Public Service Commission Division of Legal Services 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399

R. Wade Litchfield Florida Power & Light Company 215 South Monroe Street, Suite 810 Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1859

John T. Butler Florida Power & Light Company 700 Universe Boulevard Juno Beach, Florida 33408-0420

J.R. Kelly Office of Public Counsel c/o the Florida Legislature 111 West Madison Street, Room 812 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400

Robert Sugarman/Marcus Braswell Sugarman & Susskind, P.A. 100 Miracle Mile, Suite 300 Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Thomas Saporito Saporito Energy Consultants P.O. Box 8413 Jupiter, Florida 33468-8413

Kenneth Wiseman/Mark Sundback Jennifer Spina/Lisa Purdy Andrews Kurth LLP 1350 I Street NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20005

Linda Quick South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association 6363 Taft Street, Suite 200 Hollywood, Florida 33024

s/Robert Scheffel Wright Attorney