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February 24, 2010

-VIA HAND DELIVERY -

Ms. Ann Cole Commission Clerk Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 090505-EI

Dear Ms. Cole:

I am enclosing for filing in the above docket the original and (15) fifteen copies of the prefiled rebuttal testimony of Florida Power & Light Company witnesses W.E. Avera, G. J. Yupp, J. A. Stall and T. J. Keith.

If there are any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact me at 561-304-5639.

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John T. Butler

Counsel for parties of record (w/encl.)

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an FPL Group company

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE Docket No. 090505-EI

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the Florida Power & Light \Company's Rebuttal Testimony of W. Avera, G. J. Yupp, J.A Stall and T.J. Keith has been furnished by hand delivery (\*) or U.S Mail on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010, to the following:

Lisa Bennett, Esq.* Division of Legal Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 LBENNETT@PSC.STATE.FL.US	J. R. Kelly, Esq. Charles J. Rehwinkel, Esq Charles Beck, Esq. Office of Public Counsel c/o The Florida Legislature 111 West Madison Street, Room 812 Tallahassee, Florida 32399 Kelly.jr@leg.state.fl.us rehwinkel.charles@leg.state.fl.us beck.charles@leg.state.fl.us
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John T. Butler

Florida Bar No. 283479

### BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

#### DOCKET NO. 090505-EI FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

**FEBRUARY 24, 2010** 

IN RE: REVIEW OF REPLACEMENT FUEL COSTS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE FEBRUARY 26, 2008
OUTAGE ON FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT'S
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

#### **REBUTTAL TESTIMONY & EXHIBITS OF:**

J. A. STALL G. J. YUPP W. E. AVERA T. J. KEITH

### REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF J.A. STALL

DOCUMENT NO. DATE

1		BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2		FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
3		REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF J.A. STALL
4		DOCKET NO. 090505-EI
5		February 24, 2010
6		
7	Q.	Please state your name and address.
8	A.	My name is J.A. (Art) Stall. My business address is 700 Universe Boulevard,
9		Juno Beach, Florida 33408.
10	Q.	Did you previously submit direct testimony in this proceeding?
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?
13	A.	The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is twofold. First, I address claims made
14		in the direct testimony of Office of Public Counsel witness Dismukes
15		regarding the opportunity for a "moral hazard" if FPL's proposals in this
16		docket are adopted. Specifically, my testimony demonstrates that Dr.
17		Dismukes's assertions regarding a "moral hazard" with respect to the
18		operations of FPL's nuclear power plants are not valid. Second, I address the
19		position implicit in Dr. Dismukes's replacement power cost (RPC) calculation
20		that the full duration of the outages at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 that were
21		initiated by the Flagami Transmission Event are attributable to that event and
22		thus should be used to measure the RPC that FPL refunds to customers. My
23		testimony demonstrates that a conservative measure of the outage time
24		resulting from the Flagami Transmission Event is 48 hours for each unit, and

- that the remaining outage time was the result of unrelated and unavoidable events that do not reflect any inappropriate or imprudent actions on FPL's part.
- Q. What is your response to Dr. Dismukes's assertion by adopting FPL's proposals in this docket, a "moral hazard" will be created and FPL will be incented to perform less efficiently if it can recover its replacement power costs for the unplanned outages resulting from the Flagami Transmission Event?
  - A. With respect to FPL's nuclear operations, this assertion is flat wrong.

In every refueling outage at FPL's nuclear units, our employees are driven to complete outages as safely and as quickly as possible. The planning of schedules and work scope for planned outages are developed beginning at the end of the previous outage. The scope of each outage is carefully defined and refined. Every outage activity is planned down to the minute. Our Nuclear Division has an entire, separate organization that has only one responsibility — the safe and efficient performance of outages. Our employees continuously critique our refueling outage performance, and lessons learned are implemented across our nuclear fleet in future refueling outages to further improve outage performance. FPL uses a series of indicators to measure nuclear plant performance; outage performance is among these key indicators.

Q. Would FPL change its aggressive approach to performing refueling outages safely and quickly if this Commission adopts FPL's system-

1	average	approach	to	determining	replacement	power	costs	for	the
2	Flagami	Transmissi	on	Event?					

No. FPL's approach results from a strong and long-standing culture of striving for excellence in nuclear operations, in order to operate the nuclear units safely and make the benefits of their low fuel costs available to customers as much of the time as possible. The specifics of how the Commission would determine replacement power costs are not a factor in how FPL approaches nuclear operations.

## 9 Q. Would the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) permit refueling 10 outages to be performed in an unsafe manner?

No. I have been dealing directly with the NRC for more than 30 years. FPL's nuclear plants are authorized to operate pursuant to licenses granted by the NRC. FPL operates its nuclear plants pursuant to a complex set of requirements set forth in the NRC operating licenses and in applicable NRC rules, regulations, and orders. The NRC has virtually unlimited authority to take actions necessary to ensure protection of the public health and safety. Thus, even if a licensee were inclined to allow its performance to lag in response to a "moral hazard" (which is certainly not the case for FPL), this intrusive regulatory regime would make it impossible for the licensee to do so without a significant regulatory response from the NRC.

Α.

A.

If the NRC were to have concerns regarding the performance of FPL's nuclear power plants, it has a wide range of compliance tools and enforcement mechanisms to compel compliance with NRC regulatory

1		requirements. Moreover, the NRC can exert significant leverage through
2		licensing activities at other plants in FPL's fleet.
3		
4		In light of the NRC regulatory regime and the business construct around
5		outage performance at FPL and in the nuclear industry, the suggestion that
6		FPL's approach to planned refueling and maintenance outages and
7		unplanned outages would be changed based on a decision by the
8		Commission in this docket is absurd.
9		
10		Dr. Dismukes's assertions regarding a theoretical "moral hazard" fail to
11		recognize these irrefutable facts as applied to nuclear plant operations.
12	Q.	What is the typical time required for restart of a nuclear unit from an
13		unplanned shutdown?
14	A.	Typically, a nuclear unit can be restarted from an unplanned shutdown within
15		48 hours.
16	Q.	What is the appropriate measure of the outage time that each Turkey
17		Point nuclear unit would have been offline following the Flagami

- Point nuclear unit would have been offline following the Flagami
  Transmission Event, in the absence of any complications or emergent
  work?
- An appropriate measure of the outage time that each Turkey Point nuclear unit would have been offline following the Flagami Transmission Event is 48 hours. Assuming no complications or emergent work, a nuclear unit can typically be restarted 48 hours after an unscheduled plant shutdown.

- Q. Was FPL prudent in conducting the outages following the initial 48 hours after both Turkey Point units were shut down as a result of the Flagami Transmission Event?
- Yes. The Unit 3 outage, including the repair of the Rod Position Indicator A. 4 (RPI) system, was prudently planned in advance and was well executed. The 5 RPI work was planned and staged, parts were procured, and work packages 6 were created assuming an unscheduled repair opportunity would arise. 7 These prudent planning activities resulted in a well-conducted repair and plant 8 While the restart of Unit 4 was delayed by a manual reactor 9 shutdown, such activities are not unusual. The outage time beyond the 48 10 hour time frame was not the result of inappropriate or imprudent actions on 11 FPL's part. 12
- 13 Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?
- 14 **A. Yes**.

# REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF G.J. YUPP

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1		BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2		FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
3		REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF GERARD J. YUPP
4		DOCKET NO. 090505-EI
5		February 24, 2010
6		
7	Q.	Please state your name and address.
8	A.	My name is Gerard J. Yupp. My business address is 700 Universe Boulevard,
9		Juno Beach, Florida, 33408.
0	Q.	By whom are you employed and what is your position?
1	A.	I am employed by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) as Senior Director of
.2		Wholesale Operations in the Energy Marketing and Trading Division.
3	Q.	What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?
.4	A.	The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond to the assertion in the direct
.5		testimony of David E. Dismukes, PH.D., on behalf of the Office of Public
.6		Counsel (OPC), that FPL earned an estimated return on its Turkey Point
7		investments of approximately \$4.7 billion over the past 37 years. His testimony
.8		fails to give a comparative figure representing the fuel savings that FPL's
9		customers have received from the operation of the Turkey Point nuclear units.
0:0		My rebuttal testimony shows that since 1990, FPL's customers have received
1		approximately \$7.7 billion in fuel savings (i.e., \$3 billion more than the estimated
2		return asserted by witness Dismukes over just half the time period).
:3		Additionally, the Replacement Power Costs (RPC) calculation that witness
4		Dismukes provides in his testimony includes additional outage hours that were
5		not a result of the Flagami Transmission Event. My rebuttal testimony includes

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- RPC calculations based on an outage time of 48 hours for Turkey Point Units 3 and 4.
- Q. Have you prepared or caused to be prepared under your supervision,
   direction and control an exhibit in this proceeding?
- 5 A. Yes, I am sponsoring the following exhibits:

Α.

- GJY-10: Turkey Point Fuel Savings (1990-2009)
- GJY-11: 48 Hour RPC Calculation vs. System Average Cost
- GJY-12: 48 Hour RPC Calculation vs. Nuclear Fuel Cost
- 9 Q. Please describe how you calculated the Turkey Point nuclear fuel savings
   shown on Exhibit GJY-10.
  - The fuel savings provided by the Turkey Point nuclear units were calculated using a four-step process. First, the annual combined net MWh of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 were multiplied by the actual annual percentage of natural gas and heavy oil that FPL's system consumed during each year. The resulting equivalent MWh for both natural gas and heavy oil were converted to MMBtu by multiplying each by the actual heat rates for that fuel type as reported on FPL's December Schedule A3 for each year. The equivalent MMBtu for both natural gas and heavy oil were then multiplied by the actual fuel price for the respective fuel type as reported on FPL's December Schedule A3 for each year, yielding the respective equivalent annual costs for both natural gas and heavy oil. The sum of the two components of the previous calculation represents the annual natural gas and heavy oil fuel costs that FPL would have incurred to produce the same net MWh produced by Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. Lastly, the actual fuel costs for Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 were subtracted from the equivalent natural gas and heavy oil fuel costs to yield net fuel savings on an

annual basis. Exhibit GJY-10 is comprised of three components: Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 actual fuel costs (by year), equivalent natural gas/heavy oil fuel costs (by year) and cumulative net fuel savings due to Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 generation over the period January 1990 through December 2009.

#### 6 Q. What does Exhibit GJY-10 show?

Α.

Q.

Α.

Exhibit GJY-10 shows that, since 1990, FPL's customers have saved approximately \$7.7 billion in fuel costs as a result of the operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. This is approximately \$3 billion more than the return that OPC witness Dismukes asserts FPL earned over the 37-year period that the Turkey Point units have been in operation. While I have not calculated savings for the period before 1990, customers clearly saved additional billions of dollars over that period as well.

In Exhibits DED-7 and DED-8, witness Dismukes calculates the RPC for the Flagami Transmission Event using the full duration of the outages at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. However, FPL witness Stall's rebuttal testimony states that 48 hours is a conservative estimate of the time that each unit would have been offline following the Flagami Transmission Event in the absence of any complications or emergent work. What would be the RPC under both FPL's system average approach and witness Dismukes' approach of looking specifically to the avoided cost of nuclear units, for an outage duration of 48 hours at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4? FPL's system average approach results in an RPC value of \$3,507,899. Witness Dismukes' approach results in an RPC value of \$6,491,507. These

Witness Dismukes' approach results in an RPC value of \$6,491,507. These calculations are shown in Exhibits GJY-11 and GJY-12 respectively.

- 1 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 2 **A**. **Yes**.

### REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF W.E. AVERA

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FPSC - COMMUSSION CLERK

1		BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2		FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
3		REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM E. AVERA
4		DOCKET NO. 090505-EI
5		February 24, 2010
6		
7	Q.	Please state your name and address.
8	A.	My name is William E. Avera, 3907 Red River, Austin, Texas, 78751.
9	Q.	Are you the same William E. Avera who previously filed direct testimony in
10		this docket?
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?
13	A.	My testimony responds to the economic and regulatory policy arguments raised
14		in the testimony of David E. Dismukes, Ph.D., filed on behalf of the Office of
15		Public Counsel. I will demonstrate that his arguments regarding the proper
16		regulatory treatment of the Replacement Power Cost ("RPC") credit arising from
17		the February 26, 2008 transmission event at Florida Power & Light Company's
18		("FPL" or "the Company") Flagami substation (the "Flagami Transmission Event")
19		are flawed in large part because they consistently ignore the fact that it was a
20		transmission-created outage, not a nuclear-created outage.
21	Q.	Please summarize the conclusions of your rebuttal testimony.
22	A.	Dr. Dismukes concludes his testimony with the statement, "the Company's
23		proposal does not reflect the actual replacement cost of energy associated with
24		the transmission-created outage of February 2008, and simply represents a

transfer of wealth from ratepayers to the Company and its shareholders." (Dismukes Direct, page 39, lines 15-18; emphasis supplied). Despite his recognition that the Flagami Transmission Event had nothing to do with FPL's nuclear operations, his recommended calculation of RPC treats the outage as if it were nuclear-created. Dr. Dismukes makes no claim that FPL was imprudent in taking the Turkey Point units offline in response to the Flagami Transmission Event or in restoring the units to service thereafter. Indeed, the testimony of FPL witness J. A. (Art) Stall confirms that the shutdown of the Turkey Point nuclear units in response to the Flagami Transmission Event was mandated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") operating licenses for those units, and that FPL brought the units back on line as safely and quickly as possible.

In contrast to Dr. Dismukes' proposed calculation, FPL's RPC calculation identifies the cost attributable only to the transmission-created outage by using system average fuel cost and standard generation recovery times. Separating the low fuel cost and extended recovery times unique to nuclear units from the RPC calculation is the fairest way to recognize FPL's responsibility for the transmission-created outage without penalizing FPL for the fact that the outage happened to affect prudently operated nuclear units. Specifically linking the RPC to the transmission-related outage and separating the nuclear-related costs is sound economics and regulatory policy.

The arguments raised by Dr. Dismukes are largely based on his misunderstanding of the logic of FPL's RPC calculation. There is no "transfer of wealth from ratepayers to the Company," as claimed by Dr. Dismukes; rather,

FPL proposes that customers be fully relieved from paying costs that are associated with the transmission-created outage for which FPL has agreed to take responsibility. My rebuttal testimony explains the specific fallacies in Dr. Dismukes' arguments:

- Dr. Dismukes is wrong in his claim that FPL is asking customers to subsidize its replacement costs to encourage new investment in nuclear, solar, wind, and energy efficiency resources. FPL is not asking for any subsidy whatsoever. FPL is instead arguing that tying transmission-created outage costs to specific affected generation would undermine existing incentives for low energy cost alternatives by exposing utilities to disallowances even when they operate low-cost units prudently.
- The RPC calculation proposed by Dr. Dismukes is identical to that which would be made if the nuclear units had been taken off-line, and remained offline for their full unplanned outage duration, solely due to imprudent operation of the plants. He makes no attempt to recognize that Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 were operated prudently and thus substantially overstates the appropriate amount of RPC attributable to the Flagami Transmission Event.
- Dr. Dismukes incorrectly asserts that the Company's proposal is not consistent with sound economic principles and regulatory policy. In fact, separation of costs based on causation is sound economics and good regulatory policy. Failing to distinguish between transmission-related costs and generation-related costs would not be sound economics because it undermines existing incentives in Florida to encourage energy efficiency.

Dr. Dismukes incorrectly claims that FPL's RPC proposal is "entirely inconsistent with the efficiency principles of general equilibrium theory" by not providing marginal cost-based price signals to customers as they make electric-consumption decisions. (Dismukes Direct page 21, lines 13-14). He glosses over the fact that Florida's fuel adjustment mechanism is deliberately structured to provide customers with a levelized annual fuel price that is fundamentally (and appropriately) different than a real-time price signal. In any event, FPL's RPC calculation is most consistent with efficiency principles because it provides for customers to pay the energy costs associated with the electricity they use, reduced by the transmission-related costs for which FPL has accepted responsibility.

because the Company has accepted responsibility for the transmission-created outage and will pay an economic penalty equal to the resulting cost. This sends the appropriate price signal for management to take prudent and cost-effective measures to maintain transmission system reliability for the benefit of customers. In contrast, Dr. Dismukes' proposal is opportunistic regulation that would penalize FPL disproportionately because a prudently operated low fuel cost unit happened to be impacted by a transmission-created outage.

#### 1 Dr. Dismukes' Calculation of RPC Wrongly Includes Generation-Related Outage

- 2 Costs
- 3 Q. How does Dr. Dismukes propose to calculate RPC from the Flagami
- 4 Transmission event?
- 5 A. Dr. Dismukes proposes that the RPC be based on the fuel costs associated with 6 the nuclear units and time they were out of production. As shown in his example 7 (Dismukes Direct page 8 line 12 through page 9, line 4, and Exhibit DED-4), the 8 replacement power calculation focuses only on the lost production from the 9 nuclear plant. This is exactly the same as the calculation that would be done if 10 the nuclear plant had been removed from service due to imprudent plant 11 operations. Dr. Dismukes' failure to recognize this distinction opens the door to 12 opportunistic regulation, where the penalty would be unrepresentatively large 13 when low fuel cost generation happens to be impacted by the transmission-14 created outage but unrepresentatively small if only high fuel cost generation were affected. As will be discussed later in my rebuttal, Dr. Dismukes' approach 15 undermines the Florida policy to encourage generation alternatives that have low 16

18

17

- 19 FPL's Calculation of the RPC Credit is More Consistent with Sound Economic
- 20 <u>Principles and Regulatory Practices than Dr. Dismukes' Recommendation</u>
- 21 Q. Is there any basis for Dr. Dismukes' claim that FPL is proposing "to
- 22 transfer close to \$14 million in consumer wealth to itself and its
- 23 shareholders" (Dismukes Direct, page 21, lines 5-7)?

fuel cost and environmental benefits.

- 24 A. No. FPL's proposed RPC does not result in a transfer of wealth from customers
- 25 to shareholders. On the contrary, the Company has agreed to reimburse

customers for the transmission-related costs that resulted from what Dr. Dismukes agreed was a transmission-created outage. The relevant regulatory policy was cited in my direct testimony, "Under regulatory policy in Florida (as in most states and federal jurisdictions), a utility is allowed to recover prudently incurred fuel and purchased power costs without profit or loss." (Avera Direct, page 6, lines 22-23 continuing to page 7, lines 1-2). The Company did not profit from recovery of fuel costs and it should not suffer a loss beyond that necessary to pay for costs associated with the transmission-created outage. FPL has agreed to reimburse customers for costs from the transmission-created outage of February 26, 2008.

Α.

There is no claim that the Company was imprudent in the operation of its nuclear units. On the contrary, FPL witness J. A. Stall has confirmed that the Turkey Point nuclear units were "prudently and properly taken off-line" following the Flagami event. (Stall Direct, page 1, line 23). He further explains that after the outage, "FPL then took prudent and conservative measures to investigate, inspect, and analyze system components prior to safely restarting both units." (Stall Direct, page 8, lines 6-8). Dr. Dismukes takes no exception to Mr. Stall's testimony regarding the prudent operation of the nuclear units during and after the Flagami Transmission Event.

## 21 Q. Does Dr. Dismukes' methodology track marginal or opportunity costs 22 more closely than FPL's?

No. Marginal cost is an instantaneous concept in real time. Florida's fuel adjustment mechanism is not structured to send customers real-time price signals of system cost. As FPL witness Terry J. Keith explains in his rebuttal

testimony, customers pay bills based on projected, levelized fuel factors that average fuel costs over the course of a calendar year. Moreover, the true-up for differences in actual costs due to an unanticipated event such as the Flagami Transmission Event will be reflected in the levelized fuel factors one or two years after they occur. Thus, regardless of the approach taken to calculating RPC for an outage, the customers would not receive a meaningful price signal from the RPC. I should also point out that Dr. Dismukes uses average nuclear fuel cost just as the Company proposes to use average system fuel cost, so there are no measures of marginal operating costs in either RPC calculation.

Nor is marginal-cost pricing necessarily the desired end result. It is worth noting that the classic regulatory text cited by Dr. Dismukes (Dismukes Direct, page 24, lines 20-25) begins its discussion of marginal cost pricing with a quotation from William Vickery, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic Science, "the principle of marginal cost pricing is not in practice to be followed absolutely and at all events, but is a principle that is to be followed insofar as this is compatible with other desirable objectives." (James C. Bonbright, Albert L. Danielsen, and David R. Kamerschen, *Principles of Public Utility Rates* (1988), page 410). Here, the Commission has reasonably and appropriately decided that customers benefit from having some predictability in the price that they pay for electricity, even when fuel costs are volatile. That decision underlies the use of levelized annual fuel factors, which allow customers to budget for their annual electric bills in the upcoming year better than any system of real-time, marginal-cost pricing.

Finally, the separate identification of transmission-related cost apart from the generation-related costs of an outage, as the Company recommends, is more compatible with marginal cost principles than Dr. Dismukes' approach, which lumps together the transmission-created costs with the generation costs that happened to be impacted in a particular outage. Dr. Dismukes' approach is contrary to Professor Vickery's admonition to consider other "desirable objectives," because it would undermine Florida's policy of encouraging energy-efficient generation, as will be demonstrated in the next section of my rebuttal testimony.

10 Q. Would the Company's approach to the RPC credit create an opportunity
11 for moral hazard as claimed by Dr. Dismukes? (Dismukes Direct, page 25,
12 lines 15-17).

Of course not. Moral hazard arises when an economic agent is insulated from the negative consequences of their actions. As defined by the same classic regulatory policy text cited by Dr. Dismukes, "Moral hazard is the failure of a person to behave in a fully responsible way because there are no penalties for misbehavior." (James C. Bonbright, Albert L. Danielsen, and David R. Kamerschen, *Principles of Public Utility Rates* (1988), page 40, emphasis in the original).

Α.

FPL's pattern of taking responsibility for the impact of its actions on the welfare of its customers stands in stark contrast to the alleged behavior of leading Wall Street firms in the financial melt-down. FPL has agreed to compensate customers for the RPC attributable to the Flagami Transmission Event. As Mr. Stall explains, FPL took all reasonable and prudent actions to safely restore its

nuclear generation to service after the transmission-created outage. (Stall Direct, page 8, lines 1-8). The Company's approach properly calculates a penalty based on the costs attributable to the transmission-created outage rather than focusing on the outage of prudently operated nuclear units. This approach avoids the problem of insufficient penalties raised in the quote from Professors Bonbright, Danielson, and Kamerschen cited by Dr. Dismukes. (Dismukes Direct, page 24, lines 20-25).

Α.

#### 9 Dr. Dismukes' Calculation of RPC Credit Would Undermine The Policy of

#### 10 Encouraging Low Fuel Cost Generation in Florida

- 11 Q. Dr. Dismukes urges the Commission to set the RPC refund at the "true value of the February 2008 outages." (Dismukes Direct, page 26, lines 6-
- **7). Do you agree?** 
  - I completely agree with his statement, but strongly disagree with his application of it. In my opinion, the Company's RPC approach properly reflects the "true value of the February 2008 outages," because it is more indicative of the transmission-related costs. In contrast, Dr. Dismukes' approach conflates the transmission-related costs with generation-related costs. Besides departing from the "true value" of the transmission-created costs, this approach exposes utilities to future disallowances that, to use Dr. Dismukes' words, are "unknown, speculative, and yet to be identified." (Dismukes Direct, page 26, lines 4-5, emphasis in the original). His approach would expose utilities to open-ended disallowances when their prudently operated fuel-efficient generation units are impacted by a transmission-created outage. The greater the energy cost

- efficiency of a particular unit relative to the system average, the greater the unwarranted disallowance penalty under Dr. Dismukes' approach.
- Q. Would Dr. Dismukes' approach be contrary to Florida policy to encourageenergy efficiency?
- Yes. Increasing exposure to uncertain and speculative risk of disallowance for prudently operated low fuel cost generating units undermines the energy efficiency policy that Florida leaders have determined is in the interest of customers, the environment, and the economy. In fact, it would work directly against the consistency in incentives that Dr. Dismukes recognizes is so important (Dismukes Direct, page 34, lines 4-20).
- 11 Q. Is the Company claiming that it would be unfair to credit customers with
  12 the "full cost" of the outage since customers have received all of the
  13 benefits of low nuclear costs, as asserted by Dr. Dismukes? (Dismukes
  14 Direct, page 26, lines 13-19).
- No. As I have stated previously, FPL's RPC calculation does reflect the "full cost" of the *transmission-created* outage that is the subject of this docket.
- What are reasonable and relevant inferences from the episode of nuclear plant disallowances discussed by Dr. Dismukes? (Dismukes Direct, page 30, lines 1-17, Exhibit DED-11).
- There are two relevant inferences. First, when there has been imprudence found in the operation and construction of nuclear plants, there can be a specific disallowance. When there is no finding of imprudence, there has been no disallowance, as in the case of FPL's Turkey Point units. Second, Dr. Dismukes' discussion supports my statement that, "FPL's customers have been well-served by FPL's investment in Turkey Point Units 3 and 4." (Avera Direct, page 12,

lines 9-18). During the decades of the 1980s and 1990s, I participated in many cases before state and federal regulatory agencies as well as in civil courts involving the construction cost of nuclear plants. In that era, the cost and performance of the FPL nuclear units set a performance standard in cost and schedule of construction. I recall in many meetings of experts conducting statistical studies to explain the construction time and cost of a plant, there was discussion of developing some rationale to eliminate the FPL plants from the benchmark sample because they "blew the curve." Few, if any, nuclear units completed by other utilities in the decades of the 1980s and 1990s compared favorably in schedule and cost to the FPL units.

- 11 Q. What then are the proper inferences to be drawn from the 2005 Rand
  12 Journal of Economics article cited by Dr. Dismukes? (Dismukes Direct,
  13 page 31, lines 12- 27; page 32, lines 1-16).
  - A. I take away the exact opposite conclusion from Dr. Dismukes. In rejecting the hypothesis that disallowances were "opportunistic," the article found that "regulators appear to have been largely driven by the desire to punish specific poorly managed utilities." (Thomas P. Lyon and John W. Mayo, "Regulatory opportunism and investment behavior: evidence from the U.S. electric utility industry," *RAND Journal of Economics* (Autumn 2005), page 628). In other words, nuclear investment was disallowed when regulators found imprudence, not "opportunistically" just to lower customers' bills. In contrast, Dr. Dismukes is recommending in this docket what amounts to a \$13,050,021 add-on disallowance through the RPC credit, where there has been no claim of bad management or imprudence related to nuclear operations. This would fall

1	squarely with	in the	definition	of	"opportunistic"	regulation	of	the	type	that	the
2	article felt sh	ould be	e avoided.								

Q. Do the "other interesting questions" tested in the article discussed by Dr.

Dismukes (Dismukes Direct, page 32, lines 4-16) have any other relevance for this case?

No. The single question discussed by Dr. Dismukes is whether the Duff & Phelps regulatory climate rating impacts capital investment by utilities. The authors stated, "we expect investment to be negatively correlated with Duff & Phelps rating." (Lyon & Mayo, *Id.* page 634). Their finding was a positive correlation that was not statistically significant, so as Dr. Dismukes grants, "it is impossible to discern any relationship between investor ratings of regulatory commissions and the investment practices of their utilities." (Dismukes Direct, page 32, lines 14-16).

Α.

But Dr. Dismukes' statement should not be taken to suggest that investor rankings of regulatory commissions are irrelevant. For example, while the article established no relationship between levels of investment and regulatory rankings, it did not demonstrate that the risks associated with utilities operating in jurisdictions with low regulatory ratings are not higher than for more supportive commissions. Since required returns are a function of risk, customers in states with less supportive regulatory policies could be expected to pay a penalty in the form of higher capital costs.

Also, the Lyon & Mayo study involved Duff & Phelps rankings that were only published from 1972 to 1991. (Lyon & Mayo, Id., page 633). Because there was no statistical significant relationship in this study relating to plant investment by utilities does not suggest that investors' evaluation of regulatory agencies does not impact the cost and availability of capital, then or now.

- 6 Q. Is there any finding in the *RAND Journal of Economics* article that runs
  7 counter to Dr. Dismukes' position in this case?
  - A. Yes. A primary finding of the article, which Dr. Dismukes chose not to discuss, runs contrary to his opinions in this case. Lyons & Mayo found, "our results with controls for nuclear construction consistently indicate that a firm that is disallowed subsequently reduces its investment propensity significantly." (Lyon & Mayo, Id. page 461). This suggests that nuclear disallowances did have the consequence of reducing investment by the utilities that suffered the disallowance. Granted, Florida was not one of the states where a disallowance occurred in this study and the focus was on capital cost disallowances rather than operating costs. But it is entirely rational for utilities to respond to economic risks and penalties if nuclear and other energy-efficient generation sources are operated prudently, but still remain subject to disallowances from an unrelated transmission-created outage.
- 20 Q. Is Dr. Dismukes correct to assert that there is "no relationship between the proposed RPC credit in this proceeding and nuclear plant development cost recovery" (Dismukes Direct, page 33, lines 12-24)?
- 23 A. No. There are two important links between this case and Florida's nuclear development cost recovery policy. First, that policy confirms the importance to Florida of encouraging the development of nuclear power in the state. As stated

by Dr. Dismukes, "The Commission, and the Florida Legislature, have clearly defined a strong and supportive policy for nuclear power plant development." (Dismukes Direct, page 33, lines 19-21). Second, the effectiveness of this policy will be undermined by the potential for opportunistic disallowances due to transmission-created outages of the kind proposed by Dr. Dismukes, when there has been no finding of imprudence in nuclear operations. The *RAND Journal* discussed above confirmed that disallowances can have a chilling effect on future investment in nuclear generation.

Do you agree with Dr. Dismukes that "consistency is more important to nuclear and renewable power cost recovery than setting policy in a one-time opportunistic fashion (Dismukes Direct, page 34, lines 4-7)?

Completely. A consistent policy is far superior to opportunistic treatment. That is why the Company's RPC approach of isolating transmission-related costs is more effective regulatory policy than Dr. Dismukes' approach, which would penalize a utility opportunistically if transmission events cause a prudently operated nuclear unit to come offline.

Q.

A.

Dr. Dismukes is completely off base in suggesting that the company is requesting "shareholder subsidies." (Dismukes Direct, page 34, line 10). FPL is requesting no subsidy in this case. Rather, it is proposing a method for calculating transmission-related costs for a transmission-created outage that can be applied consistently through time, in a manner that is fair to the Company and its customers and avoids undermining incentives now in place for what Dr. Dismukes recognizes as "the challenge in the development of high capital cost

- power generation assets such as nuclear, solar, and offshore wind." (Dismukes
  Direct, page 34, lines 8-9).
- Q. Dr. Dismukes claims that in competitive markets replacement power for nuclear plant outages would "typically be borne by the nuclear plant operator and its shareholders," citing the recent charge reported by FPL Group for the Seabrook nuclear plant. (Dismukes Direct, page 35, lines 11-17). Does this example support his RPC calculation?

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No. The Seabrook outage was the result of operating problems at the plant and was not a transmission-created outage like the Flagami Transmission Event. (FPL Group Form 8K, Exhibit 99 (filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, December 23, 2009) page 1). Also, a nuclear plant that sells its power into a competitive market does not have its profits limited by regulatory authorities and can benefit handsomely from the spread between its generating costs and market prices for power when the plant is operating. In this way, high profits from when the plant operates can make up for replacement power when the plant fails to operate. In contrast, the Company's profit on its investment in Turkey Point nuclear units is limited to a fair rate of return and recovered in base rates, while it recovers fuel cost without profit. I would also note that Dr. Dismukes recognizes that the obligation to pay for replacement power is dependent on the contracts and other arrangements underlying power sales agreements. (Dismukes Direct, page 35, footnote 31). In my experience with merchant plant contracts, there are usually specific limitations on the obligations of plant owners and operators to pay replacement power costs, and there is often a test of whether the plant operator could have reasonably prevented the outage, a benchmark not unlike prudency standard for regulated plants.

1 Q. Dr. Dismukes observes that there are a number of issues that may impede
2 the development of renewable resources such as solar and wind energy.
3 (Dismukes Direct, page 35, lines 19-21; page 36, lines 1-24; page 37, lines
4 1-7). Is this a reasonable justification for his opportunistic calculation of

5

RPC?

- Certainly not. The fact that there are many economic and political challenges 6 A. 7 facing renewable development in Florida does not justify ignoring the effect that Dr. Dismukes' proposed RPC calculation would have in undermining existing 8 9 incentives and making new incentives less effective. Dr. Dismukes refers to the relatively small amount at issue in the case compared to the massive investment 10 11 required for nuclear plants and renewable options. However, there is no dollar 12 limit to disallowances under his RPC approach. This open-ended and uncertain 13 exposure would be a real disincentive to nuclear and renewable generation and 14 would undermine present and future state and federal incentives.
- Does adopting the Company's transmission-related cost approach to RPC in this case open the door to future claims for renewable energy subsidies, as claimed by Dr. Dismukes (Dismukes Direct, page 38, lines 1-19)?
- 19 A. No. The Company is not proposing that the RPC credit or any other aspect of
  20 the fuel adjustment clause be used to subsidize nuclear or renewable energy.
  21 Rather, FPL's approach is true to the sound economic principle and accepted
  22 regulatory policy underlying cost-based rates.

- 1 Q. Does the Company's approach lessen the consequences of supporting
- 2 reliability or undermine distributed energy resources, as claimed by Dr.
- 3 Dismukes (Dismukes Direct, page 38, lines 21-25; page 39, lines 1-9)?
- 4 A. No. Under the Company's proposal, the price of transmission reliability is set
- 5 consistent with its cost so that economically rational decisions can be made
- 6 regarding investments in reliability and distributed energy resources. A stable
- 7 and consistent price is more conducive to rational economic choices over
- 8 reliability investments than the opportunistic and fluctuating penalty that would
- 9 result from Dr. Dismukes' approach.
- 10 Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?
- 11 A. Yes.

### REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF T.J. KEITH

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1		BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2		FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
3		REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF TERRY J. KEITH
4		DOCKET NO. 090505-EI
5		February 24, 2010
6		
7	Q.	Please state your name and address.
8	A.	My name is Terry J. Keith and my business address is 9250 West Flagler Street,
9		Miami, Florida 33174.
10	Q.	By whom are you employed and what is your position?
11	A.	I am employed by Florida Power & Light Company ("FPL" or "the Company") as
12		Director, Cost Recovery Clauses in the Regulatory Affairs Department.
13	Q.	Have you previously testified in this docket?
14	A.	Yes, I have.
15	Q.	What is the purpose of your testimony?
16	A.	The purpose of my testimony is to respond to the testimony of David E.
17		Dismukes, who is appearing on behalf of the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC")
18		related to FPL's proposed replacement power cost ("RPC") credit associated with
19		the Flagami Transmission Event on February 26, 2008.
20	Q.	Please summarize your testimony.
21	A.	My rebuttal testimony responds to three points in Dr. Dismukes' testimony.
22		First, he asserts that the RPC for the Flagami Transmission Event should be
23		calculated on the basis of 100% of the time that Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 were
24		offline following that event, without presenting any evidence that FPL was
25		imprudent with respect to the events that extended the outages of those units

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beyond the time required for a normal restart following an unplanned shutdown. My testimony shows that the Commission's practice has been to limit disallowances of replacement power costs to the portion of outages that are directly associated with imprudent actions. While FPL does not admit imprudence or any other improper action or failure with respect to the Flagami Transmission Event, FPL has agreed to bear the replacement power cost attributable to that Event. See Proposed Resolution of Issues Dated December 4, 2009 and approved by the Commission January 26, 2010.

Second, Dr. Dismukes asserts that FPL's RPC proposal would interfere with price signals that customers would otherwise receive concerning the cost of the fuel for the electricity that they are consuming. My testimony demonstrates that Florida's Fuel Adjustment Clause (FAC) process does not lend itself to real-time price signals for customers, because the FAC factors paid by customers are levelized over the calendar year and are based on projections and prior period cost adjustments.

Finally, I explain why Dr. Dismukes' statement that FPL's customers pay a considerable amount for nuclear power plants in base rates is misleading and ignores both the enormous fuel savings that FPL's customers receive from the operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, as well as the fact that FPL's total bill is among the lowest of peer utilities.

**Q**.

Dr. Dismukes recommends that FPL refund \$15,974,055 to customers, which reflects the full period of time that Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 were

## offline following the Flagami Transmission Event. Do you believe that his recommendation is consistent with Commission practice?

Α.

No. The Commission has limited disallowances of RPC to the portion of outages that are directly associated with imprudent actions. For example, On March 29, 1989, FPL agreed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") to take Turkey Point Unit 3 offline because FPL's nuclear unit operators failed to pass NRC licensing requalification exams. In Order No. 23232, issued on July 20, 1990, the Commission required the refund of RPC for Turkey Point Unit 3 during the period March 29 through April 1, 1989, stating that this outage time was the responsibility of FPL's management because operator training is directly a management function. The three days for which FPL was ordered to refund RPC were part of a much longer series of outages extending throughout the Spring of 1989, but the Commission only disallowed RPC associated specifically with the requalification exam. Order No. 23232 states:

"However, the outage concurred with a previously scheduled outage for equipment safeguards testing that was set to begin on April 1, 1989. During this planned outage, FPL identified and performed essential repairs. Thus, even though management was responsible for the outage, replacement fuel costs were prudently incurred commencing April 1. Therefore, only replacement fuel costs for the period March 29 through April 1, 1989, should be disallowed.

Applying that same principle here, FPL would not be responsible to refund RPC for the full period of the Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 outages following the Flagami Transmission Event, even under Dr. Dismukes' theory on how RPC should be calculated. Rather, as explained in the rebuttal testimony of FPL witness Stall,

Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 would be able to return to service in 48 hours following an unplanned shutdown, assuming no complications or emergent work. Thus, 48 hours is the appropriate measure of outage time that each Turkey Point nuclear unit would have been offline following the Flagami Transmission Event and under Order No. 23232 that is the maximum duration over which RPC could be calculated.

Α.

- Q. Dr. Dismukes's testimony on Page 23, Lines 15 23, implies that the Fuel Adjustment Clause is structured such that customers receive real-time price signals that drive their consumption decisions. Do you agree with this assertion?
  - No. Florida IOUs calculate and set their fuel factors annually, on a levelized basis that does not vary throughout the calendar year. This process provides customers the opportunity to plan with greater certainty their level of expenditures for electricity during a given 12 month period. Fuel factors are calculated based on prior period true-up adjustments, which span portions of two calendar years, and on approximately 18 months of cost projections. These projected costs must be approved by the Commission before cost recovery commences. This process provides customers with more predictable and stable electricity rates throughout the year, but as a result customers are not charged (and hence cannot meaningfully respond to) instantaneous fuel price changes due to the levelization and time lag built into the process. The current FAC process strikes the right balance between customer and shareholder interest without penalizing either.
- Q. Is Dr. Dismukes' testimony criticizing the use of adjustment clauses (Dismukes testimony p. 28, line 14, through p. 29, line 31) relevant to calculation of the RPC credit in this docket?

No. This testimony is not relevant to this proceeding and it is incorrect as a matter of policy. As this Commission has recognized on a number of occasions, fuel adjustment clauses (FAC) benefit customers as well as the Company. This is because the FAC enables the Company to recoup increased costs quickly, but it also enables a refund of fuel savings as quickly as possible. Mr. Dismukes' testimony concerning the deficiencies associated with the FAC ignores the benefits of such clauses. Even the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) article quoted by Mr. Dismukes on page 29 of his testimony acknowledges the benefits of clauses in reducing regulatory lag and more promptly reflecting upward or downward adjustments in customer bills for costs that are: "(1) largely outside the control of a utility, (2) unpredictable and volatile, and (3) substantial and recurring." (page 8, "How Should Regulators View Cost Trackers?", Ken Costello, National Regulatory Research Institute).

A.

Indeed, Mr. Costello's primary concern in the NRRI article cited by Mr. Dismukes is not with fuel cost adjustment mechanisms, but with the use of adjustment mechanisms for costs that are of a smaller magnitude and more predictable nature than fuel costs. Mr. Costello acknowledges the benefits of cost adjustment mechanisms for costs, such as fuel costs, that absent a prompt opportunity for review and recovery outside of a base rate proceeding, would have serious earnings effects on a utility given the magnitude of a cost increase relative to the utility's operating revenues. Considering that the utility's fuel costs for 2009 were more than 6 times FPL's net income for the year, it is obvious that large swings in fuel costs on the scale that we have seen in recent years could significantly affect FPL's earnings absent the opportunity for prompt review and

recovery without the time and expense that a base rate proceeding would involve.

- Q. Dr. Dismukes states on page 27, Lines 17 and 18, that "FPL's customers pay (on average, total customers) a considerable amount in base rates relative to other peer utilities." Is this a relevant comparison for evaluating the benefits that FPL's nuclear units provide to customers?
- A. No. To start with, it ignores the enormous fuel savings that FPL witness Yupp's rebuttal testimony demonstrates customers receive from the operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. To get a true measure of what customers pay, one should look at the customers' total bill. Based on information from the Florida Municipal Electric Association and JEA, FPL's residential monthly 1,000 kWh bill for January 2010 was the lowest of all the Florida investor-owned utilities ("IOUs"), municipal utilities, and electric cooperatives, and was 28% below the average of Florida utilities. Based on data from the Edison Electric Institute, FPL's residential monthly 1,000 kWh bill for July 2009 was 10% lower than the IOU national average. FPL's residential 1,000 kWh bill for February 2010 is again the lowest among the Florida IOUs.
- 18 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 19 A. Yes, it does.

Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 Fuel Cost vs. Natural Gas/Fuel Oil Cost Equivalent January 1990 through December 2009

Docket No. 090505-EI
Turkey Point Fuel Savings (1990-2009)
Exhibit GJY-10, Page 1 of 1

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FPL's peaking units ran for approximately 8 hours and 10 minutes after the Flagami Transmission Event. The \$1,992,270 calculated in Exhibit GJY-6 represents the replacement fuel costs for the first 8 hours and 10 minutes. In order to calculate replacement fuel costs for a total outage duration of 48 hours, replacement fuel costs must be calculated for an additional 39 hours and 50 minutes. FPL's Blended Marginal Cost for February 2008 (shown in Exhibit GJY-7) is multiplied times the equivalent MWh of lost nuclear production for 39 hours and 50 minutes:

#### **Equivalent MWh of Lost Nuclear Production:**

1,434 MW \* 39 hours and 50 minutes = 57,121 MWh

#### Fuel Cost for 39 Hours and 50 Minutes:

57,121 MWh \* \$77.55/MWh = \$4,429,734

The total fuel cost for the 48-hour period is the sum of the peaking units cost plus the cost of the fuel during the additional 39 hours and 50 minutes.

#### **Total Replacement Fuel Cost:**

\$1,992,270 + \$4,429,734 = \$6,422,004

Using FPL's system average cost approach, the net replacement costs are as follows:

#### Total MWh for 48 Hours:

1,434 MW \* 48 Hours (Total Outage Duration) = 68,832 MWh

#### Fuel Costs using System Average Approach:

68,832 MWh \*\$51.32/MWh (Adjusted System Average Cost, Exhibit GJY-7) = \$3,532,458

#### **Net Replacement Power Costs:**

\$6,422,004 - \$3,532,458 = \$2,889,546

#### **Total RPC:**

Net Replacement Power Costs + Net Purchased Power Costs (Exhibit GJY-9) \$2,889,546 + 618,353 = \$3,507,899

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FPL's peaking units ran for approximately 8 hours and 10 minutes after the Flagami Transmission Event. The \$1,992,270 calculated in Exhibit GJY-6 represents the replacement fuel costs for the first 8 hours and 10 minutes. In order to calculate replacement fuel costs for a total outage duration of 48 hours, replacement fuel costs must be calculated for an additional 39 hours and 50 minutes. FPL's Blended Marginal Cost for February 2008 (shown in Exhibit GJY-7) is multiplied times the equivalent MWh of lost nuclear production for 39 hours and 50 minutes:

#### **Equivalent MWh of Lost Nuclear Production:**

1,434 MW \* 39 hours and 50 minutes = 57,121 MWh

#### Fuel Cost for 39 Hours and 50 Minutes:

57,121 MWh \* \$77.55/MWh = \$4,429,734

The total fuel cost for the 48-hour period is the sum of the peaking units cost plus the cost of the fuel during the additional 39 hours and 50 minutes.

#### **Total Replacement Fuel Cost:**

\$1,992,270 + \$4,429,734 = \$6,422,004

Using the avoided cost of nuclear units, the net replacement costs are as follows:

#### Total MWh for 48 Hours:

Unit 3: 717 MW • 48 Hours = 34,416 MWh Unit 4: 717 MW \* 48 Hours = 34,416 MWh

#### **Nuclear Fuel Costs:**

34,416 MWh \* \$4.98/MWh (Turkey Point Unit 3 Cost – Schedule A4) = \$171,392 34,416 MWh • \$4.35/MWh (Turkey Point Unit 4 Cost – Schedule A4) = \$149,710 Total Nuclear Fuel Costs = \$171,392 + \$149,710 = \$321,102

#### **Net Replacement Power Costs:**

\$6,422,004 - \$321,102 = \$6,100,902

#### Total RPC:

Net Replacement Power Costs + Net Purchased Power Costs \$6,100,902 + \$390,605 = \$6,491,507

Note: Under this methodology, net purchased power costs should be calculated versus FPL's marginal units at the time of the event, not versus nuclear fuel costs. At the time of the event, FPL's system marginal cost was approximately \$95/MWh. If Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 remained on-line, FPL's marginal units would have been producing power at approximately \$95/MWh to meet load. Therefore, the net impact of FPL's off-system purchases should be calculated as follows:

Total Purchased Power Costs – (Total MWh Purchased \* System Marginal Cost) \$885,935 – (5,214 MWh \* \$95/MWh) = \$390,605

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