

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 120038-EI

PETITION TO MODIFY VEGETATION  
MANAGEMENT PLAN BY TAMPA ELECTRIC  
COMPANY.

PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA  
ITEM NO. 6

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN RONALD A. BRISÉ  
COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR  
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM  
COMMISSIONER EDUARDO E. BALBIS  
COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN

DATE: Tuesday, May 22, 2012

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center  
Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: JANE FAUROT, RPR  
Official FPSC Reporter  
(850) 413-6732

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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2           **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** Moving on to Item Number 6.

3           **MR. DOWDS:** Good morning, Commissioners.

4 Dave Dowds with ECR staff.

5           Item 6 pertains to TECO's request to make a  
6 modification to its vegetation management plan.  
7 Specifically, what they propose to do is to modify their  
8 trim cycle for distribution circuits from a three-year  
9 cycle to a four-year cycle. Staff recommends approval.

10           I note that various representatives of TECO  
11 are here, and I believe they are primarily to answer any  
12 questions the Commissioners might have.

13           **MR. BEASLEY:** Mr. Chairman, Jim Beasley for  
14 Tampa Electric Company. With me, to my left, is Mr.  
15 David Sweat, Director of Engineering and Operations  
16 Services of Tampa Electric Company. To his left, Mr.  
17 Mike Derrick, Mickey Derrick with Davies Consulting,  
18 Incorporated, and to his left, Howard Bryant, Manager  
19 of Rates for Tampa Electric.

20           We are in support of the staff's  
21 recommendation and urge that you approve it, and we  
22 would be happy to address any questions you may have.

23           **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** Thank you very much.

24           Commissioner Balbis.

25           **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman.

2 I have a few questions for TECO. And, first  
3 of all, I want to commend you for looking at what the  
4 most efficient way to maintain your system to provide  
5 reliable service to your customers, and I think that a  
6 continuous effort to do that should be recognized.

7 I have some questions primarily focusing on  
8 the 2010 service reliability report that summarizes the  
9 different benchmarks and measures that each utility  
10 takes to address reliability. And I don't know if you  
11 have that in front of you, but more of a general  
12 question. It does appear that some of the metrics, that  
13 even with these measures, vegetation removal, et cetera,  
14 some of the metrics are getting longer or are getting  
15 worse.

16 For example, the CAIDI metrics appears to have  
17 gotten worse over the past four years along with the  
18 average duration of outages seems to have increased a  
19 little bit, and the number of events per customer  
20 dealing with vegetation issues has increased a little  
21 bit. And I know this is an attempt -- these benchmarks  
22 are an attempt to kind of track your efforts, but is  
23 there a way you can explain that, and how will this  
24 change affect those numbers?

25 **MR. SWEAT:** Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

1 This is David Sweat. I'll answer that question.

2 In particular, are you talking about something  
3 that -- from an older report, is that what you said?

4 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Yes, the 2010 report.  
5 I do not have the latest data, and I don't know if the  
6 staff does, or at least they didn't provide it to me.

7 **MR. SWEAT:** I do have some of the information  
8 from the older SAIDI numbers. And one of the things  
9 that we had shown on that particular graph would be  
10 that the highest SAIDI values tended to be where we  
11 have the most rural locations. In particular, Plant  
12 City and Dade City tended to be some of our more rural  
13 areas, longer circuits, a little bit longer time to  
14 maybe restore.

15 But as you mentioned, we have had some  
16 reduction over time, and we do believe that some of our  
17 efforts to do the tree-trimming has had an impact on  
18 that. Once again, SAIDI is not just for tree-trimming.  
19 It could be due to weather, some of the other -- animals  
20 and, you know, a car hit pole, those type of things, as  
21 well.

22 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** And I agree, I think  
23 that the data shows that the SAIDI numbers have  
24 improved. But as far as the CAIDI numbers, which is  
25 most the customer average index that seems to have

1 gotten longer. And I know there's a lot of things  
2 involved with it, but I'm just curious as to why those  
3 numbers have changed.

4 **MR. SWEAT:** Well, with the CAIDI number  
5 itself, as we were looking earlier, over time -- let me  
6 just for a moment, if I can get my notes here.

7 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Sure.

8 **MR. SWEAT:** It appears that the numbers have  
9 come down -- if I'm looking at the correct numbers from  
10 2007, we did have some, a 2008 year that had gone down,  
11 but the 2010 and '11 numbers do appear to be reducing  
12 somewhat.

13 The trend itself is going to be, I guess,  
14 mostly due to the fact that some of the circuits may  
15 have a better or worse reliability on that particular  
16 circuit. So it depends on which circuits we're trimming  
17 as to what the numbers would be. Over time it appears  
18 that this number here was actually decreasing, unless  
19 I'm looking at the wrong information.

20 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Well, again, all I have  
21 is 2006 and 2010, and it appears it has gotten -- the  
22 numbers have gotten larger, indicating a longer outage  
23 or average interruption duration. But then I guess --  
24 I think we're working off different data.

25 **MR. SWEAT:** I'm sorry, I was looking at

1 another line there. You're correct, in 2010 the number  
2 was higher. In 2011 it had started to decrease a  
3 little bit there.

4 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Okay. And, again, I  
5 guess the real question is with this change in the  
6 maintenance schedule, what effect, if any, and I know  
7 in the recommendation it does have the modeling  
8 results, but do you feel that customers will not be  
9 negatively impacted?

10 **MR. SWEAT:** Right. As far as the SAIDI  
11 number is concerned, when we talked about SAIDI, we  
12 said 2.67 minutes would be the impact over time on the  
13 average annual, which is a very small percentage of the  
14 actual minutes over the course of a year,  
15 .0005 percent. We have no reason to believe that the  
16 CAIDI would have much more of a change than that. It  
17 probably would fall very much in line with SAIDI, a  
18 very small impact.

19 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Okay. And then I guess  
20 the final question I have for staff, on Page 6 of your  
21 recommendation you state that the previous Commission  
22 order that mentions that any proposed changes should  
23 have no impact on reliability, and I just want to  
24 confirm that the 2.67 minutes you feel is not  
25 significant enough to warrant that additional

1 expenditure, is that correct?

2 **MR. DOWDS:** That's correct, sir. We think  
3 it's de minimis.

4 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Okay. Thank you.  
5 That's all I had.

6 And with that, I move staff's recommendation  
7 on this item.

8 **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. It has been  
9 moved and seconded. All in favor say aye.

10 (Vote taken.)

11 **CHAIRMAN BRISÉ:** All right. It has been  
12 approved. Thank you very much.

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1 STATE OF FLORIDA )

2 : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

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5 I, JANE FAUROT, RPR, Chief, Hearing Reporter  
6 Services Section, FPSC Division of Commission Clerk, do  
7 hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard  
8 at the time and place herein stated.

9 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I  
10 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that  
11 the same has been transcribed under my direct  
12 supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a  
13 true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,  
15 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties,  
16 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
17 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
18 financially interested in the action.

19 DATED THIS 24th day of May, 2012.

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JANE FAUROT, RPR  
Official FPSC Hearings Reporter  
(850) 413-6732