

State of Florida



# Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

**-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-**

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COMMISSION  
CLERK

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**DATE:** June 4, 2015

**TO:** Office of Commission Clerk (Stauffer)

**FROM:** Division of Economics (Ollila) *A.O. EJD*  
Office of the General Counsel (Brownless) *mm JSC*

**RE:** Docket No. 150103-EI – Petition for approval of revised underground residential distribution tariff, by Tampa Electric Company.

**AGENDA:** 06/18/15 – Regular Agenda – Tariff Filing – Interested Persons May Participate

**COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED:** All Commissioners

**PREHEARING OFFICER:** Administrative

**CRITICAL DATES:** 60-Day Suspension Date Waived by the Company Until the 6/18/15 Agenda Conference

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** None

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## Case Background

On April 1, 2015, Tampa Electric Company (TECO) filed a petition for approval of its revised underground residential distribution (URD) tariff. These tariffs reflect the additional costs the customer must pay for initial service above the standard overhead service. The proposed tariffs are shown in Attachment 1. TECO's current charges were approved in Order No. PSC-12-0499-TRF-EI (2012 Order).<sup>1</sup> Staff issued one data request to TECO. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 366.03, 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, Florida Statutes.

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<sup>1</sup> Order No. PSC-12-0499-TRF-EI, issued September 27, 2012, in Docket No. 120073-EI, In re: Petition for approval of revised tariffs for underground residential distribution and contribution-in-aid-construction, by Tampa Electric Company.

**Discussion of Issues**

**Issue 1:** Should the Commission approve TECO's proposed URD tariffs and associated charges?

**Recommendation:** Yes, the Commission should approve TECO's proposed URD tariffs and associated charges effective June 18, 2015. (Ollila)

**Staff Analysis:** Rule 25-6.078, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), defines investor-owned utilities' (IOU) responsibilities for filing updated URD tariffs. IOUs are required to file supporting data and analyses for URD tariffs at least once every three years. The URD tariffs provide standard charges for underground service in new residential subdivisions and represent the additional costs the utility incurs to provide underground service in place of standard overhead service. The cost of standard overhead construction is recovered through base rates from all ratepayers. In lieu of overhead construction, customers have the option of requesting underground facilities. Costs for underground construction have historically been higher than for standard overhead construction and the additional cost is paid by the customers as contribution-in-aid-of construction (CIAC). Typically the URD customer is the developer of the subdivision.

TECO's URD charges are based on two standard model subdivisions: (1) a 210-lot low density (LD) subdivision, and (2) a 176-lot high density (HD) subdivision. While actual construction may differ, the model subdivisions are designed to reflect average subdivisions. The design of the HD subdivision is the same as in 2012; however, TECO stated that it made modifications to the LD subdivision design to increase reliability. Specifically, TECO added transformers and adjusted the length of primary cable and service laterals.

Table 1-1 displays the currently approved and proposed URD differentials for the LD and HD subdivisions. The charges shown are per-lot charges.

**Table 1-1  
Comparison of URD Differential Per Lot**

	<b>Current Differential Per Lot</b>	<b>Proposed Differential Per Lot</b>
210-Lot Low Density	\$440.31	\$373.86 <sup>2</sup>
176-Lot High Density	\$103.95	\$47.64

As shown in the table above, the differentials per-lot have decreased for both subdivisions. The calculation of TECO's proposed URD charges are based on 1) updated labor and material costs, and 2) calculation of operational costs.

**Updated labor and material costs.** The installation costs of both underground and overhead facilities include the material and labor costs to provide primary, secondary, and service distribution lines as well as transformers. The costs of poles are specific to overhead service while the costs of trenching and backfilling are specific to underground service. The

<sup>2</sup> \$374 is calculated as follows: \$858 (Table 1-2) + (\$484) (Table 1-3) = \$374.

current URD charges are based on 2012 labor and material costs, and the proposed charges are based on 2015 costs. Table 1-2 compares the per-lot 2012 and 2015 underground and overhead labor and material costs for the two subdivisions.

**Table 1-2  
 Labor and Material Costs per Lot\***

	2012 Costs	2015 Costs	Difference
<b>Low Density</b>			
Underground labor/material costs	\$2,049	\$2,127	\$78
Overhead labor/material costs	\$1,205	\$1,269	\$64
Per lot differential	\$844	\$858	\$14
<b>High Density</b>			
Underground labor/material costs	\$1,619	\$1,638	\$19
Overhead labor/material costs	\$947	\$979	\$32
Per lot differential	\$672	\$659	-\$12

\*Numbers are rounded to whole dollars.

As indicated in the table above, the changes in total labor and material cost differentials are minimal for the two model subdivisions. Documentation provided by TECO indicates some labor and material costs such as for secondary lines and transformers increased, while other costs decreased, resulting in a minimal net-effect.

Calculation of operational costs. Rule 25-6.078(4), F.A.C., provides that the differences in Net Present Value (NPV) of operational costs between overhead and underground systems, including average historical storm restoration costs over the life of the facilities, be included in the URD charge. Operational costs include operations and maintenance (O&M) costs and capital costs. The inclusion of the operational costs are intended to capture longer term costs and benefits of undergrounding. TECO used its actual historical O&M and capital expenses for the period 2012 through 2014 to calculate the operational difference for overhead and underground facilities.

Table 1-3 below compares the 2012 and 2015 NPV calculations of operational cost differentials between overhead and underground systems on a per-lot basis.

**Table 1-3**  
**NPV of Operational Costs Differential per Lot\***

	<b>2012 Calculation</b>	<b>2015 Calculation</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Low Density</b>			
Underground	\$988	\$906	-\$82
Overhead	\$1,392	\$1,390	-\$2
Per lot differential	-\$404	-\$484	-\$80
<b>High Density</b>			
Underground	\$483	\$432	-\$52
Overhead	\$1,051	\$1,044	-\$7
Per lot differential	-\$568	-\$612	-\$44

\*Numbers are rounded to whole dollars.

TECO used the same methodology as approved in Order No. PSC-09-0784-TRF-EI for calculating the NPV of operational costs.<sup>3</sup> TECO's NPV calculation used a 35-year life of the facilities and a 7.29 percent discount rate. Staff notes that operational costs may vary among IOUs as result of differences in size of service territory, miles of coastline, regions subject to extreme winds, age of the distribution system, or construction standards.

Conclusion. In summary, for LD subdivision lots, the proposed labor and material differential is a \$14 increase from current costs. The operational cost savings not only offset the \$14 increase, but serve to reduce the proposed differential an additional \$66 from the current differential. For the HD subdivision lots, the proposed labor and material differential is a \$12 decrease from the current differential. The operational cost savings add an additional decrease of \$44 from the current differential, for a total decrease of \$56 from the current differential.

Staff has reviewed TECO's proposed URD charges and associated tariffs, its accompanying work papers, and data request response. Staff believes the proposed URD tariffs and associated charges are reasonable and recommends approval, effective June 18, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Order No. PSC-09-0784-TRF-EI, issued November 19, 2009, in Docket No. 090164-EI, In re: Petition for approval of revised tariff sheets for underground residential distribution service, by Tampa Electric Company.

**Issue 2:** Should this docket be closed?

no. ~~no~~ 6.4.15

**Recommendation:** ~~Yes~~. If a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the order, this tariff should remain in effect, with any revenues held subject to refund, pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order. (Brownless)

**Staff Analysis:** If a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of the order, this tariff should remain in effect, with any revenues held subject to refund, pending resolution of the protest. If no timely protest is filed, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order.



EIGHTH REVISED SHEET NO. 5.510  
CANCELS SEVENTH REVISED SHEET NO. 5.510

Continued from Sheet No. 5.500

**3.6.5.1 Single Meter Commercial Service**

Mobile Home Parks will be supplied single-meter commercial service only where park owner or operator supplies (furnishes) electrical service as a part of his rental and/or general service charge to tenants. Resale of electric energy through park owned meters will not be permitted (See 2.2.1)

**3.6.5.2 Individual Company Metered Service**

Mobile Home Parks will be supplied through company installed individual meters for individual tenants and other types of service required in park under the provisions required on 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 and the subparts appertaining thereto.

**3.6.6 Miscellaneous Types of Electric Service**

Certain other types of electric service are available from the company. Information on such services not specifically covered in this Tariff may be obtained at the nearest company office. Such special cases will be given individual consideration.

**3.7 SCHEDULE OF STANDARD CHARGES AND NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSITS FOR COST ESTIMATES FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS**

**3.7.1 Standard Charges**

The Standard Charges listed here are Contributions In Aid of Construction (CIAC) which are referenced by other sections of these rules and regulations.

**3.7.1.1 Residential Subdivision**

Low Density Subdivisions per service lateral or dwelling unit...	\$373.86
High Density Subdivisions per service lateral or dwelling unit...	\$47.64

**3.7.1.2 New Single-phase UG Service Laterals from Overhead Distribution Systems**

Fixed Charge for 2/0 service lateral	\$56.58
Fixed Charge for 4/0 service lateral	\$95.75

Per trench foot charge for 2/0 service lateral	\$9.94
Per trench foot charge for 4/0 service lateral	\$10.27

Credit for service pole if otherwise required for overhead service	\$534.28
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Continued to Sheet No. 5.515

ISSUED BY: G. L. Gillette, President

DATE EFFECTIVE:



FOURTEENTH REVISED SHEET NO. 5.515  
CANCELS THIRTEENTH REVISED SHEET NO. 5.515

Continued from Sheet No. 5.510

**3.7.1.3 Single-phase UG Service Laterals Converted from Existing Overhead Service Drops**

Removal charge for overhead service with no service pole	\$111.45
Removal charge for overhead service with a service pole	\$508.66
Fixed Charge for 2/0 service lateral	\$56.58
Fixed Charge for 4/0 service lateral	\$95.75
Per trench foot charge for 2/0 service lateral	\$9.94
Per trench foot charge for 4/0 service lateral	\$10.27
Credit for service pole if otherwise required for overhead service	\$534.28

Continued to Sheet No. 5.516

ISSUED BY: G. L. Gillette, President

DATE EFFECTIVE:



EIGHTH REVISED SHEET NO. 5.516  
CANCELS SEVENTH REVISED SHEET NO. 5.516

Continued from Sheet No. 5.515

**3.7.2 Non-refundable Deposits for Estimates of CIAC for Conversion of Existing Overhead Distribution Facilities to Underground Facilities**

Qualified applicants can request, upon payment of a non-refundable deposit as listed below, the conversion of overhead distribution facilities to underground in accordance with these Rules and Regulations for conversion areas of not less than one (1) city block in length along both sides of the main distribution system, or in the absence of city blocks, not less than five (5) contiguous building lots along both sides of the main distribution system, or in the absence of both, not the less than 600 pole-feet of the main distribution system, including all customers served along both sides of the main distribution system, and so as to result in a decrease in the number of non-lighting poles in the system.

Requests for conversions, except for individual residential service covered under Section 3.4.3.3, will be accompanied by a non-refundable amount as follows:

Density Class	Deposit Amount
Urban Commercial or Residential.....	\$9,346 per mile*
Rural Commercial or Residential.....	\$5,466 per mile*
High or Low Density Subdivision.....	\$ 45 per lot

\* As measured along the existing overhead primary and secondary distribution system.

ISSUED BY: G. L. Gillette, President

DATE EFFECTIVE: