

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Analysis of IOUs' hedging practices.

DOCKET NO. 20170057-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2018-0020-CFO-EI
ISSUED: January 8, 2018

ORDER GRANTING DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S REQUEST
FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION (DOCUMENT NO. 06411-2017)

On July 31, 2017, Duke Energy Florida, LLC (DEF) pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and Rule 25-22.006(3)(a)(1), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), filed its Notice of Intent to Request Confidential Classification for its responses to the Office of Public Counsel's (OPC) Second Request for Production of Documents No. 12a (Document No. 06411-2017). On August 21, 2017, pursuant to Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C., DEF filed its Request for Confidential Classification (Request) regarding this information.

Request for Confidential Classification

DEF contends that the information contained in its responses to OPC's Second Request for Production of Documents No. 12a, more specifically described in Exhibit C to its Request, constitutes proprietary confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. DEF asserts that this information is intended to be and is treated by DEF as private and has not been publicly disclosed.

The information contained in the response to OPC's Second Request for Production of Documents No. 12a consists of DEF's natural gas hedging volumes, natural gas savings/hedging costs, natural gas storage hedged volumes, and natural gas storage savings/costs for the period January 2008 through December 2016. DEF argues that the release of this natural gas hedging volume and pricing information could prevent DEF from securing the most favorable pricing for natural gas in the future. Further, DEF states that the release of detailed natural gas hedging information would impair DEF's competitive business interests. Therefore, DEF argues that this information is protected by Sections 366.093(3)(d) and (e), F.S.

Ruling

Section 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) has found to contain proprietary business information shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from Chapter 119, F.S. Section 366.093(3), F.S., defines proprietary confidential business information as information that is intended to be and is treated by the company as private, in that disclosure of the information would cause harm to the company's ratepayers or business operations, and has not been voluntarily disclosed to the public. Section 366.093(3), F.S., provides that proprietary confidential business information includes, but is not limited to:

(d) Information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the public utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms.

(e) Information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive business of the provider of the information.

Upon review, it appears the above-referenced information satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The natural gas hedging pricing and quantities, if disclosed, could adversely impact DEF's competitive interests. Further, disclosure of this information could result in higher prices for natural gas in the future. Thus, the information identified in Document No. 06411-2017 shall be granted confidential classification.

Pursuant to Section 366.093(4), F.S., the information for which confidential classification is granted herein shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. At the conclusion of the 18-month period, the confidential information will no longer be exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., unless DEF or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Commissioner Gary F. Clark, as Prehearing Officer, that Duke Energy Florida, LLC's Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 06411-2017, is granted, as set forth herein. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 06411-2017 for which confidential classification has been granted, shall remain protected from disclosure for a period of up to 18 months from the date of issuance of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be the only notification by the Commission to the parties of the date of declassification of the materials discussed herein.

By ORDER of Commissioner Gary F. Clark, as Prehearing Officer, this 8th day of January, 2018.



GARY F. CLARK

Commissioner and Prehearing Officer
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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

SBr

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.