

In re: Petition by Florida Power & Light Company
for Approval of 12-Month Extension of Voluntary
Solar Partnership Rider and Program

Docket No. 2018_____

Filed: August 31, 2018

**Petition by Florida Power & Light Company for Twelve-Month
Extension of Voluntary Solar Partnership Rider and Program**

Florida Power & Light Company (“FPL” or “the Company”) pursuant to Section 366.075, Florida Statutes (2018), petitions the Florida Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for approval of a 12-month extension of the Company’s Voluntary Solar Partnership Rider and Program¹ through December 31, 2019. In support, FPL states:

1. The Petitioner’s name and address:

Florida Power & Light Company
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, FL 33408

2. FPL requests that any pleading, motion, notice, order or other document filed or submitted in this proceeding be served upon the following individuals:

Kenneth A. Hoffman
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
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215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 810
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700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, FL 33408
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(561) 691-7135 (fax)

3. In this petition, FPL seeks a 12-month extension of its Voluntary Solar Partnership (“VSP”) Rider and Program, which offers all FPL customers an opportunity to contribute voluntarily toward the construction and operation of small-scale solar photovoltaic generation facilities located throughout FPL’s service territory in highly visible public locations, helping to spread solar awareness. The VSP Program continues to experience strong

¹ The VSP Rider and Program is known to FPL customers as “SolarNow[®].”

participation, indicating that customers remain desirous of voluntary solar options. At the same time, FPL is in the process of completing its design of a separate voluntary community shared solar program. The requested 12-month extension will allow FPL to continue offering customers a voluntary solar option while also completing research regarding whether the future shared solar program might impact the levels and sustainability of customer participation in the VSP Program, and if so, what the extent of that impact might be. In support of this Petition, FPL states:

4. By Order No. PSC-14-0468-TRF-EI (“Order 14-0468”), the Commission approved FPL’s VSP Rider and Program, as reflected on Original Tariff Sheet No. 8.930. As originally approved, the VSP Program was a three-year pilot expiring December 31, 2017. By Order No. PSC-2017-0499-TRF-EI, the Commission extended the VSP Rider and Program through December 31, 2018.²

5. The VSP Program offers FPL customers the opportunity to help bring more solar energy installations into local communities by contributing \$9.00 per month. This funding supports the construction and operation of small-scale solar facilities in local communities. As an optional tariff, participation is entirely voluntary and participants may unsubscribe at any time with no penalty. Importantly, non-participating customers do not subsidize VSP. The Program is designed so that participant contributions cover the net costs (revenue requirements minus fuel and emissions savings).

6. The VSP Program is successfully increasing visibility and awareness of solar energy through customer engagement and the strategic installation of program facilities. Through June 30, 2018, a total of 32,848 customers were enrolled in VSP.

² Consummated by Order No. PSC-2018-0059-CO-EI dated January 23, 2018.

7. VSP has supported the installation of 84 solar structures at 39 locations for a total of 1,395 kW of solar capacity that the program has brought to local communities so far. An additional 53 solar structures are currently under construction at 22 locations, constituting approximately 910 kilowatts of additional community-based solar capacity that will be operational in the near future. The facilities consist of ground-mount structures, rooftop installations, covered walkways, parking canopies and interactive tree-like structures. All 61 of the locations with VSP installations either in operation or under construction are sited throughout public areas, such as parks, zoos, schools, museums and transportation hubs. Based on the estimated number of visitors to these locations, the program's solar arrays have the potential to be seen by more than 20 million people each year.

8. The size of projects completed and underway is commensurate with the current and forecasted customer participation levels. And, consistent with Order 14-0468, FPL's total annual marketing and administrative expenses during the life of the Program have not exceeded 20 percent of participant contributions, and FPL participant revenues have covered the associated net revenue requirement (revenue requirements minus system benefits). There has been no subsidization by the general body of FPL customers.

9. As noted above, FPL currently is in the process of completing its design of a community shared solar program that offers customers another option to participate in the development of solar projects. Under this future voluntary program, FPL customers will have the option to subscribe to kilowatts of capacity from new cost-effective, large-scale solar generation facilities that would be operated and maintained by FPL. The monthly subscription charge will be based on a per-kilowatt unitized cost of the facilities and the participants' elected kilowatt subscription level. In exchange, participants will receive a credit on their electric bills

associated with the benefits derived from the solar-generated capacity to which they subscribe. The shared solar program is being designed so that, over time, the credits are estimated to cover and eventually exceed participation costs, resulting in a net bill reduction. In contrast to the VSP Program sites, the shared solar facilities are not intended to be located in high-visibility areas. While the VSP Program focuses on solar education and awareness, the shared solar program will focus on sharing in the economic benefits associated with large-scale universal solar generation.

10. FPL requests a 12-month extension of the VSP Program to complete and evaluate research regarding how the two solar-related voluntary offerings would impact one another. Specifically, FPL will be examining (i) the market potential for each program, (ii) which aspects of each program appeal to various customer groups, and (iii) whether introducing the shared solar option could cause customers to migrate out of the VSP Program, and if so, at what rates. This research will assist FPL in making an informed recommendation to the Commission regarding the future of the VSP Program.

11. Attached as Exhibit A is Second Revised Tariff Sheet 8.930, which sets forth the terms of participation in the extended VSP Program in both legislative and clean formats. As reflected therein, the terms are identical to those set forth in Revised Tariff Sheet 8.930, with changes only to the Tariff's effective date and the expiration date, which is changed from December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2019.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, FPL respectfully requests that the Commission approve Second Revised Tariff Sheet No. 8.930 and extend the VSP Program for one year, through December 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted this 31st day of August 2018.

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EXHIBIT A

VOLUNTARY SOLAR PARTNERSHIP RIDER
(OPTIONAL PILOT PROGRAM)

RATE SCHEDULE: VSP

AVAILABLE:

In all territory served by FPL (“the Company”) to customers receiving service under any FPL metered rate schedule. This voluntary solar partnership pilot program (“VSP Program”, “the Pilot”) provides customers an opportunity to participate in a program designed to construct and operate commercial-scale, distributed solar photovoltaic facilities located in communities throughout FPL’s service territory. Service under this rider shall terminate December 31, 2019, unless extended by order of the Florida Public Service Commission (“FPSC”), or terminated earlier by the Company upon notice to the FPSC.

APPLICATION:

Available upon request to all customers in conjunction with the otherwise applicable metered rate schedule.

LIMITATION OF SERVICE:

Any customer under a metered rate schedule who has no delinquent balances with the Company is eligible to elect the VSP Program. A customer may terminate participation in the VSP Program at any time and may be terminated from the Pilot by the Company if the customer becomes subject to collection action on the customer’s service account.

CHARGES:

Each voluntary participant shall agree to make a monthly contribution of \$9.00, in addition to charges applied under the otherwise applicable metered rate schedule. Customer billing will start on the next scheduled billing date upon notification of service request. The VSP Program contribution will not be prorated if the billing period is for less than a full month.

Upon participant’s notice of termination, no VSP Program contribution will be assessed in the billing period in which participation is terminated.

TERM OF SERVICE:

Not less than one (1) billing period.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

Upon customer request, program participation may continue at a new service address if the customer moves within FPL’s service territory.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Service under this rider is subject to orders of governmental bodies having jurisdiction and to the currently effective “General Rules and Regulations for Electric Service” on file with the Florida Public Service Commission. In case of conflict between any provisions of this schedule and said “General Rules and Regulations for Electric Service” the provisions of this rider shall apply.

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