

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Purchased Gas : Docket No. 990003-GU
Adjustment (PGA) Clause :
_____ : Submitted for Filing: 7-20-99

PEOPLES GAS SYSTEM'S REQUEST
FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes, Peoples Gas System ("Peoples"), submits the following Request for Confidential Treatment of portions of its purchased gas adjustment filing for the month of June 1999 [consisting of (a) Schedules A-1, A-1 Supporting Detail, A-2, A-3, A-4, A5, A-6, (b) invoices covering Peoples' gas purchases for the month, (c) an Open Access Gas Purchased Report, (d) an Accruals for Pipeline Charges, (e) an accruals for Gas Purchased Report, (f) an Accrual/Actual Reconciliation Report and invoices thereto, and (g) invoices reflecting prior period adjustments, bookout transactions, and FGT Refunds (if any)] which is submitted for filing in the above docket concurrently herewith:

1. Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a detailed justification for the requested confidential treatment of the highlighted portions of Peoples' Schedules, Invoices, Open Access Report, Accrual Report, and Accrual/Actual Reconciliation Report referenced above.

2. The material for which confidential classification is sought is intended to be and is treated by Peoples and its affiliates as private and has not been disclosed.

3. Peoples requests that the information for which it seeks confidential classification not be declassified until January 20, 2001 (i.e., for a period of 18 months as provided in Section 366.093(4)). The time period requested is necessary to allow Peoples and/or its affiliated companies

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REGULATORY REPORTING

to negotiate future gas purchase contracts without their suppliers/competitors (and other customers) having access to information which would adversely affect the ability of Peoples and its affiliates to negotiate such future contracts on favorable terms. The period of time requested will ultimately protect Peoples and its customers.

WHEREFORE, Peoples submits the foregoing as its request for confidential treatment of the information identified in Exhibit "A".

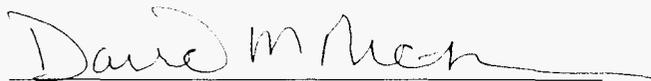
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing Request for Confidential Treatment, filed on behalf of Peoples Gas System, has been furnished by regular U.S. Mail this 19th day of July 1999, to all known parties of record in Docket No. 990003-GU.



David M. Nicholson

<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>LINE(S)</u>	<u>COLUMN(S)</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
A-3	11, 14-17	L	(1)
A-3	11, 14-17	E - K	(2)
A-3	11-19	B	(3)

(1) This schedule shows the quantities of gas which Peoples purchased from its suppliers during the month, together with the cost of transportation for such purchases. These rates are not publicly known but are, instead, the result of private negotiations between Peoples and numerous producers and gas marketing companies. Purchases are made at varying prices depending on the term of the arrangement, the time of year, the quantities involved, and the nature of the service (firm or interruptible). Prices at which gas is available to Peoples can vary from producer-to-producer or marketer-to-marketer even when non-price terms and conditions of the purchase are not significantly different.

This information is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. Such suppliers would be less likely to make any price concessions which they might have previously made, and could simply refuse to sell at a price less than those rates shaded here. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) The data are algebraic functions of the rate at which Peoples purchased gas (listed in Column L). See Rationale (1) above. Thus, this information would permit a supplier to determine contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes.

(3) Publishing the names of suppliers would be detrimental to the interests of Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide competitors with a list of prospective suppliers, or permit a third party to interject itself as a middleman between Peoples and the supplier. In either case, the end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>LINE(S)</u>	<u>COLUMN(S)</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
A-4	1-5, 21	G-H	(1)
A-4	1-5, 21	C-F	(2)
A-4	1-5	A-B	(3)

(1) This information is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) Since it is the specific rates at which the purchases were made which Peoples seeks to protect, it is also necessary to protect the volumes or amounts of the purchases in order to prevent the use of such information to calculate the rates. See Rationale (1) above.

(3) Peoples seeks confidential treatment of the names of suppliers and the receipt points at which gas was received. Disclosure of this information would be detrimental to Peoples and its ratepayers because it would help illustrate Peoples' supply infrastructure. Disclosing the receipt points would give competitors information that would allow them to buy or sell capacity at those points. The resulting increase or decrease in available capacity would affect the cost of gas transportation for supply already secured. Disclosing the supplier names would give competitors a list of prospective suppliers and invite the intervention of middlemen. In either case, the end result is reasonably likely to be higher gas and transportation prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>LINE(S)</u>	<u>COLUMN(S)</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
Open Access Report	10, 23-27, 32-35	C and E	(1)
Open Access Report	10-12, 23-27, 30-36	A	(2)

(1) This data is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. The information shows the terms purchased from each supplier for the month and the total cost of the volume purchased. Such information could be used to calculate the actual rates at which Peoples purchased gas from each supplier during the involved month. Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) Publishing the names of suppliers would be detrimental to the interests of Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide a list of prospective suppliers to Peoples' competitors. If the names were made public, a third party might try to interject itself as a middleman between the supplier and Peoples. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

<u>INVOICES</u>	<u>LINES</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
June (8 of 15)	1	Supplier/Customer	(1)
June (8 of 15)	2-3, 5-8	Supplier/ Customer Facts	(2)
June (8 of 15)	9-10	Rate	(3)
June (8 of 15)	9-10, 22	Therms/Amounts	(4)

(1) All highlighted information is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the supplier names would be detrimental to Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide competitors with a list of prospective suppliers. Moreover, a third party could use such information to interject itself as a middleman between Peoples and the supplier. In either case, the end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) Peoples requests confidential treatment of all related information that once revealed would tend to indicate the identity of the gas supplier for which Peoples has requested confidential treatment. See Rationale (1) above.

(3) Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(4) Peoples requests confidential treatment of the volumes and total costs of the purchases in order to prevent the use of such information to calculate the rates. See Rationale (3) above.

<u>SCHEDULES LINES</u>		<u>COLUMNS</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
"Accruals"			
p. 1	1, 9		
p. 2	1		
p. 3	1		
p. 4	1-14	C	
p. 5	1	(Rate)	(1)
"Accruals"			
p. 1	1, 8-9, 16		
p. 2	1, 15		
p. 3	1, 15		
p. 4	1-15	B & D	
p. 5	1, 15	(Thrm/Acrd)	(2)
"Accruals"			
p. 1	1, 9		
p. 2	1		
p. 3	1		
p. 4	1-14	A	
p. 5	1	(Supplier)	(3)

(1) All shaded information is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) Since it is the rates at which the purchases were made which Peoples seeks to protect from disclosure, it is also necessary to protect the volumes and costs of the purchases in order to prevent the use of such information to calculate the rates. See Rationale (1) above.

(3) Disclosure of the supplier names would be detrimental to the interests of Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide competitors with a list of prospective suppliers to Peoples' competitors and would facilitate the intervention of a middleman. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

<u>PAGES</u>	<u>LINES</u>	<u>COLUMNS</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
May Acc. Recon., (pp. 1-6)	1-50	D (Rate)	(1)
May Acc. Recon., (pp. 1-6)	1-50, 113-115	C and E (Thrm/Dollr)	(2)
May Acc. Recon., (pp. 1-6)	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49	A (Supplier)	(3)

(1) All shaded information is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) Since it is the rates at which the purchases were made which Peoples seeks to protect from disclosure, it is also necessary to protect the volumes and total costs in order to prevent the use of such information to calculate the rates. See Rationale (1) above.

(3) Disclosure of the supplier names would be detrimental to Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide competitors with a list of prospective gas suppliers and would facilitate the intervention of middlemen. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

INVOICES

INFORMATION

RATIONALE

May Invoices (1-11)

Entire Sheet

(1)

(1) Because of the large amount of proprietary and confidential information contained on these invoices, Peoples has requested confidential treatment of these pages in their entirety. Peoples' has done so to protect two major types of information:

(i) Rates - As noted above, Peoples considers the rates at which it purchases gas confidential because knowledge of the rates would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

In addition to protection of the rates, Peoples requests confidential treatment of the volumes and total costs of the purchases in order to prevent the use of such information to calculate the rates.

(ii) Supplier Names - As noted above, Disclosure of supplier names would be detrimental to the interests of Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide competitors with a list of gas suppliers and would facilitate the intervention of a middleman. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

In an effort to protect the names of its suppliers, Peoples has also tried to shield any related information (e.g., addresses, phone and fax numbers, contact persons, logos, etc.) that once revealed would tend to indicate the identity of the gas supplier for which Peoples has requested confidential treatment. In this case, the format of an invoice alone may indicate to persons knowledgeable in the gas industry which suppliers Peoples is dealing with and the frequency with which it does so.

<u>PIPELINE INVOICES</u>	<u>LINES</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
May (9 of 9)	1, 3, 5-6 19, 20, 22	Supplier/Customer	(1)
May (9 of 9)	5	Supplier/ Customer Facts	(2)
May (9 of 9)	18	Rate	(3)
May (9 of 9)	18, 25	Therms/Amounts	(4)

(1) All highlighted information is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the supplier names would be detrimental to Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide competitors with a list of prospective suppliers. Moreover, a third party could use such information to interject itself as a middleman between Peoples and the supplier. In either case, the end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) Peoples requests confidential treatment of all related information that once revealed would tend to indicate the identity of the gas supplier for which Peoples has requested confidential treatment. See Rationale (1) above.

(3) Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(4) Peoples requests confidential treatment of the volumes and total costs of the purchases in order to prevent the use of such information to calculate the rates. See Rationale (3) above.

INVOICES

	<u>LINES</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
Prior Month Adj.			
1 of 3	1	Supplier	(1)
1 of 3	2-8	Supplier Facts	(2)
1 of 3	9-10	Rate	(3)
1 of 3	9-10, 21-22	Therms/Amounts	(4)

(1) All highlighted information is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the supplier names would be detrimental to Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide competitors with a list of prospective suppliers. Moreover, a third party could use such information to interject itself as a middleman between Peoples and the supplier. In either case, the end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) Peoples requests confidential treatment of all related information that once revealed would tend to indicate the identity of the gas supplier for which Peoples has requested confidential treatment. See Rationale (1) above.

(3) Disclosure of the rates at which Peoples purchased gas from its suppliers during this month would give other competing suppliers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of gas either by all quoting a particular price (equal to or exceeding the shaded rates), or by adhering to a rate offered by a particular supplier. A supplier which might have been willing to sell gas at a lower rate would be less likely to make any price concessions. The end result is reasonably likely to be increased gas prices, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(4) Peoples requests confidential treatment of the volumes and total costs of the purchases in order to prevent the use of such information to calculate the rates. See Rationale (3) above.

<u>INVOICES</u>	<u>LINES</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>
Cashout/Bookouts (p. 4 of 6)	2-3		
(p. 5 of 6)	9		
(p. 6 of 6)	5	Trading Price	(1)
Cashout/Bookouts (p. 4 of 6)	2-3		
(p. 5 of 6)	9		
(p. 6 of 6)	6	Amounts Due	(2)
Cashout/Bookouts (p. 4 of 6)	1		
(p. 5 of 6)	1, 3		
(p. 6 of 6)	1-2, 7, 9-10	Trading Partner	(3)
Cashout/Bookouts (p. 4 of 6)	6-8		
(p. 5 of 6)	2, 4-5, 10-11		
(p. 6 of 6)	3-4, 10-15	Trading Partner Facts	(4)

(1) Since November, 1993, FGT's tariff has required the assessment of charges to those customers which are not in balance on a monthly basis (an "imbalance charge"). This practice has encouraged FGT customers like Peoples to trade ("book-out") imbalances with other FGT customers in an effort to avoid less favorable FGT imbalance charges.

The highlighted information (the price-per-therm for a specific book-out transaction) is contractual information which, if made public, "would impair the efforts of [Peoples] to contract for goods or services on favorable terms." Section 366.093(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Disclosure of the book-out price-per-therm would give other FGT customers information with which to potentially or actually control the pricing of booked-out imbalances either by all quoting a particular price, or by adhering to a price offered to a particular FGT customer in the past. As a result, an FGT customer which might have been willing to trade imbalances at a Price Per Therm more favorable to Peoples than the price reflected in these lines would likely refuse to do so. The end result is reasonably likely to be higher book-out transaction costs and/or FGT imbalance charges, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(2) The highlighted information consists of the volumes booked-out and the total cost of each trade. It is necessary to protect the volumes traded and total costs in order to prevent the use

of such information to calculate the price-per-therms in a specific transaction. Peoples therefore seeks confidential treatment of these entries as well. See Rationale (1) above.

(3) Disclosure of the FGT customers that traded imbalances with Peoples would be detrimental to the interests of Peoples and its ratepayers since it would provide other FGT customers with a list of prospective imbalance traders. Moreover, a third party could use such information to interject itself as a middleman between Peoples and the FGT customer. In either case, the end result is reasonably likely to be higher book-out transaction costs and/or FGT imbalance charges, and therefore an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

Moreover, publishing the names of other pipeline customers with which Peoples traded imbalances would be detrimental to the interests of Peoples and its ratepayers because it would reveal elements of Peoples' capacity strategy (frequency, amount, and vicinity) and help illustrate Peoples' supply and transportation infrastructure. Disclosing the amount of available pipeline capacity at a specific point could encourage the intervention of competing shippers, suppliers, industrial endusers, or capacity brokers, not to mention affect a potential customer's decisions regarding the type of service it desires. In either case, the end result is reasonably likely to be an increased cost of transportation, which would lead in turn to an increased cost of gas which Peoples must recover from its ratepayers.

(4) Peoples requests confidential treatment of all related information that once revealed would tend to indicate the identity of the FGT customers that traded imbalances with Peoples. See Rationale (3) above.