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1		BEFORE THE	
2		A PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	
3	In the Matter o	DOCKET NO. 110262-EI	
4	PETITION FOR AF	3 (A) SEASTROLL SCHOOL AND THE SEASTROLL SCHOOL SEASTROLL SCHOOL S	
5	RECOVERY THROUG	PROGRAM FOR COST SH ENVIRONMENTAL	
6	COST RECOVERY C ELECTRIC COMPAN	CLAUSE, BY TAMPA IY.	
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8		COMMISSION CONFERENCE ITEM NO. 12 CHAIRMAN RONALD A. BRISÉ	
9	PROCEEDINGS:	COMMISSION CONFERENCE ITEM NO. 12	フエ
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11		CHAIRMAN RONALD A. BRISÉ COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR	
12		COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM COMMISSIONER EDUARDO E. BALBIS	
13		COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN	
14	DATE:	Tuesday, September 18, 2012	
15	PLACE:	Betty Easley Conference Center Room 148	
16		4075 Esplanade Way Tallahassee, Florida	
17	REPORTED BY:		
18		Official FPSC Reporter (850) 413-6732	
19		(030) 413 0732	
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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PROCEEDINGS

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CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: So now we will move to Item Number 12.

MS. WU: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners.

CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Good morning.

MS. WU: Item 12 pertains to TECO's amended petition for approval of a new gypsum storage and recover the associated cost through the ECRC.

TECO's original petition was addressed by the Commission at the March 13 agenda, and was deferred to the April 10th, the May 8th, and then this agenda in order for the company to attend and provide to the Commission additional information. Since then TECO has filed several sets of data request responses, an interim report, a follow-up report, and an amended petition.

Based on the analysis of the information received, staff recommends to approve the amended petition as it is filed. Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that TECO would like to make a few brief comments before you start to discuss this item.

CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Sure. That is perfectly

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acceptable to me.

MR. BEASLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners.

I'm Jim Beasley with Ausley & McMullen on behalf of Tampa Electric Company. With me today on my left is Mark Hornick, Tampa Electric's Director of Planning, Engineering, and Construction. On his left, Paul Carpinone, Director of Environmental Health and Safety. On my right is Howard Bryant, Manager of Rates; and on his right Bill Smotherman, who is the Director of Energy Supply Services for the company.

We appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in support of your staff's recommendation. A lot has transpired since the agenda conference back on May the 8th when this item last came before you. Tampa Electric has been, since that time, very focused on two key objectives that came out of the Agenda Conference. The first was to see if we could seek out new off-takers of gypsum by-product produced by the scrubbers at Big Bend Station in an effort to satisfy you that we are doing everything we can in that regard.

The second key objective relates to the concern we heard at the May 8th Agenda Conference

about the overall cost of the project. The company took that to heart and has developed a reduced scope approach for your consideration that removes the cost of the conveyor system and loading dome at Big Bend, thereby reducing the overall cost of the project.

Now, going back to the first objective relating to finding additional gypsum off-takers, the company has since May 8th engaged in a number of activities. The company has sent letters of interest to a list of potential new off-takers and engaged in discussions with them. The company has closed a transaction to move 50,000 tons to a cement manufacturer as a direct result of those discussions and the letter of intent, or the letter of interest.

The company is now working toward closing an agreement to move 165,000 tons of gypsum by-product for agricultural use in South America. While that's not the 275,000 ton that we had initially hoped for, it is a certainly a big step in the way of beneficially reusing this gypsum by-product. The company is also negotiating an agreement with a broker for 25 to 50,000 tons of gypsum to distribute to agricultural interests in Georgia, that would be pecan growers and peanut

1 farmers.

The company, given the status of its current storage facility, has negotiated a discounted landfill arrangement with three peninsular Florida landfills who can use approximately 350,000 tons of the gypsum by-product as valley fill, which is where they use a material, in this case gypsum, to fill in the voids and blank spaces and stabilize their landfill in areas where they store large bulk items.

These efforts have produced some good opportunities for the company and its ratepayers. They have been good opportunities; unfortunately, they are sporadic. The output of gypsum at Big Bend Station is certainly not sporadic and it continues at a continuous level of over 700,000 tons per year. The new working storage facility remains very much needed at Big Bend Station, and the company has gotten to the point, as I said, where it's resorting to landfilling first with some of the lesser quality gypsum on its stack.

Our second key objection (sic), as I indicated, has been to reduce the overall scope of the proposed new facility, and this led to our development of the reduced scope project with the

conveyor system and the loading dome removed. This has financial and operational risks, but Tampa Electric has studied them and has concluded that those can be managed in a reasonable fashion. The reduced scope option reduces the capital costs of this project to \$21.7 million, with that reduction offset somewhat by higher O&M costs.

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Your staff's recommendation shows four scenarios on Page 13 in Table 4 entitled "Levelized Annual Revenue Requirement." It is a comparison of the original proposal that we made, the reduced-scope approach that we have submitted, and then two variations of the reduced scope; one including the conveyor system, and the other including the dome, the loading dome. And I think staff put that in there just for you to be able to see what the comparison is between the revenue requirements of these various alternatives.

The reason we sought approval of the original proposed project, including the conveyor and the dome, is that it represents the accepted engineering standard for the industry. Tampa Electric now believes it makes a whole lot of sense to approve the reduced-scope project. There are risks associated with down-sizing, but, again, our

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studies indicate we can manage those efficiently.

Commissioners, regardless of how this matter is resolved, Tampa Electric holds to its belief that the beneficial reuse of gypsum by-product as opposed to simply landfilling it is certainly in the economic best interests of the company's customers, and it's in the environmental best interests of the community and the state affected.

Tampa Electric is a recognized leader in the beneficial reuse of gypsum by-product and other coal combustion commodities. Its efforts have saved its customers many millions of dollars over the years in avoided landfill costs coupled with gypsum sales revenues. The bottom line is that the company believes, it firmly believes that it needs a new working storage facility, whether it's something along the lines of what we originally proposed or the reduced scope option now before you.

We urge you to approve the staff's recommendation to approve the reduced-scope option. I want to thank you for your time, and we're available for any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Thank you.

Commissioner Brown.

COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you. A few questions.

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First, I'll start with staff, about any concerns you have with regard to TECO's amended petition cutting some of those costs with the conveyor belt and the dome.

MS. WU: Commissioners, staff has done its due diligence to obtain all the relevant information, including the merits and drawback of the elimination of conveyor system.

COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you.

MS. WU: And staff thinks there is some merit in keeping the conveyor system. However, staff does not substitute its judgment to the company's judgment. Staff recommends the Commission to approve the amended petition as it is filed, which is Column 2 in Table 4, the reduced-scope option.

COMMISSIONER BROWN: Okay.

Mr. Beasley or Mr. Hornick, with regard to your amended petition, it is substantially different than the original filed petition. Could you just walk us through the pros and cons. I know you said that there were certain risks associated with cutting costs and removing the conveyor belt. Can

you walk us through both inclusion and exclusion from a pros and cons standpoint, please.

MR. HORNICK: Sure. Thank you, Commissioner.

What we looked for was a lower capital cost approach that would still be functional at what we call the East 40 Storage Area that would retain the lined storage area that would hold about 870,000 tons. The liner, the berms, all that infrastructure would be in place. What we looked at was removing the covered conveyor belt from the plant discharge point to that new storage facility and using trucks instead to lower the capital costs.

That was a major reduction in capital expense. It will take some O&M to move those trucks. There is somewhat more risk of dusting issues, and we'll have to just manage the truck traffic to make sure we use best management practices to appropriately address that.

The other piece of infrastructure that we removed was a storage dome. About 25,000 tons of dry storage, so that the gypsum that was immediately available to go to our customers would be at specification. There is a 10 percent moisture specification. We think that we can address that by

proper pile management and still be able to supply on spec gypsum when our customers demand it. So those are the two major pieces of infrastructure and kind of the risks associated with those.

COMMISSIONER BROWN: And focusing just on removing the conveyor enclosure and replacing it with the 40,000 trucks, do you have concerns with eliminating the conveyor enclosure?

MR. HORNICK: Yes, we do have concerns.

COMMISSIONER BROWN: But you think there are enough adequate safety precautions?

MR. HORNICK: Yes. In our judgment we think it is a viable approach. It may not be optimal, but in terms of balancing capital costs versus O&M and ratepayer impacts, we were trying to address concerns and we feel it's a viable approach.

COMMISSIONER BROWN: Okay. If I may just one more question.

One of the staff's data requests indicated that the new facility is forecasted to reach full capacity in approximately 3-1/2 years, assuming it has the same of excess gypsum as it had in the past two years. Has the company thought about what it would do after the 3-1/2 years have lapsed for a more permanent solution?

MR. BEASLEY: Mr. Smotherman.

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MR. SMOTHERMAN: Yes. Basically what we have looked at is where we are going to be inventory-wise. And with the sales that we are presently projecting with South America as well as the spot opportunities that we are seeing right now with the pecan and peanut sales, we feel like we are going to significantly extend that period for at least seven years if not longer. So it really depends on where the market falls out, but given what we are locking up sales-wise right now and the discussions we are in, we are not going to be in that position in that short a period of time.

> COMMISSIONER BROWN: Okay. Thank you. CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Commissioner Balbis.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

And I want to thank TECO for taking the comments that this Commission made, you know, to heart and going out and looking for different opportunities.

My focus was on making sure that all of the other options were thoroughly evaluated, and as I made the comments previously in, I believe, May, there is a lot of work that is done at your level

before it comes to us, and a lot of times we just see the tip of the iceberg of the type of analysis that is done. So, you know, I appreciate the work that TECO has done in looking at that.

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And my main concern, again, was on the overall options and looking at the market analysis as if you lowered the price or even paid someone to take it. So I think that that additional work makes me more comfortable that all of the options have been thoroughly evaluated.

As far as the different capital costs associated with the new facility, to be honest, the existing facility has had -- it's my understanding has had a lot of dust issues, and I believe a consent order associated with environmental regulations. And so the last thing I want to do is build a new facility and spend the dollars and try to save a few pennies and still have a continuing dust management problem, which I know are difficult to deal with in these types of sludge facilities.

So I'm comfortable with -- if the facility is needed, which I feel it is, and I think all the options have been thoroughly evaluated -- to construct a facility that will provide as much protection for the neighbors as far as from a dust

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standpoint. And I'm also uncomfortable with making those types of decisions, which is really an owner decision, or at least provide us all the information to make that, and I don't think that is our role as a Commission at this point to get into that level of detail.

So I believe, as far as my concerns, I think they have been adequately addressed. I think that, you know, a new market analysis under these conditions was needed. I appreciate TECO's work in doing that, and I'm comfortable with the need for this facility and providing the emissions controls that were originally planned.

CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Commissioner Graham.

COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr.

Chairman.

I think I spent enough time talking about this thing already, so I won't belabor all that. I just wanted to thank TECO for taking the time. And I know I was initially -- I thought the initial capital cost was a bit much, and I appreciate you dropping it down from the 55 million down to 21 million which is -- boy, if we could do that each and every time, cut it down by 60 percent, that's incredible. I think it's a project that would work,

and I'm more than willing to support the number two 1 option, the reduced scope. So I guess that's a 2 motion. 3 CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Is that a motion? COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Yes, sir. 5 CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Okay. Is there a second 6 7 for that motion? Okay. Seeing that there is no second --8 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I'll second it for 9 discussion purposes, but I think we would want to --10 I'd like to talk a little bit more about including 11 the conveyor enclosure, and conveyor system a little 12 bit more. But I'll second it for purposes of 13 discussion. 14 CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Okay. It has been moved 15 and seconded. Okay. 16 Discussion? 17 Commissioner Balbis. 18 COMMISSIONER BALBIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. 19 I know it's probably not appropriate, but if I could 20 have TECO just walk us through in a little more 21 22 detail on the reduced scope option. I understand it doesn't have the dome, it doesn't have the conveyor, 23

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but if there's any additional details you can

provide, or -- there was a statement you made

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previously that you were comfortable that there were safeguards in place. If you can walk through what those safeguards are from an emissions control standpoint, or dust control standpoint with that option.

MR. HORNICK: Okay. I'll take a crack at it, and Mr. Smotherman actually operates that area, so he may be able to add some information, as well.

The original design, what we had intended to put in was an enclosed pipe conveyor that would go from the point of discharge at the plant facility onto a belt that essentially folds onto itself. So as it conveys across the road and over to the new area, it is totally enclosed and there is really almost no chance for dusting.

It's a lower O&M, operations and maintenance intensive kind of technology. It can run in an automated fashion. There would be some maintenance associated with that conveyor, but in terms of the trade-off, it is certainly more expensive from an O&M perspective to operate trucks, multiple trucks to transfer the gypsum to that area.

With the trucking option, in order to manage dusting we'll have to make sure that the trucks are covered, that the area is cleaned

frequently. We typically use vacuum trucks and/or a watering system to keep dust down, so we'll have to pay very close attention to that in order to mitigate those issues.

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I think our preference was, and standard industry practice really would be a conveyor system over that length. We feel like the trucking option is -- it's viable. It may not be optimal.

In terms of the revenue requirements, the annual levelized revenue requirements, they were fairly close if you look at it over the time frame of the project. I think in terms of impact, there's more obviously cash flow upfront with the capital expense offset by a longer term O&M.

I'm not sure, Commissioner, if I have answered all of your questions about dusting, or if Mr. Smotherman has anything to add.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: I think that covered the conveyor system. Now, I believe Commissioner Graham's motion is the reduced scope which does not include the conveyor and does not include the dome. If you can discuss the dome, as well.

MR. HORNICK: Okay. The dome, then, is a 25,000 ton structure that would basically eliminate any dusting from that portion of the gypsum. So

there's some environmental benefit, but there would be other gypsum stored not in the dome. What the dome really would provide us is assurance that we when put material in there that is less than 10 percent moisture, which is the specification for our off-taker adjacent to the site, National Gypsum, that we can continue to meet that even in rainy conditions where ordinarily you run the risk of picking up surface moisture.

In order to mitigate that, we will have to do, as I said, pile management activities, pack the piles. When it comes time to load, to dig into the pile and find dry material, so there are techniques that are a little bit manpower intensive to do that. Those are the trade-offs with the dome. I think the conveyor is probably the more substantial impact of the two options.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: Mr. Chairman, I have a few more questions for TECO on this.

CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Sure. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: National Gypsum, have they rejected a significant quantity of gypsum that was in excess of the moisture requirement?

MR. SMOTHERMAN: Presently National has not, but they have not because we have done a fairly

good job in recent history of making sure that was not the case, and they have not received a large quantity of material that was over that specification.

They have probably -- I want to say they have rejected roughly six or 800 tons of material this year, for example, but that requires a lot of upkeep on our part to make sure that we are harvesting from the right spots, et cetera.

we presently do not have a dome on our existing site. So as Mark stated, essentially when the material is undisturbed, you really don't have that much of a moisture issue, because it essentially self-encapsulates. It creates a crust on the outside, essentially. But once you break into that material, you are opening it up, essentially, to the elements. So it requires that you have a very -- you have thought of your mining protocols very far ahead in the future. You can't just crack into a spot, leave it open, and then have it re-exposed to the elements.

So we are basically rotating where we take material from. If we have to go back to the same spot, it requires more work because now you have got to dig deeper essentially to get to a drier

material. So if you have got a spot that has been cracked open, you may have to dig four feet if it has been rained upon, for example.

So there is additional cost associated with the management of the piles and having to make sure you're getting the right material. It's not ideal, but it is manageable. We are managing to do that right now fairly successfully, and I believe we'll be able to do that into the future, as well. It's just we have got to make sure we have got a very good plan laid out logistically every time we do that.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: Now, have you done a break-even analysis on the additional costs for managing the pile versus the capital cost of the dome?

MR. SMOTHERMAN: We have not. It's something that is probably fairly easy to look at. If you look at the reduced scope with the dome, for example, they are roughly, on a levelized basis roughly \$400,000 apart. So that represents the delta between the two.

So essentially if you were to take that and scale it up, that would be -- let me see. We're talking about 400,000 -- actually almost \$500,000.

You're probably not going to break very much, because it's going to have to -- you'd have to reduce the cost of the dome, which is roughly \$5 million probably down to more like one or two million dollars. And I don't know that we could build anything significant of that size.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: Well, let me make sure I understand you. So the dome costs \$5 million, correct?

MR. SMOTHERMAN: Correct.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: And there is a \$400,000 per year --

MR. SMOTHERMAN: Roughly 500,000 per year benefit of not having a dome versus having a dome. So essentially you have got to take that \$500,000 a year and translate that to, okay, how much can I afford to pay for the dome is what I did. And that's going to be roughly one to two million dollars is what you could afford to pay for the dome, is what that translates to.

So if we had a dome that costs a million dollars or two million dollars, that would be equal -- that would give you a levelized cost of roughly \$2.6 million. That would be your apples-to-apples comparison.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: But the dome costs 1 \$5 million? 2 MR. SMOTHERMAN: Correct. 3 COMMISSIONER BALBIS: So it's not 4 cost-effective. 5 MR. SMOTHERMAN: Correct. 6 7 COMMISSIONER BALBIS: Okay. I don't know if there is a revision to the motion, but if the 8 dome is not cost-effective -- and the dome seems to 9 be more of a moisture content issue rather than a 10 dust control issue. My concern was dust control. 11 And if the conveyor system provides that level of 12 protection, you know, I'm more comfortable with 13 that. But obviously a dome that is not 14 15 cost-effective for something that is going to maybe last seven to ten years anyways, I wouldn't support. 16 So I would support the reduced scope with the 17 conveyor system, to be honest, but I understand 18 there is a motion on the table. 19 CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Okay. Commissioner 20 Graham. 21 22 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 23 Currently, when you take product off the 24 storage area, it's trucked, correct? You are 25

currently trucking to National Gypsum?

MR. SMOTHERMAN: Correct.

COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: And you don't have any safety problems trucking it now, is that correct?

MR. SMOTHERMAN: That is correct. There are some issues that have come up related to trucks from the standpoint of the level of truck traffic, because we have got an intersection at Big Bend and Wyandotte where we have quite a bit of truck traffic go through there with a lot of community traffic, et cetera. But the incidents have been minimal.

COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: And I look at this storage area being a lot like what goes on at paper mills where it's all chip management where you are dealing with the moisture. And with you guys adding the storage capacity, what, another 87 percent, so you have longer for it to sit on that stack, so you have more and more opportunity to handle your moisture content. So any little problem you had now would be easier to maintain later on because you have more retention time on that stack, is that correct?

MR. SMOTHERMAN: That is absolutely correct.

COMMISSIONER BALBIS: Okay. And my understanding is National Gypsum has their own dome on-site, is that correct?

MR. SMOTHERMAN: That is also correct.

They, as well, have a dome that stores about 25,000, but contractually we are required to supply it to them at 10 percent.

COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: And with the life of this capacity, if you add the extra O&M costs as you go through the life of this thing, both of these at the end, which I believe is 2049/2050, will probably still come out to about the same, which is roughly about 55 million. The difference comes down to it do you pay that money up front, or do you pay that money as you go through this time frame.

MR. SMOTHERMAN: And that's basically what we're discussing.

commissioner Graham: I mean, personally, especially if we are always talking about how it affects the economy and what we are dealing with right now, I see justifying spending the \$21 million now, rather than the \$55 million now and pay for the rest of it gradually as you go over that time frame to the 2049 or 2050.

So that's the reason why I've gone with

that motion. Once again, I think that's the best 1 way of handling it, because most of the other 2 decisions we have made so far as to how it's going 3 to impact those ratepayers. And right now is not 4 the time that you want to nickel and dime these guys 5 to death. 6 7 Thank you. CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Thank you. 8 9 Commissioner Brown. COMMISSIONER BROWN: I think Commissioner 10 Graham just made some really good points, and I 11 would second the motion again and support it. And 12 I'm ready to call the motion. 13 CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: All right. It has been 14 moved and seconded. 15 Did you call the question? Were you 16 seeking to call the question? 17 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Yes. 18 CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Okay. So the question 19 was called. 2.0 All in favor say aye. 21 22 (Vote taken.) CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: All right. So it has 23 been moved and voted upon, and it has been approved. 24 All right. 25

1	MR. BEASLEY: Thank you very much,	
2	Commissioners.	
3	MR. MURPHY: Can we clarify? The motion	
4	was for Number 2.	
5	CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Number 2.	
6	MR. MURPHY: But, in essence, that's	
7	can we interpret that as move staff, since that was	
8	approving of	
9	CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: Yes.	
10	MR. MURPHY: Thank you.	
11	CHAIRMAN BRISÉ: All right.	
12	Thank you very much. We are going to	
13	adjourn, and we are going to convene Internal	
14	Affairs in ten minutes. Actually, we'll convene	
15	Internal Affairs at 10:15.	
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1 2 STATE OF FLORIDA 3 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER COUNTY OF LEON 4 5 I, JANE FAUROT, RPR, Chief, Hearing Reporter 6 Services Section, FPSC Division of Commission Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard 7 at the time and place herein stated. IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I 8 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct 9 supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a 10 true transcription of my notes of said proceedings. 11 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, 12 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I 13 financially interested in the action. DATED THIS 26th day of September, 2012. 14 15 16 JANE FAUROT, RPR 17 FPSC Official Commission Reporter (850) 413-6732 18 19 20 21 22 23

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