BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Fuel and purchased power cost recovery clause with generating performance incentive factor.

DOCKET NO.: 20250001-El

FILED: October 17, 2025

AMENDED PREHEARING STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL

The Citizens of the State of Florida, by and through the Office of Public Counsel, pursuant to the Order Establishing Procedure, Order No. PSC-2025-0052-PCO-EI, issued February 10, 2025, hereby submit this Prehearing Statement. Amended positions are shown in <u>underline</u>.

APPEARANCES:

Walt Trierweiler Public Counsel

Charles Rehwinkel Deputy Public Counsel

Office of Public Counsel c/o The Florida Legislature 111 West Madison Street, Room 812 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400 850-488-9330

On behalf of the Citizens of the State of Florida

1. WITNESSES:

Witness	Subject Matter	Issue #
Direct		
N/A		

2. <u>EXHIBITS:</u>

Witness	Proffered by	Exhibit No.	Description	Issue #
Direct				
N/A				

3. STATEMENT OF BASIC POSITION

The utilities bear the burden of proof to justify the recovery of costs they request in this docket and must carry this burden regardless of whether or not the intervenors provide evidence

to the contrary. Further, the utilities bear the burden of proof to support their proposal(s) seeking the Commission's adoption of policy statements (whether new or changed) or other affirmative relief sought. Even if the Commission has previously approved a program, recovery of a cost, factor, or adjustment as meeting the Commission's own requirements, the utilities still bear the burden of demonstrating that the costs submitted for final recovery meet any statutory test(s) and are reasonable in amount and prudently incurred. Further, the utilities bear the burden of proof to support that all costs sought to be recovered through this clause are correctly clause recovery costs and not base rate costs. Further, recovery of all costs is constrained by the Commission's obligation to set fair, just, and reasonable rates, based on projects that are prudent in purpose and scope and costs that are prudently incurred pursuant to Section 366.01, Florida Statutes. Additionally, the provisions of Chapter 366, Florida Statutes, must be liberally construed to protect the public welfare.

In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution or revenue allocation in this docket. In the SPPCRC docket, 20250010-EI, for example the OPC has taken the position that the only lawful and proper posture is to determine this case based on the timely filings of evidence and testimony submitted pursuant to the Order Establishing Procedure in this docket, Order No. PSC-2025-0052-PCO-EI, issued February 10, 2025. In this docket, FPL did file testimony on September 4, 2025 seeking to inject the impacts of the proposed settlement agreement into this docket. The OPC nevertheless maintains its objection to the unapproved, non-final settlement providing the basis for factors and rates in this docket. An exclusionary settlement document that purports to adjudicate rights, costs and revenue responsibility in this or any clause docket and to seek capital recovery of asset-related costs from substantial interests that were not represented in the making of the defective document, cannot be considered in this case, regardless of what the limited special interests agreed-to in private, among themselves. Any assertion by FPL related to return on equity, depreciation expense, deferred taxes and revenue allocation or any other cost that has yet to be determined by the Commission must be ignored. If the Commission makes a determination after the close of the record in this docket that changes the cost and revenue allocation assumptions, the impact of such can be adjusted in the true-up process in 2026 and in the factor in 2027. To the extent that the

Commission were to do anything else would be a violation of due process and demonstrate a prejudgment of the outcome of another case without a record basis.

4. STATEMENT OF FACTUAL ISSUES AND POSITIONS

I. COMPANY-SPECIFIC FUEL ISSUES

Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

ISSUE 1A: Should the Commission approve DEF's 2026 Risk Management Plan?

OPC: No position; however, DEF cannot enter into any new natural gas hedging contracts during the term of the 2024 Settlement Agreement.

ISSUE 1B: What is the appropriate subscription bill credit associated with DEF's Clean Energy Connection Program, approved by Order No. PSC-2021-0059-S-EI, to be included for recovery in 2026?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that DEF has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the subscription bill credit amounts associated with DEF's Clean Energy Connection Program are reasonable or prudent.

ISSUE 1C: What is the appropriate Clean Energy Impact (CEI) credit, approved by Order No. PSC-2023-0191-TRF-EI, to be included in the fuel clause in 2026?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that DEF has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the subscription bill credit amounts associated with DEF's Clean Energy Impact (CEI) are reasonable or prudent.

ISSUE 1D: What is the appropriate amount of the storm cost recovery true-up to be credited to the fuel clause in the period January 2025 through December 2025 per Order No. PSC-2025-0204-FOF-EI?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that DEF has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the storm cost recovery true-up amounts to be

credited to the fuel clause in the period January 2025 through December 2025 are reasonable or prudent.

Florida Power & Light Company

What was the total gain under FPL's Incentive Mechanism approved by Order No. PSC-2021-0446A-S-EI that FPL may recover for the period January 2024 through December 2024, and how should that gain to be shared between FPL and its customers?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that FPL has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the amount of gain and the gain to be shared between FPL and its customers for the period January 2024 through December 2024 is reasonable and prudent.

What is the appropriate amount of Incremental Optimization Costs under FPL's Incentive Mechanism approved by Order No. PSC-2021-0446A-S-EI that FPL should be allowed to recover through the fuel clause for Personnel, Software, and Hardware costs for the period January 2024 through December 2024?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that FPL has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the amount of Incremental Optimization Costs related to Personnel, Software, and Hardware costs for the period January 2024 through December 2024 to be recovered from its customers is reasonable and prudent.

ISSUE 2C: What is the appropriate amount of Variable Power Plant O&M Attributable to Off-System Sales under FPL's Incentive Mechanism approved by Order No. PSC-2021-0446A-S-EI that FPL should be allowed to recover through the fuel clause for the period January 2024 through December 2024?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that FPL has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the Variable Power Plant O&M Attributable to Off-System Sales for the period January 2024 through December 2024 to be recovered from its customers is reasonable and prudent.

What is the appropriate amount of Variable Power Plant O&M Avoided due to Economy Purchases under FPL's Incentive Mechanism approved by Order No. PSC-2021-0446A-S-EI that FPL should be allowed to recover through the fuel clause for the period January 2024 through December 2024?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that FPL has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the Variable Power Plant O&M Avoided due to Economy Purchases for the period January 2024 through December 2024 to be recovered from its customers is reasonable and prudent.

ISSUE 2E: What is the appropriate subscription credit associated with FPL's SolarTogether Program approved by Order No. PSC-2020-0084-S-EI, to be included for recovery in 2026?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that FPL has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the subscription bill credit amounts associated with its SolarTogether Program are reasonable.

ISSUE 2F: Should the Commission approve FPL's 2026 Risk Management Plan?

OPC: No position at this time; however FPL was prohibited from entering into any new natural gas hedging contracts during the term of the 2021 Settlement Agreement. It is uncertain at this time whether such a prohibition will be extended beyond the term of that agreement. Nevertheless, the OPC is not in agreement at this time that FPL has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that its 2026 Risk Management Plan is reasonable and prudent.

Florida Public Utilities Company

No company-specific fuel issues for Florida Public Utilities Company have been identified at this time. If such issues are identified, they shall be numbered 3A, 3B, 3C, and so forth, as appropriate.

Tampa Electric Company

ISSUE 4A: What was the total gain under TECO's Optimization Mechanism approved by Order No. PSC-2021-0423-S-EI that TECO may recover for the period

January 2024 through December 2024, and how should that gain to be shared between TECO and its customers?

OPC:

The OPC is not in agreement at this time that Tampa Electric has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the amount of gain and the gain to be shared between Tampa Electric and its customers for the period January 2024 through December 2024 is reasonable and prudent

ISSUE 4B: Should the Commission approve TECO's 2026 Risk Management Plan?

OPC:

The OPC is not in agreement at this time that Tampa Electric Company has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that its 2026 Risk Management Plan is reasonable and prudent.

GENERIC FUEL ADJUSTMENT ISSUES

<u>ISSUE 5</u>: What are the appropriate final fuel adjustment true-up amounts for the period January 2024 through December 2024?

OPC:

The OPC is not in agreement at this time that the Companies have demonstrated that they have met their burden to demonstrate that these costs are reasonable and/or prudent. A significant percentage of the costs on a customer's bill are based on clause recovery in this docket and others. The Commission has not held a contested proceeding where testimony from witnesses was heard and discussed in open hearing. The OPC is not in a position to agree, given these circumstances, that the costs proposed for final true-up and proposed for recovery from customers can necessarily be deemed reasonable and prudent.

ISSUE 6: What are the appropriate fuel adjustment actual/estimated true-up amounts for the period January 2025 through December 2025?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time the Companies have demonstrated that they have met their burden to demonstrate that these costs are reasonable and/or prudent. A significant percentage of the costs on a customer's bill are based on clause recovery in this docket and others. The Commission has not held a contested proceeding where testimony from witnesses was heard and discussed in open hearing. The OPC is not in a position to agree, given these circumstances, that the costs proposed for actual/estimated true-up and proposed for recovery from customers can necessarily be deemed reasonable or prudent.

ISSUE 7: What are the appropriate total fuel adjustment true-up amounts to be collected/refunded from January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that the Companies have demonstrated that they have met their burden to demonstrate that costs are reasonable and/or prudent. A significant percentage of the costs on a customer's bill is based on clause recovery in this docket and others. The Commission has not held a contested proceeding where testimony from witnesses was heard and discussed in open hearing. The OPC is not in a position to agree, given these circumstances, that total fuel adjustment true-up amounts to be collected/refunded from January 2026 through December 2026 can necessarily be deemed reasonable or prudent. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

ISSUE 8: What are the appropriate projected total fuel and purchased power cost recovery amounts for the period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC:

The OPC is not in agreement at this time that the Companies have demonstrated that they have met their burden to demonstrate that these costs are reasonable and/or prudent. A significant percentage of the costs on a customer's bill are based on clause recovery in this docket and others. The Commission has not held a contested proceeding where testimony from witnesses was heard and discussed in open hearing. The OPC is not in a position to agree, given these circumstances, that the projected total fuel and purchased power cost recovery amounts for the period January 2026 through December 2026 proposed for recovery from customers can necessarily be deemed reasonable. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

<u>COMPANY-SPECIFIC GENERATING PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE FACTOR</u> ISSUES

Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

No company-specific GPIF issues for Duke Energy Florida, Inc. have been identified at this time. If such issues are identified, they shall be numbered 9A, 9B, 9C, and so forth, as appropriate.

Florida Power & Light Company

No company-specific GPIF issues for Florida Power and Light Company have been identified at this time. If such issues are identified, they shall be numbered 10A, 10B, 10C, and so forth, as appropriate.

Tampa Electric Company

No company-specific GPIF issues for Tampa Electric Company have been identified at this time. If such issues are identified, they shall be numbered 11A, 11B, 11C, and so forth, as appropriate.

GENERIC GPIF ISSUES

ISSUE 12: What is the appropriate GPIF reward or penalty for performance achieved during the period January 2024 through December 2024 for each investor-owned electric utility subject to the GPIF?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that the Companies have demonstrated that they have met their burden to demonstrate that these costs are reasonable and/or prudent. A significant percentage of the costs on a customer's bill are based on clause recovery in this docket and others. The Commission has not held a contested proceeding where testimony from witnesses was heard and discussed in open hearing. The OPC is not in a position to agree, given these circumstances, that the

achieved during the period January 2024 through December 2024 can necessarily be deemed reasonable and prudent.

costs proposed for determination of the GPIF reward or penalty for performance

ISSUE 13: What should the GPIF targets/ranges be for the period January 2026 through December 2026 for each investor-owned electric utility subject to the GPIF?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that the Companies have demonstrated that they have met their burden to demonstrate that these targets/ranges are reasonable and/or prudent. A significant percentage of the costs on a customer's bill are based on clause recovery in this docket and others. The Commission has not held a contested proceeding where testimony from witnesses was heard and discussed in open hearing. The OPC is not in a position to agree, given these circumstances, that the costs proposed for determination of the GPIF targets/ranges be for the period January 2026 through December 2026 can necessarily be deemed reasonable or appropriate.

FUEL FACTOR CALCULATION ISSUES

ISSUE 14: What are the appropriate projected net fuel and purchased power cost recovery and Generating Performance Incentive amounts to be included in the recovery factor for the period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that the Companies have demonstrated that they have met their burden to demonstrate that these costs are reasonable and/or prudent. A significant percentage of the costs on a customer's bill are based on clause recovery in this docket and others. The Commission has not held a contested proceeding where testimony from witnesses was heard and discussed in open hearing. The OPC is not in a position to agree, given these circumstances, that the costs proposed for determination of the projected net fuel and purchased power cost recovery and Generating Performance Incentive amounts to be included in the recovery factor the period January 2026 through December 2026 can necessarily be deemed reasonable or appropriate. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost

ISSUE 15: What is the appropriate revenue tax factor to be applied in calculating each investor-owned electric utility's levelized fuel factor for the projection period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The factors should be based on costs deemed reasonable in a hearing.

attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

ISSUE 16: What are the appropriate levelized fuel cost recovery factors for the period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The factors should be based on costs deemed reasonable or prudent in a hearing. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and

facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

ISSUE 17: What are the appropriate fuel recovery line loss multipliers to be used in calculating the fuel cost recovery factors charged to each rate class/delivery voltage level class?

OPC: The multiplier used in calculating the factors should be based on costs deemed reasonable and prudent in a hearing.

<u>ISSUE 18</u>: What are the appropriate fuel cost recovery factors for each rate class/delivery voltage level class adjusted for line losses.

OPC: The factors should be based on costs deemed reasonable and prudent in a hearing. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

II. <u>CAPACITY ISSUES</u>

COMPANY-SPECIFIC CAPACITY COST RECOVERY FACTOR ISSUES

Duke Energy Florida, LLC.

ISSUE 19A: What is the appropriate amount of costs for the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) that DEF should be allowed to recover through the capacity cost recovery clause pursuant to DEF's 2017 Settlement for 2026?

OPC: The OPC is not in agreement at this time that DEF has demonstrated that it has met its burden to demonstrate that the appropriate amount of costs for the Independent

Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) that DEF are the correct ones to recover through the capacity cost recovery clause pursuant to DEF's 2017 Settlement for 2026

Florida Power & Light Company

No company-specific capacity cost recovery factor issues for Florida Power & Light Company have been identified at this time. If such issues are identified, they will be numbered 20A, 20B, 20C, and so forth, as appropriate.

Tampa Electric Company

No company-specific capacity cost recovery factor issues for Tampa Electric Company have been identified at this time. If such issues are identified, they will be numbered 21A, 21B, 21C, and so forth, as appropriate.

GENERIC CAPACITY COST RECOVERY FACTOR ISSUES

ISSUE 22: What are the appropriate final capacity cost recovery true-up amounts for the period January 2024 through December 2024?

OPC: The final capacity cost recovery true-up amounts for the period January 2024 through December 2024 should be based on costs deemed reasonable and prudent in a hearing.

ISSUE 23: What are the appropriate capacity cost recovery actual/estimated true-up amounts for the period January 2025 through December 2025?

OPC: The capacity cost recovery actual/estimated true-up amounts for the period January 2025 through December 2025 should be based on costs deemed reasonable or prudent in a hearing.

ISSUE 24: What are the appropriate total capacity cost recovery true-up amounts to be collected/refunded during the period January 2026 through December 2026?

The projected net purchased power capacity cost recovery amounts to be included in the recovery factor for the period January 2026 through December 2026 should be based on costs deemed reasonable in a hearing. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

ISSUE 25: What are the appropriate projected total capacity cost recovery amounts for the period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The projected total capacity cost recovery amounts for the period January 2026 through December 2026 should be based on costs deemed reasonable in a hearing. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

ISSUE 26: What are the appropriate projected net purchased power capacity cost recovery amounts to be included in the recovery factor for the period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The projected net purchased power capacity cost recovery amounts to be included in the recovery factor for the period January 2026 through December 2026 should be based on costs deemed reasonable in a hearing. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid

settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

ISSUE 27: What are the appropriate jurisdictional separation factors for capacity revenues and costs to be included in the recovery factor for the period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The appropriate jurisdictional separation factors for capacity revenues and costs to be included in the recovery factor for the period January 2026 through December 2026 should be based on costs deemed reasonable in a hearing.

ISSUE 28: What are the appropriate capacity cost recovery factors for the period January 2026 through December 2026?

OPC: The appropriate capacity cost recovery factors for the period January 2026 through December 2026 should be based on costs deemed reasonable in a hearing. In addition, with regard to FPL, the OPC does not agree that the Commission should presume the validity of a contested non-unanimous and special interest-focused and facially invalid settlement agreement filed on August 20, 2025 can or should give it any weight in determining costs, cost attribution, revenue allocation or factors in this docket.

III. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>

ISSUE 29: What should be the effective date of the fuel adjustment factors and capacity cost recovery factors for billing purposes?

OPC: The effective date for any rate change should be the first day of the first billing cycle in January 2026.

ISSUE 30: Should the Commission approve revised tariffs reflecting the fuel adjustment factors and capacity cost recovery factors determined to be appropriate in this proceeding?

OPC: The tariffs ultimately approved should be based on costs deemed reasonable or prudent in a hearing.

ISSUE 31: Should this docket be closed?

OPC: No position.

5. <u>STIPULATED ISSUES</u>

None at this time.

6. <u>PENDING MOTIONS</u>

OPC has no pending motions at the time.

7. <u>STATEMENT OF PARTY'S PENDING REQUESTS OR CLAIMS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY</u>

There are no pending requests for claims for confidentiality filed by OPC.

8. OBJECTIONS TO QUALIFICATION OF WITNESSES AS AN EXPERT

OPC has no objections to the qualification of any witnesses as an expert in the field which they pre-filed testimony as of the present date.

9. <u>SEQUESTRATION OF WITNESSES</u>

OPC does not request the sequestration of any witness at this time.

10. <u>STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER ESTABLISHING</u> <u>PROCEDURE</u>

There are no requirements of the Order Establishing Procedure with which OPC cannot comply.

Dated this 17th day of October, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walt Trierweiler Public Counsel

/s/ Charles J. Rehwinkel Charles J. Rehwinkel Deputy Public Counsel Florida Bar No.: 527599

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE DOCKET NO. 20250001-EI

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished

by electronic mail on this 17th day of October 2025, to the following:

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