

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of Big Bend Clean Water Act Section 316(b) study, for cost recovery through the environmental cost recovery clause, by Tampa Electric Company.

DOCKET NO. 20250149-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2026-0047-CFO-EI
ISSUED: February 13, 2026

ORDER GRANTING TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY'S
REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION
and
REQUEST FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER
(DOCUMENT NO. 00750-2026)

On January 29, 2026, Tampa Electric Company (TECO) filed a Request for Confidential Classification and Request for Temporary Protective Order, pursuant to Section 366.093, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), of certain information contained in TECO's response to Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) staff's First Data Request No. 4. The information can be described as concerning TECO's competitive bidding process. (Document No. 00750-2026).

Request for Confidential Classification

TECO contends that the information in Exhibit A of the Request constitutes proprietary and confidential business information entitled to protection under Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. TECO asserts that the information at issue relates to bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of TECO or its affiliates to contract for goods and/or services on favorable terms. TECO further asserts that the information is intended to be and is treated by TECO as private; and that the information has not been publicly disclosed. For these reasons, TECO argues the information is confidential and is protected by Section 366.093(3)(d), F.S.

Ruling

Section 366.093(1), F.S., provides that records the 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.

Upon review, it appears the above-referenced information in Document No. 00750-2026, as specifically detailed in Exhibit A, satisfies the criteria set forth in Section 366.093(3)(d), F.S., for classification as proprietary confidential business information. The information described above concerns TECO's competitive bidding process, which constitutes "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." Thus, the information identified in Document No. 00750-2026 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 TECO or another affected person shows, and the Commission finds, that the records continue to contain proprietary confidential business information.

Request for Temporary Protective Order

TECO also seeks protection of the document as provided in Section 366.093, F.S., and Rule 25-22.006, F.A.C. Section 366.093(2), F.S., directs that all records produced pursuant to a discovery request for which proprietary confidential status is requested shall be treated by any party subject to the public records law as confidential and exempt from Section 119.07(1), F.S., the public records law. Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C., codifies the Commission's policy regarding the protection of confidential information from public disclosure during the discovery process in a manner that is not overly burdensome to both parties. Rule 25-22.006(6)(a), F.A.C., in pertinent part, states:

In any formal proceeding before the Commission, any utility or other person may request a protective order protecting proprietary confidential business information from discovery. Upon a showing by a utility or other person and a finding by the Commission that the material is entitled to protection, the Commission shall enter a protective order limiting discovery in the manner provided for in Rule 1.280, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

Ruling

Upon consideration of TECO's assertions of the confidential nature of the information contained in portions of the discovery response, Document No. 00750-2026, TECO's Request for Temporary Protective Order is hereby granted. As a result, this information shall be protected from disclosure pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(6), F.A.C.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED by Commissioner Gary F. Clark, as Prehearing Officer, that Tampa Electric Company's Request for Confidential Classification of Document No. 00750-2026 is granted. It is further

ORDER NO. PSC-2026-0047-CFO-EI

DOCKET NO. 20250149-EI

PAGE 3

ORDERED that Tampa Electric Company's Request for Temporary Protective Order of the information in Document No. 00750-2026 is granted. It is further

ORDERED that the information in Document No. 00750-2026, 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 13th day of February, 2026.



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.

CMM

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission (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. 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.