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July 14, 2026

VIA: ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Adam J. Teitzman
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Undocketed: 20260000-OT
2025 Storm Protection Plan (Annual Status Report)

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached for filing are Tampa Electric Company's answers to Staff's First Data Request (Nos. 1-7), propounded via electronic mail on June 9, 2026.

Thank you for your assistance in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Malcolm N. Means'.

Malcolm N. Means

MNM/bml
Attachment
Penelope Buys (pbuys@psc.state.fl.us)
PSC Discovery
Sloan Lewis, TEC
TECO Regulatory Department

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
DOCKET NO. 20260000-OT
2025 STORM PROTECTION PLAN
ANNUAL STATUS REPORT
STAFF'S FIRST DATA REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 1
BATES PAGE(S): 1
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1. What percentage of TECO's storm protection costs are being recovered through the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause?

ANSWER:

A total of 97 percent of Tampa Electric's Storm Protection Plan ("SPP") costs are recovered through the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause.

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- 2.** Please refer to Table 5-1 of TECO's report. TECO identified that 3,234 miles were planned for the Distribution Vegetation Management program for 2025. However, in staff's report from last year, 3,224 miles were planned for 2025. Please verify the number of miles that were planned for 2025.

ANSWER:

Tampa Electric's prior SPP annual status report called for the company to complete 3,234 miles of Distribution Vegetation Management in 2025, as reflected in Table 5-1 of the company's 2024 SPP annual status report. The company confirms that 3,234 miles is the correct planned mileage for 2025.

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- 3.** Please refer to Table 5-1 of TECO's report. TECO identified that \$0.4 million was planned for the Transmission Infrastructure program in 2025. However, in staff's report from last year, \$0.6 million was planned for 2025. Please verify the cost that was planned for 2025.

ANSWER:

In prior years, Table 5-1 of Tampa Electric's SPP Annual Status Report reported the Transmission Infrastructure Inspections and Substation Infrastructure Inspections programs on a combined basis. Beginning with the 2025 report, the company identified these programs separately. The \$0.4 million planned for Transmission Infrastructure Inspections and the \$0.2 million planned for Substation Infrastructure Inspections together total \$0.6 million, which reconciles to the amount reflected in staff's report from last year.

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- 4.** Please refer to Table 5-1 of TECO's report. Please explain how the Distribution Storm Surge Hardening will be measured in phases.

ANSWER:

The Distribution Storm Surge Hardening Program is organized and prioritized by flood zone, with each zone representing a distinct phase of the program. This phased approach enables effective forecasting of the workload and costs, while also improving the tracking and management of completed work.

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5. Please refer to Table 5-1 of TECO's report. Please explain why TECO is changing the measurements for the Distribution Lateral Undergrounding and Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening projects from number of projects to number of miles and poles.

ANSWER:

Distribution Lateral Undergrounding ("DLU") and Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening ("FH") projects vary in size and scope, so project count alone does not provide the most accurate measure of work performed. For DLU projects, overhead miles removed better reflects the number of overhead facilities converted to underground service. For FH projects, the number of poles hardened better reflects the scope of hardening work completed. The change in measurement is intended to better align the reported metric with the actual scope of work performed. In addition, Tampa Electric uses these metrics internally within its Storm Protection Plan department for forecasting and progress tracking.

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- 6.** Please explain why the cost of the Distribution Infrastructure Inspection program appear to increase when TECO is planning to complete fewer projects in 2026 compared to 2025.

ANSWER:

Tampa Electric planned to inspect 35,625 distribution poles in both 2025 and 2026, with estimated costs of \$1.4 million and \$1.5 million, respectively. The \$0.1 million increase projected for 2026 reflects contract price escalation. Separately, the number of poles inspected or projected for inspection varies by year because the number of poles located on each circuit scheduled for inspection varies. In 2025, Tampa Electric inspected 38,951 distribution poles, and projects to inspect 35,625 poles in 2026 based on the circuits scheduled.

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7. Please explain why the costs of the following programs appear to decrease when TECO is planning to complete more projects in 2026 compared to 2025.
- a. Distribution Vegetation Management
 - b. Transmission Infrastructure Inspections

ANSWER:

- a. Cost estimates for Distribution Vegetation Management vary based on the specific circuits scheduled for work each year. Although Tampa Electric plans to complete more miles in 2026 than in 2025, the circuits planned for 2026 are expected to have a lower average cost per mile. This is due to differences in circuit characteristics, including vegetation composition, tree density, accessibility, and the technical complexity of the work required.
- b. The planned costs for Transmission Infrastructure Inspections did not decrease from 2025 to 2026; they are projected at \$0.4 million in both years. The number of poles inspected, however, varies based on the number of remaining wood poles on the circuits identified for inspection. Tampa Electric inspected 52 poles in 2025 and projects it will inspect 149 poles in 2026.