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July 14, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: *Duke Energy Florida, LLC's 2025 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report;*
Undocketed

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Please find enclosed for electronic filing Duke Energy Florida, LLC's Response to Staff's First Data Request (Nos. 1-3).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please feel free to call me at (850) 521-1428 should you have any questions concerning this filing.

Respectfully,

/s/ Matthew R. Bernier

Matthew R. Bernier

MRB/mh
Enclosure

cc: Penelope D. Buys (pbuys@psc.state.fl.us)

DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S ("DEF")

RESPONSE TO STAFF'S FIRST DATA REQUEST

RE. DEF'S 2025 STORM PROTECTION PLAN ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

1. What percentage of DEF's storm protection costs are being recovered through the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause?

Response:

Please see DEF's response to Staff's first set of interrogatories, question 13 in Docket No. 20260010-EI. 100% of DEF's storm protection plan costs are recovered through the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause.

2. Please explain why the cost of the following programs appear to increase when DEF is planning to complete fewer projects in 2026 compared to 2025.
 - a. Distribution Lateral Hardening-Underground
 - b. Transmission Tower Upgrades
 - c. Transmission Pole/Tower Inspections/Drone Inspections
 - d. Transmission Overhead Ground Wire
 - e. Transmission GOAB Automation
 - f. Transmission Substation Hardening

Response:

Overall, DEF reports on SPP Programs in SPPASR annual filings per the Staff's template, which displays "Projects/Activities" planned and completed for each year required. For example, under "Projects/Activities", Distribution Lateral Hardening – Underground is reported by # of Circuits. However, in SPPCRC annual filings, DEF reports in "Units." A Project/Activity is not always equal to one Unit; this methodology varies by DEF SPP Program. Due to this difference in the requested SPPASR template reporting to FPSC, sometimes year over year costs may appear to be higher for the same number of Project/Activities when in fact, such measure has a higher number of Units planned to complete. DEF has added a column into its SPPASR report for "Units" per subprogram.

DEF includes planning and engineering (and sometimes material) costs for the following year in addition to the current year construction costs in Actuals and Estimated/Projected reporting. In the Actuals/Completed reporting, DEF reports on all Projects/Activities, including those that had any work completed at a location or incurred cost transactions in that year. Costs reflected are dependent on the locations and number of Units completed each year.

- a. For Distribution Lateral Hardening Undergrounding, each project or location will not have a consistent number of miles of overhead line removed due to the specific assets at that work location. The count of “134” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Completed in 2025” represents the number of circuits on which any work, including engineering and planning, was performed or had cost transactions during 2025. On these 134 circuits, DEF completed 27 miles of overhead line removed work. Work on the remaining circuits will be completed in future years.

The count of “97” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Planned for 2026” represents the number of circuits on which execution work is expected but would not include a count of circuits to incur engineering or material charges during 2026 since that is not yet known at the time of filing. 78 miles of overhead line removed work is expected to be completed during 2026.

- b. For Tower Upgrades, each project or location will not have a consistent number of units due to the specific tower count on those transmission lines. The count of “8” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Completed in 2025” represents the number of locations on which any work, including engineering and planning, was performed or had cost transactions during 2025. There were 87 units completed in 2025. The count of “5” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Planned for 2026” represents the number of locations on which execution work is expected in 2026. 140 units are expected to be completed in 2026. The 2026 forecast incorporates the most recent unit costs and expected project completion timelines at the time of filing. The unit cost variance between 2025 and 2026 is approximately 3%.
- c. The Transmission Pole/Tower Inspections/Drone Inspections subprogram increase is primarily driven by a higher number of drone inspections to be completed in 2026 compared to 2025, which have a higher per unit cost than the structure inspections. The increase in the annual drone inspection count is driven by data needs to inform the Tower Upgrades subprogram’s future-year deployment plans.
- d. For Overhead Ground Wire, each project or location will not have a consistent number of units due to the specific OHGW mileage on those transmission lines. The count of “8” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Completed in 2025” represents the number of locations on which any work, including engineering and planning, was performed or had cost transactions during 2025. There were 87 units completed in 2025. The count of “5” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Planned for 2026” represents the number of locations on which execution work is expected in 2026. 140 units are expected to be completed in 2026. The 2026 forecast incorporates the most recent unit costs and expected project completion timelines at the time of filing.
- e. For GOAB Automation, the count of “36” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Completed in 2025” represents the number of locations on which any work, including engineering and planning, was performed or had cost transactions during 2025. There were 6 units completed in 2025. The count of “6” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Planned for 2026” represents the number of locations on which execution work is

expected in 2026. 6 units are expected to be completed in 2026 with \$1.2M to be spent on engineering for additional project locations to be constructed in future years. The 2026 forecast incorporates the most recent unit costs and expected project completion timelines at the time of filing.

- f. For Substation Hardening, the counts reflected in both the “Projects/Activities” and “Units” columns both reflect units (breakers/relay groups) completed. 30 units were completed in 2025 while 24 units are expected to be completed in 2026 with an additional \$1.5M to be spent on engineering for additional project locations to be constructed in future years. The 2026 forecast incorporates the most recent unit costs and expected project completion timelines at the time of filing.
3. Please explain why the cost of the following programs appear to decrease when DEF is planning to complete more projects in 2026 compared to 2025.
- a. Distribution Lateral Hardening Pole Replacements
 - b. Distribution Lateral Hardening Pole Inspections
 - c. Distribution Vegetation Management
 - d. Transmission Cathodic Protection

Response:

- a. DEF is anticipating cost decreases within the Lateral Hardening Pole Replacements due to the work in 2026 having a larger number of lower cost units than the higher cost units seen in 2025. This lower cost forecast is based on the 2026 workplan pole location specific costs including labor rates.
- b. DEF is anticipating cost decreases within the Lateral Hardening Pole Inspections due to the various types of inspection being performed at the pole, either a groundline inspection, visual only, etc., for the location(s). The work anticipated in 2026 has a greater number of lower cost units than the higher cost units seen in 2025.
- c. When the SPPASR was filed on June 1, DEF filed its forecast based on known information at the time, including an assumed number of hazard tree removals. If 2026 hazard tree volume increases above forecasted levels due to lingering past season storm impacts, the actual spend in 2026 would be higher than planned even though the miles pruned are forecasted to be in alignment with the filed target of 4,540.
- d. For Transmission Cathodic Protection, the count of “11” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Completed in 2025” represents the number of locations on which any work, including engineering and planning, was performed or had cost transactions during 2025. There were 277 units completed in 2025. The unit count per location will vary based on the number of structures to receive cathodic protection. The count of “13” reflected in the “Projects/Activities Planned for 2026” represents the number

of locations on which execution work is expected in 2026. 239 units are expected to be completed in 2026. The 2026 forecast incorporates the most recent unit costs and expected project completion timelines at the time of filing.