# NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC STAFF UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 1, 2021

Ms. Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk North Carolina Utilities Commission 4326 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300

Re: Cross-Examination Exhibits

Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1262 and E-7, Sub 1243

Joint Petition for Issuance of Storm Recovery Financing Orders

Dear Ms. Campbell:

In response to the North Carolina Utilities Commission's ("Commission") November 6, 2020 Order Scheduling Hearing, Requiring Filing of Testimony, and Establishing Discovery Deadlines, attached for filing in the above-referenced dockets are the Public Staff's Cross-Examination Exhibits introduced and moved into the record during the evidentiary hearing on Thursday, January 28, 2021, including a listing thereof.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

<u>Electronically submitted</u> /s/ William E. H. Creech zeke.creech@psncuc.nc.gov

# Attachment

c: Parties of Record

Executive Director (919) 733-2435

Accounting (919) 733-4279

Consumer Services (919) 733-9277 Economic Research (919) 733-2267

Energy (919) 733-2267 Legal (919) 733-6110

Transportation (919) 733-7766

Water/Telephone (919) 733-5610

# **Cross-Examination Exhibits**

The Public Staff introduced and moved the following Cross-Examination Exhibits into the record during the evidentiary hearing on Thursday, January 28, 2021, copies of which are also attached:

- Public Staff Pre-Marked Exhibit 1 introduced as:
  - Public Staff Heath Cross-Examination Exhibit 1.
- Public Staff Pre-Marked Exhibit 13 introduced as:
  - Public Staff Heath Cross-Examination Exhibit 2.
- Public Staff Pre-Marked Exhibit 28 introduced as:
  - Public Staff Heath Cross-Examination Exhibit 3.
     (Cross-examination was focused on "Order Book Status Credit Suisse")
- Public Staff Pre-Marked Exhibit 72 introduced as:
  - Public Staff Atkins Cross-Examination Exhibit 1.

### § 62-2. Declaration of policy.

- (a) Upon investigation, it has been determined that the rates, services and operations of public utilities as defined herein, are affected with the public interest and that the availability of an adequate and reliable supply of electric power and natural gas to the people, economy and government of North Carolina is a matter of public policy. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of North Carolina:
  - (1) To provide fair regulation of public utilities in the interest of the public;
  - (2) To promote the inherent advantage of regulated public utilities;
  - (3) To promote adequate, reliable and economical utility service to all of the citizens and residents of the State;
  - (3a) To assure that resources necessary to meet future growth through the provision of adequate, reliable utility service include use of the entire spectrum of demand-side options, including but not limited to conservation, load management and efficiency programs, as additional sources of energy supply and/or energy demand reductions. To that end, to require energy planning and fixing of rates in a manner to result in the least cost mix of generation and demand-reduction measures which is achievable, including consideration of appropriate rewards to utilities for efficiency and conservation which decrease utility bills;
  - (4) To provide just and reasonable rates and charges for public utility services without unjust discrimination, undue preferences or advantages, or unfair or destructive competitive practices and consistent with long-term management and conservation of energy resources by avoiding wasteful, uneconomic and inefficient uses of energy;
  - (4a) To assure that facilities necessary to meet future growth can be financed by the utilities operating in this State on terms which are reasonable and fair to both the customers and existing investors of such utilities; and to that end to authorize fixing of rates in such a manner as to result in lower costs of new facilities and lower rates over the operating lives of such new facilities by making provisions in the rate-making process for the investment of public utilities in plants under construction;
  - (5) To encourage and promote harmony between public utilities, their users and the environment;
  - (6) To foster the continued service of public utilities on a well-planned and coordinated basis that is consistent with the level of energy needed for the protection of public health and safety and for the promotion of the general welfare as expressed in the State energy policy;
  - (7) To seek to adjust the rate of growth of regulated energy supply facilities serving the State to the policy requirements of statewide development;
  - (8) To cooperate with other states and with the federal government in promoting and coordinating interstate and intrastate public utility service and reliability of public utility energy supply;
  - (9) To facilitate the construction of facilities in and the extension of natural gas service to unserved areas in order to promote the public welfare throughout the State and to that end to authorize the creation of expansion funds for natural gas local distribution companies or gas districts to be administered under the supervision of the North Carolina Utilities Commission; and
  - (10) To promote the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency through the implementation of a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) that will do all of the following:

1/21/2021 G.S. 62-2

- a. Diversify the resources used to reliably meet the energy needs of consumers in the State.
- b. Provide greater energy security through the use of indigenous energy resources available within the State.
- c. Encourage private investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- d. Provide improved air quality and other benefits to energy consumers and citizens of the State.
- (b) To these ends, therefore, authority shall be vested in the North Carolina Utilities Commission to regulate public utilities generally, their rates, services and operations, and their expansion in relation to long-term energy conservation and management policies and statewide development requirements, and in the manner and in accordance with the policies set forth in this Chapter. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to imply any extension of Utilities Commission regulatory jurisdiction over any industry or enterprise that is not subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of said Commission.

Because of technological changes in the equipment and facilities now available and needed to provide telephone and telecommunications services, changes in regulatory policies by the federal government, and changes resulting from the court-ordered divestiture of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, competitive offerings of certain types of telephone and telecommunications services may be in the public interest. Consequently, authority shall be vested in the North Carolina Utilities Commission to allow competitive offerings of local exchange, exchange access, and long distance services by public utilities defined in G.S. 62-3(23)a.6. and certified in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 62-110, and the Commission is further authorized after notice to affected parties and hearing to deregulate or to exempt from regulation under any or all provisions of this Chapter: (i) a service provided by any public utility as defined in G.S. 62-3(23)a.6. upon a finding that such service is competitive and that such deregulation or exemption from regulation is in the public interest; or (ii) a public utility as defined in G.S. 62-3(23)a.6., or a portion of the business of such public utility, upon a finding that the service or business of such public utility is competitive and that such deregulation or exemption from regulation is in the public interest.

Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 62-110(b) and G.S. 62-134(h), the following services provided by public utilities defined in G.S. 62-3(23)a.6. are sufficiently competitive and shall no longer be regulated by the Commission: (i) intraLATA long distance service; (ii) interLATA long distance service; and (iii) long distance operator services. A public utility providing such services shall be permitted, at its own election, to file and maintain tariffs for such services with the Commission up to and including September 1, 2003. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the Commission's authority regarding certification of providers of such services or its authority to hear and resolve complaints against providers of such services alleged to have made changes to the services of customers or imposed charges without appropriate authorization. For purposes of this subsection, and notwithstanding G.S. 62-110(b), "long distance services" shall not include existing or future extended area service, local measured service, or other local calling arrangements, and any future extended area service shall be implemented consistent with Commission rules governing extended area service existing as of May 1, 2003.

The North Carolina Utilities Commission may develop regulatory policies to govern the provision of telecommunications services to the public which promote efficiency, technological innovation, economic growth, and permit telecommunications utilities a reasonable opportunity to compete in an emerging competitive environment, giving due regard to consumers, stockholders, and maintenance of reasonably affordable local exchange service and long distance service.

1/21/2021 G.S. 62-2

(b1) Broadband service provided by public utilities as defined in G.S. 62-3(23)a.6. is sufficiently competitive and shall not be regulated by the Commission.

(c) The policy and authority stated in this section shall be applicable to common carriers of passengers by motor vehicle and their regulation by the North Carolina Utilities Commission only to the extent that they are consistent with the provisions of the Bus Regulatory Reform Act of 1985. (1963, c. 1165, s. 1; 1975, c. 877, s. 2; 1977, c. 691, s. 1; 1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1043, s. 1; 1985, c. 676, s. 3; 1987, c. 354; 1989, c. 112, s. 1; 1991, c. 598, s. 1; 1995, c. 27, s. 1; 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 742, ss. 29-32; 1998-132, s. 18; 2003-91, s. 1; 2005-95, s. 1; 2007-397, s. 1.)

### § 62-15. Office of executive director; public staff, structure and function.

- There is established in the Commission the office of executive director, whose salary and longevity pay shall be the same as that fixed for members of the Commission. "Service" for purposes of longevity pay means service as executive director of the public staff. The executive director shall be appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the General Assembly by joint resolution. The name of the executive director appointed by the Governor shall be submitted to the General Assembly on or before May 1 of the year in which the term of his office begins. The term of office for the executive director shall be six years, and the initial term shall begin July 1, 1977. The executive director may be removed from office by the Governor in the event of his incapacity to serve; and the executive director shall be removed from office by the Governor upon the affirmative recommendation of a majority of the Commission, after consultation with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources, and the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources of the General Assembly. In case of a vacancy in the office of executive director for any reason prior to the expiration of his term of office, the name of his successor shall be submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly, not later than four weeks after the vacancy arises. If a vacancy arises in the office when the General Assembly is not in session, the executive director shall be appointed by the Governor to serve on an interim basis pending confirmation by the General Assembly.
- (b) There is established in the Commission a public staff. The public staff shall consist of the executive director and such other professional, administrative, technical, and clerical personnel as may be necessary in order for the public staff to represent the using and consuming public, as hereinafter provided. All such personnel shall be appointed, supervised, and directed by the executive director. The public staff shall not be subject to the supervision, direction, or control of the Commission, the chairman, or members of the Commission.
- (c) Except for the executive director, the salaries and compensation of all such personnel shall be fixed in the manner provided by law for fixing and regulating salaries and compensation by other State agencies.
  - (d) It shall be the duty and responsibility of the public staff to:
    - (1) Review, investigate, and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission with respect to the reasonableness of rates charged or proposed to be charged by any public utility and with respect to the consistency of such rates with the public policy of assuring an energy supply adequate to protect the public health and safety and to promote the general welfare;
    - (2) Review, investigate, and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission with respect to the service furnished, or proposed to be furnished by any public utility;
    - (3) Intervene on behalf of the using and consuming public, in all Commission proceedings affecting the rates or service of any public utility;
    - When deemed necessary by the executive director in the interest of the using and consuming public, petition the Commission to initiate proceedings to review, investigate, and take appropriate action with respect to the rates or service of public utilities;
    - (5) Intervene on behalf of the using and consuming public in all certificate applications filed pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 62-110.1, and provide assistance to the Commission in making the analysis and plans required pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 62-110.1 and 62-155;

- (6) Intervene on behalf of the using and consuming public in all proceedings wherein any public utility proposes to reduce or abandon service to the public;
- (7) Investigate complaints affecting the using and consuming public generally which are directed to the Commission, members of the Commission, or the public staff and where appropriate make recommendations to the Commission with respect to such complaints;
- (8) Make studies and recommendations to the Commission with respect to standards, regulations, practices, or service of any public utility pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 62-43; provided, however, that the public staff shall have no duty, responsibility, or authority with respect to the enforcement of natural gas pipeline safety laws, rules, or regulations;
- (9) When deemed necessary by the executive director, in the interest of the using and consuming public, intervene in Commission proceedings with respect to transfers of franchises, mergers, consolidations, and combinations of public utilities pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 62-111;
- (10) Investigate and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission with respect to applications for certificates by radio common carriers, pursuant to the provisions of Article 6A of this Chapter;
- (11) Review, investigate, and make appropriate recommendations to the Commission with respect to contracts of public utilities with affiliates or subsidiaries, pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 62-153;
- (12) When deemed necessary by the executive director, in the interest of the using and consuming public, advise the Commission with respect to securities, regulations, and transactions, pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of this Chapter.
- (e) The public staff shall have no duty, responsibility, or authority with respect to the laws, rules or regulations pertaining to the physical facilities or equipment of common, contract and exempt carriers, the registration of vehicles or of insurance coverage of vehicles of common, contract and exempt carriers; the licensing, training, or qualifications of drivers or other persons employed by common, contract and exempt carriers, or the operation of motor vehicle equipment by common, contract and exempt carriers in the State.
- (f) The executive director representing the public staff shall have the same rights of appeal from Commission orders or decisions as other parties to Commission proceedings.
- (g) Upon request, the executive director shall employ the resources of the public staff to furnish to the Commission, its members, or the Attorney General, such information and reports or conduct such investigations and provide such other assistance as may reasonably be required in order to supervise and control the public utilities of the State as may be necessary to carry out the laws providing for their regulation.
- (h) The executive director is authorized to employ, subject to approval by the State Budget Officer, expert witnesses and such other professional expertise as the executive director may deem necessary from time to time to assist the public staff in its participation in Commission proceedings, and the compensation and expenses therefor shall be paid by the utility or utilities participating in said proceedings. Such compensation and expenses shall be treated by the Commission, for rate-making purposes, in a manner generally consistent with its treatment of similar expenditures incurred by utilities in the presentation of their cases before the Commission. An accounting of such compensation and expenses shall be reported annually to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources, and the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(i) The executive director, within established budgetary limits, and as allowed by law, shall authorize and approve travel, subsistence, and related necessary expenses of the executive director or members of the public staff, incurred while traveling on official business. (1949, c. 1009, s. 3; 1963, c. 1165, s. 1; 1977, c. 468, s. 4; 1981, c. 475; 1983, c. 717, s. 12.1; 1985, c. 499, s. 4; 1989, c. 781, s. 41.3; 1989 (Reg. Sess., 1990), c. 1024, s. 13; 1999-237, s. 28.21A; 2011-291, ss. 2.8, 2.9; 2017-57, s. 14.1(p).)

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2019

# SESSION LAW 2019-244 SENATE BILL 559

# A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PERMIT FINANCING FOR CERTAIN STORM RECOVERY COSTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 8 of Chapter 62 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

### "§ 62-172. Financing for certain storm recovery costs.

- (a) Definitions. The following definitions apply in this section:
  - (1) Ancillary agreement. A bond, insurance policy, letter of credit, reserve account, surety bond, interest rate lock or swap arrangement, hedging arrangement, liquidity or credit support arrangement, or other financial arrangement entered into in connection with storm recovery bonds.
  - Assignee. A legally recognized entity to which a public utility assigns, sells, or transfers, other than as security, all or a portion of its interest in or right to storm recovery property. The term includes a corporation, limited liability company, general partnership or limited partnership, public authority, trust, financing entity, or any entity to which an assignee assigns, sells, or transfers, other than as security, its interest in or right to storm recovery property.
  - (2a) Bondholder. A person who holds a storm recovery bond.
  - (2b) Code. The Uniform Commercial Code, Chapter 25 of the General Statutes.
  - (3) Commission. The North Carolina Utilities Commission.
  - (4) Financing costs. The term includes all of the following:
    - <u>a.</u> <u>Interest and acquisition, defeasance, or redemption premiums payable on storm recovery bonds.</u>
    - b. Any payment required under an ancillary agreement and any amount required to fund or replenish a reserve account or other accounts established under the terms of any indenture, ancillary agreement, or other financing documents pertaining to storm recovery bonds.
    - c. Any other cost related to issuing, supporting, repaying, refunding, and servicing storm recovery bonds, including, servicing fees, accounting and auditing fees, trustee fees, legal fees, consulting fees, structuring adviser fees, administrative fees, placement and underwriting fees, independent director and manager fees, capitalized interest, rating agency fees, stock exchange listing and compliance fees, security registration fees, filing fees, information technology programming costs, and any other costs necessary to otherwise ensure the timely payment of storm recovery bonds or other amounts or charges payable in connection with the bonds, including costs related to obtaining the financing order.
    - d. Any taxes and license fees or other fees imposed on the revenues generated from the collection of the storm recovery charge or



- <u>otherwise resulting from the collection of storm recovery charges, in</u> any such case whether paid, payable, or accrued.
- e. Any State and local taxes, franchise, gross receipts, and other taxes or similar charges, including regulatory assessment fees, whether paid, payable, or accrued.
- <u>f.</u> Any costs incurred by the Commission or public staff for any outside consultants or counsel retained in connection with the securitization of storm recovery costs.
- (5) Financing order. An order that authorizes the issuance of storm recovery bonds; the imposition, collection, and periodic adjustments of a storm recovery charge; the creation of storm recovery property; and the sale, assignment, or transfer of storm recovery property to an assignee.
- (6) Financing party. Bondholders and trustees, collateral agents, any party under an ancillary agreement, or any other person acting for the benefit of bondholders.
- (7) Financing statement. Defined in Article 9 of the Code.
- (8) Pledgee. A financing party to which a public utility or its successors or assignees mortgages, negotiates, pledges, or creates a security interest or lien on all or any portion of its interest in or right to storm recovery property.
- (9) Public utility. A public utility, as defined in G.S. 62-3, that sells electric power to retail electric customers in the State.
- (10) Storm. Individually or collectively, a named tropical storm or hurricane, a tornado, ice storm or snow storm, flood, an earthquake, or other significant weather or natural disaster.
- (11) Storm recovery activity. An activity or activities by a public utility, its affiliates, or its contractors, directly and specifically in connection with the restoration of service and infrastructure associated with electric power outages affecting customers of a public utility as the result of a storm or storms, including activities related to mobilization, staging, and construction, reconstruction, replacement, or repair of electric generation, transmission, distribution, or general plant facilities.
- (12) Storm recovery bonds. Bonds, debentures, notes, certificates of participation, certificates of beneficial interest, certificates of ownership, or other evidences of indebtedness or ownership that are issued by a public utility or an assignee pursuant to a financing order, the proceeds of which are used directly or indirectly to recover, finance, or refinance Commission-approved storm recovery costs and financing costs, and that are secured by or payable from storm recovery property. If certificates of participation or ownership are issued, references in this section to principal, interest, or premium shall be construed to refer to comparable amounts under those certificates.
- (13) Storm recovery charge. The amounts authorized by the Commission to repay, finance, or refinance storm recovery costs and financing costs and that are nonbypassable charges (i) imposed on and part of all retail customer bills, (ii) collected by a public utility or its successors or assignees, or a collection agent, in full, separate and apart from the public utility's base rates, and (iii) paid by all existing or future retail customers receiving transmission or distribution service, or both, from the public utility or its successors or assignees under Commission-approved rate schedules or under special contracts, even if a customer elects to purchase electricity from an alternative electricity supplier following a fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in this State.

# (14) Storm recovery costs. – All of the following:

- a. All incremental costs, including capital costs, appropriate for recovery from existing and future retail customers receiving transmission or distribution service from the public utility that a public utility has incurred or expects to incur as a result of the applicable storm that are caused by, associated with, or remain as a result of undertaking storm recovery activity. Such costs include the public utility's cost of capital from the date of the applicable storm to the date the storm recovery bonds are issued calculated using the public utility's weighted average cost of capital as defined in its most recent base rate case proceeding before the Commission net of applicable income tax savings related to the interest component.
- b. Storm recovery costs shall be net of applicable insurance proceeds, tax benefits and any other amounts intended to reimburse the public utility for storm recovery activities such as government grants, or aid of any kind and where determined appropriate by the Commission, and may include adjustments for capital replacement and operating costs previously considered in determining normal amounts in the public utility's most recent general rate proceeding. Storm recovery costs includes the cost to replenish and fund any storm reserves and costs of repurchasing equity or retiring any existing indebtedness relating to storm recovery activities.
- with respect to storm recovery costs that the public utility expects to incur, any difference between costs expected to be incurred and actual, reasonable and prudent costs incurred, or any other rate-making adjustments appropriate to fairly and reasonably assign or allocate storm cost recovery to customers over time, shall be addressed in a future general rate proceeding, as may be facilitated by other orders of the Commission issued at the time or prior to such proceeding; provided, however, that the Commission's adoption of a financing order and approval of the issuance of storm recovery bonds may not be revoked or otherwise modified.

### (15) Storm recovery property. – All of the following:

- a. All rights and interests of a public utility or successor or assignee of the public utility under a financing order, including the right to impose, bill, charge, collect, and receive storm recovery charges authorized under the financing order and to obtain periodic adjustments to such charges as provided in the financing order.
- b. All revenues, collections, claims, rights to payments, payments, money, or proceeds arising from the rights and interests specified in the financing order, regardless of whether such revenues, collections, claims, rights to payment, payments, money, or proceeds are imposed, billed, received, collected, or maintained together with or commingled with other revenues, collections, rights to payment, payments, money, or proceeds.

### (b) Financing Orders. –

- (1) A public utility may petition the Commission for a financing order. The petition shall include all of the following:
  - <u>A description of the storm recovery activities that the public utility has</u>
     <u>undertaken or proposes to undertake and the reasons for undertaking</u>
     <u>the activities, or if the public utility is subject to a settlement agreement</u>

- as contemplated by subdivision (2) of this subsection, a description of the settlement agreement.
- b. The storm recovery costs and estimate of the costs of any storm recovery activities that are being undertaken but are not completed.
- c. The level of the storm recovery reserve that the public utility proposes to establish or replenish and has determined would be appropriate to recover through storm recovery bonds and is seeking to so recover and such level that the public utility is funding or will seek to fund through other means, together with a description of the factors and calculations used in determining the amounts and methods of recovery.
- d. An indicator of whether the public utility proposes to finance all or a portion of the storm recovery costs using storm recovery bonds. If the public utility proposes to finance a portion of the costs, the public utility must identify the specific portion in the petition. By electing not to finance a portion of such storm recovery costs using storm recovery bonds, a public utility shall not be deemed to waive its right to recover such costs pursuant to a separate proceeding with the Commission.
- e. An estimate of the financing costs related to the storm recovery bonds.
- f. An estimate of the storm recovery charges necessary to recover the storm recovery costs, including the storm recovery reserve amount determined appropriate by the Commission, and financing costs and the period for recovery of such costs.
- g. A comparison between the net present value of the costs to customers that are estimated to result from the issuance of storm recovery bonds and the costs that would result from the application of the traditional method of financing and recovering storm recovery costs from customers. The comparison should demonstrate that the issuance of storm recovery bonds and the imposition of storm recovery charges are expected to provide quantifiable benefits to customers.
- <u>h.</u> <u>Direct testimony and exhibits supporting the petition.</u>
- (2) If a public utility is subject to a settlement agreement that governs the type and amount of principal costs that could be included in storm recovery costs and the public utility proposes to finance all or a portion of the principal costs using storm recovery bonds, then the public utility must file a petition with the Commission for review and approval of those costs no later than 90 days before filing a petition for a financing order pursuant to this section.
- (3) Petition and order.
  - a. Proceedings on a petition submitted pursuant to this subdivision begin with the petition by a public utility, filed subject to the time frame specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, if applicable, and shall be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of this Chapter and the rules of the Commission, except as follows:
    - 1. Within 14 days after the date the petition is filed, the Commission shall establish a procedural schedule that permits a Commission decision no later than 135 days after the date the petition is filed.
    - No later than 135 days after the date the petition is filed, the Commission shall issue a financing order or an order rejecting the petition. A party to the Commission proceeding may petition the Commission for reconsideration of the financing order within five days after the date of its issuance.

- <u>b.</u> A financing order issued by the Commission to a public utility shall include all of the following elements:
  - 1. Except for changes made pursuant to the formula-based mechanism authorized under this section, the amount of storm recovery costs, including the level of storm recovery reserves, to be financed using storm recovery bonds. The Commission shall describe and estimate the amount of financing costs that may be recovered through storm recovery charges and specify the period over which storm recovery costs and financing costs may be recovered.
  - 2. A finding that the proposed issuance of storm recovery bonds and the imposition and collection of a storm recovery charge are expected to provide quantifiable benefits to customers as compared to the costs that would have been incurred absent the issuance of storm recovery bonds.
  - 3. A finding that the structuring and pricing of the storm recovery bonds are reasonably expected to result in the lowest storm recovery charges consistent with market conditions at the time the storm recovery bonds are priced and the terms set forth in such financing order.
  - 4. A requirement that, for so long as the storm recovery bonds are outstanding and until all financing costs have been paid in full, the imposition and collection of storm recovery charges authorized under a financing order shall be nonbypassable and paid by all existing and future retail customers receiving transmission or distribution service, or both, from the public utility or its successors or assignees under Commission-approved rate schedules or under special contracts, even if a customer elects to purchase electricity from an alternative electric supplier following a fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in this State.
  - 5. A determination of what portion, if any, of the storm recovery reserves must be held in a funded reserve and any limitations on how the reserve may be held, accessed, or used.
  - 6. A formula-based true-up mechanism for making, at least annually, expeditious periodic adjustments in the storm recovery charges that customers are required to pay pursuant to the financing order and for making any adjustments that are necessary to correct for any overcollection or undercollection of the charges or to otherwise ensure the timely payment of storm recovery bonds and financing costs and other required amounts and charges payable in connection with the storm recovery bonds.
  - 7. The storm recovery property that is, or shall be, created in favor of a public utility or its successors or assignees and that shall be used to pay or secure storm recovery bonds and all financing costs.
  - 8. The degree of flexibility to be afforded to the public utility in establishing the terms and conditions of the storm recovery bonds, including, but not limited to, repayment schedules, expected interest rates, and other financing costs.

- 9. How storm recovery charges will be allocated among customer classes.
- 10. A requirement that, after the final terms of an issuance of storm recovery bonds have been established and before the issuance of storm recovery bonds, the public utility determines the resulting initial storm recovery charge in accordance with the financing order and that such initial storm recovery charge be final and effective upon the issuance of such storm recovery bonds without further Commission action so long as the storm recovery charge is consistent with the financing order.
- 11. A method of tracing funds collected as storm recovery charges, or other proceeds of storm recovery property, and determine that such method shall be deemed the method of tracing such funds and determining the identifiable cash proceeds of any storm recovery property subject to a financing order under applicable law.
- 12. Any other conditions not otherwise inconsistent with this section that the Commission determines are appropriate.
- c. A financing order issued to a public utility may provide that creation of the public utility's storm recovery property is conditioned upon, and simultaneous with, the sale or other transfer of the storm recovery property to an assignee and the pledge of the storm recovery property to secure storm recovery bonds.
- <u>d.</u> If the Commission issues a financing order, the public utility shall file with the Commission at least annually a petition or a letter applying the formula-based mechanism and, based on estimates of consumption for each rate class and other mathematical factors, requesting administrative approval to make the applicable adjustments. The review of the filing shall be limited to determining whether there are any mathematical or clerical errors in the application of the formula-based mechanism relating to the appropriate amount of any overcollection or undercollection of storm recovery charges and the amount of an adjustment. The adjustments shall ensure the recovery of revenues sufficient to provide for the payment of principal, interest, acquisition, defeasance, financing costs, or redemption premium and other fees, costs, and charges in respect of storm recovery bonds approved under the financing order. Within 30 days after receiving a public utility's request pursuant to this paragraph, the Commission shall either approve the request or inform the public utility of any mathematical or clerical errors in its calculation. If the Commission informs the utility of mathematical or clerical errors in its calculation, the utility may correct its error and refile its request. The time frames previously described in this paragraph shall apply to a refiled request.
- e. Subsequent to the transfer of storm recovery property to an assignee or the issuance of storm recovery bonds authorized thereby, whichever is earlier, a financing order is irrevocable and, except for changes made pursuant to the formula-based mechanism authorized in this section, the Commission may not amend, modify, or terminate the financing order by any subsequent action or reduce, impair, postpone, terminate, or otherwise adjust storm recovery charges approved in the financing order. After the issuance of a financing order, the public utility retains

- sole discretion regarding whether to assign, sell, or otherwise transfer storm recovery property or to cause storm recovery bonds to be issued, including the right to defer or postpone such assignment, sale, transfer, or issuance.
- At the request of a public utility, the Commission may commence a proceeding and issue a subsequent financing order that provides for refinancing, retiring, or refunding storm recovery bonds issued pursuant to the original financing order if the Commission finds that the subsequent financing order satisfies all of the criteria specified in this section for a financing order. Effective upon retirement of the refunded storm recovery bonds and the issuance of new storm recovery bonds, the Commission shall adjust the related storm recovery charges accordingly.
- (5) Within 60 days after the Commission issues a financing order or a decision denying a request for reconsideration or, if the request for reconsideration is granted, within 30 days after the Commission issues its decision on reconsideration, an adversely affected party may petition for judicial review in the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Review on appeal shall be based solely on the record before the Commission and briefs to the court and is limited to determining whether the financing order, or the order on reconsideration, conforms to the State Constitution and State and federal law and is within the authority of the Commission under this section.
- (6) Duration of financing order.
  - a. A financing order remains in effect and storm recovery property under the financing order continues to exist until storm recovery bonds issued pursuant to the financing order have been paid in full or defeased and, in each case, all Commission-approved financing costs of such storm recovery bonds have been recovered in full.
  - b. A financing order issued to a public utility remains in effect and unabated notwithstanding the reorganization, bankruptcy or other insolvency proceedings, merger, or sale of the public utility or its successors or assignees.
- (c) Exceptions to Commission Jurisdiction.
  - (1) The Commission may not, in exercising its powers and carrying out its duties regarding any matter within its authority pursuant to this Chapter, consider the storm recovery bonds issued pursuant to a financing order to be the debt of the public utility other than for federal income tax purposes, consider the storm recovery charges paid under the financing order to be the revenue of the public utility for any purpose, or consider the storm recovery costs or financing costs specified in the financing order to be the costs of the public utility, nor may the Commission determine any action taken by a public utility which is consistent with the financing order to be unjust or unreasonable.
  - The Commission may not order or otherwise directly or indirectly require a public utility to use storm recovery bonds to finance any project, addition, plant, facility, extension, capital improvement, equipment, or any other expenditure. After the issuance of a financing order, the public utility retains sole discretion regarding whether to cause the storm recovery bonds to be issued, including the right to defer or postpone such sale, assignment, transfer, or issuance. Nothing shall prevent the public utility from abandoning the issuance of storm recovery bonds under the financing order by filing with the Commission a statement of abandonment and the reasons therefor. The Commission may not refuse to allow a public utility to recover storm recovery

- costs in an otherwise permissible fashion, or refuse or condition authorization or approval of the issuance and sale by a public utility of securities or the assumption by the public utility of liabilities or obligations, solely because of the potential availability of storm recovery bond financing.
- (d) Public Utility Duties. The electric bills of a public utility that has obtained a financing order and caused storm recovery bonds to be issued must comply with the provisions of this subsection; however, the failure of a public utility to comply with this subsection does not invalidate, impair, or affect any financing order, storm recovery property, storm recovery charge, or storm recovery bonds. The public utility must do the following:
  - Explicitly reflect that a portion of the charges on such bill represents storm recovery charges approved in a financing order issued to the public utility and, if the storm recovery property has been transferred to an assignee, must include a statement to the effect that the assignee is the owner of the rights to storm recovery charges and that the public utility or other entity, if applicable, is acting as a collection agent or servicer for the assignee. The tariff applicable to customers must indicate the storm recovery charge and the ownership of the charge.
  - (2) Include the storm recovery charge on each customer's bill as a separate line item and include both the rate and the amount of the charge on each bill.
  - (e) Storm Recovery Property.
    - (1) Provisions applicable to storm recovery property.
      - a. All storm recovery property that is specified in a financing order constitutes an existing, present intangible property right or interest therein, notwithstanding that the imposition and collection of storm recovery charges depends on the public utility, to which the financing order is issued, performing its servicing functions relating to the collection of storm recovery charges and on future electricity consumption. The property exists (i) regardless of whether or not the revenues or proceeds arising from the property have been billed, have accrued, or have been collected and (ii) notwithstanding the fact that the value or amount of the property is dependent on the future provision of service to customers by the public utility or its successors or assignees and the future consumption of electricity by customers.
      - b. Storm recovery property specified in a financing order exists until storm recovery bonds issued pursuant to the financing order are paid in full and all financing costs and other costs of such storm recovery bonds have been recovered in full.
      - c. All or any portion of storm recovery property specified in a financing order issued to a public utility may be transferred, sold, conveyed, or assigned to a successor or assignee that is wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by the public utility and created for the limited purpose of acquiring, owning, or administering storm recovery property or issuing storm recovery bonds under the financing order. All or any portion of storm recovery property may be pledged to secure storm recovery bonds issued pursuant to the financing order, amounts payable to financing parties and to counterparties under any ancillary agreements, and other financing costs. Any transfer, sale, conveyance, assignment, grant of a security interest in or pledge of storm recovery property by a public utility, or an affiliate of the public utility, to an assignee, to the extent previously authorized in a financing order, does not require the prior consent and approval of the Commission.

- d. If a public utility defaults on any required payment of charges arising from storm recovery property specified in a financing order, a court, upon application by an interested party, and without limiting any other remedies available to the applying party, shall order the sequestration and payment of the revenues arising from the storm recovery property to the financing parties or their assignees. Any such financing order remains in full force and effect notwithstanding any reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency proceedings with respect to the public utility or its successors or assignees.
- e. The interest of a transferee, purchaser, acquirer, assignee, or pledgee in storm recovery property specified in a financing order issued to a public utility, and in the revenue and collections arising from that property, is not subject to setoff, counterclaim, surcharge, or defense by the public utility or any other person or in connection with the reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency of the public utility or any other entity.
- f. Any successor to a public utility, whether pursuant to any reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency proceeding or whether pursuant to any merger or acquisition, sale, or other business combination, or transfer by operation of law, as a result of public utility restructuring or otherwise, must perform and satisfy all obligations of, and have the same rights under a financing order as, the public utility under the financing order in the same manner and to the same extent as the public utility, including collecting and paying to the person entitled to receive the revenues, collections, payments, or proceeds of the storm recovery property. Nothing in this sub-subdivision is intended to limit or impair any authority of the Commission concerning the transfer or succession of interests of public utilities.
- g. Storm recovery bonds shall be nonrecourse to the credit or any assets of the public utility other than the storm recovery property as specified in the financing order and any rights under any ancillary agreement.
- (2) Provisions applicable to security interests.
  - a. The creation, perfection, and enforcement of any security interest in storm recovery property to secure the repayment of the principal and interest and other amounts payable in respect of storm recovery bonds; amounts payable under any ancillary agreement and other financing costs are governed by this subsection and not by the provisions of the Code.
  - b. A security interest in storm recovery property is created, valid, and binding and perfected at the later of the time: (i) the financing order is issued, (ii) a security agreement is executed and delivered by the debtor granting such security interest, (iii) the debtor has rights in such storm recovery property or the power to transfer rights in such storm recovery property, or (iv) value is received for the storm recovery property. The description of storm recovery property in a security agreement is sufficient if the description refers to this section and the financing order creating the storm recovery property.
  - c. A security interest shall attach without any physical delivery of collateral or other act, and, upon the filing of a financing statement with the office of the Secretary of State, the lien of the security interest

- shall be valid, binding, and perfected against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the person granting the security interest, regardless of whether the parties have notice of the lien. Also upon this filing, a transfer of an interest in the storm recovery property shall be perfected against all parties having claims of any kind, including any judicial lien or other lien creditors or any claims of the seller or creditors of the seller, and shall have priority over all competing claims other than any prior security interest, ownership interest, or assignment in the property previously perfected in accordance with this section.
- d. The Secretary of State shall maintain any financing statement filed to perfect any security interest under this section in the same manner that the Secretary maintains financing statements filed by transmitting utilities under the Code. The filing of a financing statement under this section shall be governed by the provisions regarding the filing of financing statements in the Code.
- e. The priority of a security interest in storm recovery property is not affected by the commingling of storm recovery charges with other amounts. Any pledgee or secured party shall have a perfected security interest in the amount of all storm recovery charges that are deposited in any cash or deposit account of the qualifying utility in which storm recovery charges have been commingled with other funds and any other security interest that may apply to those funds shall be terminated when they are transferred to a segregated account for the assignee or a financing party.
- f. No application of the formula-based adjustment mechanism as provided in this section will affect the validity, perfection, or priority of a security interest in or transfer of storm recovery property.
- g. If a default or termination occurs under the storm recovery bonds, the financing parties or their representatives may foreclose on or otherwise enforce their lien and security interest in any storm recovery property as if they were secured parties with a perfected and prior lien under the Code, and the Commission may order amounts arising from storm recovery charges be transferred to a separate account for the financing parties' benefit, to which their lien and security interest shall apply. On application by or on behalf of the financing parties, the Superior Court of Wake County shall order the sequestration and payment to them of revenues arising from the storm recovery charges.
- (3) Provisions applicable to the sale, assignment, or transfer of storm recovery property.
  - a. Any sale, assignment, or other transfer of storm recovery property shall be an absolute transfer and true sale of, and not a pledge of or secured transaction relating to, the seller's right, title, and interest in, to, and under the storm recovery property if the documents governing the transaction expressly state that the transaction is a sale or other absolute transfer other than for federal and State income tax purposes. For all purposes other than federal and State income tax purposes, the parties' characterization of a transaction as a sale of an interest in storm recovery property shall be conclusive that the transaction is a true sale and that ownership has passed to the party characterized as the purchaser, regardless of whether the purchaser has possession of any

documents evidencing or pertaining to the interest. A transfer of an interest in storm recovery property may be created only when all of the following have occurred: (i) the financing order creating the storm recovery property has become effective, (ii) the documents evidencing the transfer of storm recovery property have been executed by the assignor and delivered to the assignee, and (iii) value is received for the storm recovery property. After such a transaction, the storm recovery property is not subject to any claims of the transferor or the transferor's creditors, other than creditors holding a prior security interest in the storm recovery property perfected in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of this section.

- b. The characterization of the sale, assignment, or other transfer as an absolute transfer and true sale and the corresponding characterization of the property interest of the purchaser, shall not be affected or impaired by the occurrence of any of the following factors:
  - 1. Commingling of storm recovery charges with other amounts.
  - 2. The retention by the seller of (i) a partial or residual interest, including an equity interest, in the storm recovery property, whether direct or indirect, or whether subordinate or otherwise, or (ii) the right to recover costs associated with taxes, franchise fees, or license fees imposed on the collection of storm recovery charges.
  - 3. Any recourse that the purchaser may have against the seller.
  - 4. Any indemnification rights, obligations, or repurchase rights made or provided by the seller.
  - 5. The obligation of the seller to collect storm recovery charges on behalf of an assignee.
  - 6. The transferor acting as the servicer of the storm recovery charges or the existence of any contract that authorizes or requires the public utility, to the extent that any interest in storm recovery property is sold or assigned, to contract with the assignee or any financing party that it will continue to operate its system to provide service to its customers, will collect amounts in respect of the storm recovery charges for the benefit and account of such assignee or financing party, and will account for and remit such amounts to or for the account of such assignee or financing party.
  - 7. The treatment of the sale, conveyance, assignment, or other transfer for tax, financial reporting, or other purposes.
  - 8. The granting or providing to bondholders a preferred right to the storm recovery property or credit enhancement by the public utility or its affiliates with respect to such storm recovery bonds.
  - 9. Any application of the formula-based adjustment mechanism as provided in this section.
- c. Any right that a public utility has in the storm recovery property before its pledge, sale, or transfer or any other right created under this section or created in the financing order and assignable under this section or assignable pursuant to a financing order is property in the form of a contract right or a chose in action. Transfer of an interest in storm recovery property to an assignee is enforceable only upon the later of

- (i) the issuance of a financing order, (ii) the assignor having rights in such storm recovery property or the power to transfer rights in such storm recovery property to an assignee, (iii) the execution and delivery by the assignor of transfer documents in connection with the issuance of storm recovery bonds, and (iv) the receipt of value for the storm recovery property. An enforceable transfer of an interest in storm recovery property to an assignee is perfected against all third parties, including subsequent judicial or other lien creditors, when a notice of that transfer has been given by the filing of a financing statement in accordance with sub-subdivision c. of subdivision (2) of this subsection. The transfer is perfected against third parties as of the date of filing.
- d. The Secretary of State shall maintain any financing statement filed to perfect any sale, assignment, or transfer of storm recovery property under this section in the same manner that the Secretary maintains financing statements filed by transmitting utilities under the Code. The filing of any financing statement under this section shall be governed by the provisions regarding the filing of financing statements in the Code. The filing of such a financing statement is the only method of perfecting a transfer of storm recovery property.
- e. The priority of a transfer perfected under this section is not impaired by any later modification of the financing order or storm recovery property or by the commingling of funds arising from storm recovery property with other funds. Any other security interest that may apply to those funds, other than a security interest perfected under subdivision (2) of this subsection, is terminated when they are transferred to a segregated account for the assignee or a financing party. If storm recovery property has been transferred to an assignee or financing party, any proceeds of that property must be held in trust for the assignee or financing party.
- f. The priority of the conflicting interests of assignees in the same interest or rights in any storm recovery property is determined as follows:
  - 1. Conflicting perfected interests or rights of assignees rank according to priority in time of perfection. Priority dates from the time a filing covering the transfer is made in accordance with sub-subdivision c. of subdivision (2) of this subsection.
  - 2. A perfected interest or right of an assignee has priority over a conflicting unperfected interest or right of an assignee.
  - 3. A perfected interest or right of an assignee has priority over a person who becomes a lien creditor after the perfection of such assignee's interest or right.
- (f) Description or Indication of Property. The description of storm recovery property being transferred to an assignee in any sale agreement, purchase agreement, or other transfer agreement, granted or pledged to a pledgee in any security agreement, pledge agreement, or other security document, or indicated in any financing statement is only sufficient if such description or indication refers to the financing order that created the storm recovery property and states that the agreement or financing statement covers all or part of the property described in the financing order. This section applies to all purported transfers of, and all purported grants or liens or security interests in, storm recovery property, regardless of whether the related sale agreement,

purchase agreement, other transfer agreement, security agreement, pledge agreement, or other security document was entered into, or any financing statement was filed.

- (g) <u>Financing Statements. All financing statements referenced in this section are subject to Part 5 of Article 9 of the Code, except that the requirement as to continuation statements does not apply.</u>
- (h) Choice of Law. The law governing the validity, enforceability, attachment, perfection, priority, and exercise of remedies with respect to the transfer of an interest or right or the pledge or creation of a security interest in any storm recovery property shall be the laws of this State.
- (i) Storm Recovery Bonds Not Public Debt. Neither the State nor its political subdivisions are liable on any storm recovery bonds, and the bonds are not a debt or a general obligation of the State or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, nor are they special obligations or indebtedness of the State or any agency or political subdivision. An issue of storm recovery bonds does not, directly, indirectly, or contingently, obligate the State or any agency, political subdivision, or instrumentality of the State to levy any tax or make any appropriation for payment of the storm recovery bonds, other than in their capacity as consumers of electricity. All storm recovery bonds must contain on the face thereof a statement to the following effect: "Neither the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State of North Carolina is pledged to the payment of the principal of, or interest on, this bond."
- (j) <u>Legal Investment. All of the following entities may legally invest any sinking funds, moneys, or other funds in storm recovery bonds:</u>
  - (1) Subject to applicable statutory restrictions on State or local investment authority, the State, units of local government, political subdivisions, public bodies, and public officers, except for members of the Commission.
  - (2) Banks and bankers, savings and loan associations, credit unions, trust companies, savings banks and institutions, investment companies, insurance companies, insurance associations, and other persons carrying on a banking or insurance business.
  - (3) Personal representatives, guardians, trustees, and other fiduciaries.
  - (4) All other persons authorized to invest in bonds or other obligations of a similar nature.

# (k) Obligation of Nonimpairment. –

- The State and its agencies, including the Commission, pledge and agree with bondholders, the owners of the storm recovery property, and other financing parties that the State and its agencies will not take any action listed in this subdivision. This paragraph does not preclude limitation or alteration if full compensation is made by law for the full protection of the storm recovery charges collected pursuant to a financing order and of the bondholders and any assignee or financing party entering into a contract with the public utility. The prohibited actions are as follows:
  - a. Alter the provisions of this section, which authorize the Commission to create an irrevocable contract right or chose in action by the issuance of a financing order, to create storm recovery property, and make the storm recovery charges imposed by a financing order irrevocable, binding, or nonbypassable charges.
  - b. Take or permit any action that impairs or would impair the value of storm recovery property or the security for the storm recovery bonds or revises the storm recovery costs for which recovery is authorized.
  - c. In any way impair the rights and remedies of the bondholders, assignees, and other financing parties.

- d. Except for changes made pursuant to the formula-based adjustment mechanism authorized under this section, reduce, alter, or impair storm recovery charges that are to be imposed, billed, charged, collected, and remitted for the benefit of the bondholders, any assignee, and any other financing parties until any and all principal, interest, premium, financing costs and other fees, expenses, or charges incurred, and any contracts to be performed, in connection with the related storm recovery bonds have been paid and performed in full.
- (2) Any person or entity that issues storm recovery bonds may include the language specified in this subsection in the storm recovery bonds and related documentation.
- (*l*) Not a Public Utility. An assignee or financing party is not a public utility or person providing electric service by virtue of engaging in the transactions described in this section.
- (m) Conflicts. If there is a conflict between this section and any other law regarding the attachment, assignment, or perfection, or the effect of perfection, or priority of, assignment or transfer of, or security interest in storm recovery property, this section shall govern.
- (n) Consultation. In making determinations under this section, the Commission or public staff or both may engage an outside consultant and counsel.
- (o) Effect of Invalidity. If any provision of this section is held invalid or is invalidated, superseded, replaced, repealed, or expires for any reason, that occurrence does not affect the validity of any action allowed under this section which is taken by a public utility, an assignee, a financing party, a collection agent, or a party to an ancillary agreement; and any such action remains in full force and effect with respect to all storm recovery bonds issued or authorized in a financing order issued under this section before the date that such provision is held invalid or is invalidated, superseded, replaced, or repealed, or expires for any reason."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 25-9-109(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Inapplicability of Article. – This Article does not apply to:

..

- (13) An assignment of a deposit account in a consumer transaction, but G.S. 25-9-315 and G.S. 25-9-322 apply with respect to proceeds and priorities in proceeds; or
- (14) The creation, perfection, priority, or enforcement of any lien on, assignment of, pledge of, or security in, any revenues, rights, funds, or other tangible or intangible assets created, made, or granted by this State or a governmental unit in this State, including the assignment of rights as secured party in security interests granted by any party subject to the provisions of this Article to this State or a governmental unit in this State, to secure, directly or indirectly, any bond, note, other evidence of indebtedness, or other payment obligations for borrowed money issued by, or in connection with, installment or lease purchase financings by, this State or a governmental unit in this State. However, notwithstanding this subdivision, this Article does apply to the creation, perfection, priority, and enforcement of security interests created by this State or a governmental unit in this State in equipment or fixtures. fixtures; or
- (15) The creation, perfection, priority, or enforcement of any sale, assignment of, pledge of, security interest in, or other transfer of, any interest or right or portion of any interest or right in any storm recovery property as defined G.S. 62-172."

# **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the  $31^{\rm st}$  day of October, 2019.

- s/ Philip E. Berger President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- s/ Tim Moore Speaker of the House of Representatives
- s/ Roy Cooper Governor

Approved 2:18 p.m. this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019

### NUCLEAR ASSET-RECOVERY PROPERTY SERVICING AGREEMENT

### by and between

### DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA PROJECT FINANCE, LLC,

**Issuer** 

and

# **DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC,**

#### Servicer

# Acknowledged and Accepted by

# THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, as Indenture Trustee

### Dated as of June 22, 2016

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### **EXHIBITS**

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Exhibit F	Expected Amortization Schedule

### **APPENDIX**

Appendix A Definitions and Rules of Construction

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This NUCLEAR ASSET-RECOVERY PROPERTY SERVICING AGREEMENT, dated as of June 22, 2016, is by and between DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA PROJECT FINANCE, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, as <u>Issuer</u>, and DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, as servicer, and acknowledged and accepted by THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, a national banking association, as <u>Indenture Trustee</u>.

### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law and the Financing Order, Duke Energy Florida, in its capacity as seller, and the Issuer are concurrently entering into the Sale Agreement pursuant to which the Seller is selling and the Issuer is purchasing certain Property created pursuant to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law and the Financing Order described therein;

WHEREAS, in connection with its ownership of the Series Property relating to the Series A Bonds and in order to collect the associated Series Charges, the Issuer desires to engage the Servicer to carry out the functions described herein and the Servicer desires to be so engaged;

WHEREAS, the Issuer desires to engage the Servicer to act on its behalf in obtaining True-Up Adjustments from the Commission and the Servicer desires to be so engaged;

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections for the Series A Bonds may be commingled with other funds collected by the Servicer; and

WHEREAS, certain parties may have an interest in such commingled collections, and such parties will have entered into the Intercreditor Agreement, which allows Duke Energy Florida to allocate the collected, commingled funds according to each party's interest;

WHEREAS, the Commission or its attorney will enforce this Servicing Agreement for the benefit of the Customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

# ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION

Section 1.01. <u>Definitions and Rules of Construction</u>. Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this Servicing Agreement shall have the respective meanings given to such terms in <u>Appendix A</u>, which is hereby incorporated by reference into this Servicing Agreement as if set forth fully in this Servicing Agreement. Not all terms defined in <u>Appendix A</u> are used in this Servicing Agreement. The rules of construction set forth in <u>Appendix A</u> shall apply to this Servicing Agreement and are hereby incorporated by reference into this Servicing Agreement as if set forth fully in this Servicing Agreement, however for purposes of this

Servicing Agreement, unless otherwise indicated herein, the terms Series Charges, Series Closing Date, Series Collateral and Series Property mean the Series Charges, Series Closing Date, Series Collateral and Series Property for the Series A Bonds..

### ARTICLE II APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORIZATION

Section 2.01. <u>Appointment of Servicer; Acceptance of Appointment.</u> The Issuer hereby appoints the Servicer, and the Servicer hereby accepts such appointment, to perform the Servicer's obligations pursuant to this Servicing Agreement on behalf of and for the benefit of the Issuer or any assignee thereof in accordance with the terms of this Servicing Agreement and applicable law as it applies to the Servicer in its capacity as servicer hereunder. This appointment and the Servicer's acceptance thereof may not be revoked except in accordance with the express terms of this Servicing Agreement.

Section 2.02. <u>Authorization</u>. With respect to all or any portion of the Series Property, the Servicer shall be, and hereby is, authorized and empowered by the Issuer to (a) execute and deliver, on behalf of itself and/or the Issuer, as the case may be, any and all instruments, documents or notices, and (b) on behalf of itself and/or the Issuer, as the case may be, make any filing and participate in proceedings of any kind with any Governmental Authority, including with the Commission. The Issuer shall execute and deliver to the Servicer such documents as have been prepared by the Servicer for execution by the Issuer and shall furnish the Servicer with such other documents as may be in the Issuer's possession, in each case as the Servicer may determine to be necessary or

appropriate to enable it to carry out its servicing and administrative duties hereunder. Upon the Servicer's written request, the Issuer shall furnish the Servicer with any powers of attorney or other documents necessary or appropriate to enable the Servicer to carry out its duties hereunder.

Section 2.03. <u>Dominion and Control Over the Series Property</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, the Issuer shall have dominion and control over the Series Property, and the Servicer, in accordance with the terms hereof, is acting solely as the servicing agent and custodian for the Issuer with respect to the Series Property and the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records for the Series A Bonds. The Servicer shall not take any action that is not authorized by this Servicing Agreement, that would contravene the Commission Regulations or the Financing Order, that is not consistent with its customary procedures and practices or that shall impair the rights of the Issuer or the Indenture Trustee (on behalf of the Holders) in the Series Property, in each case unless such action is required by applicable law or court or regulatory order.

### ARTICLE III ROLE OF SERVICER

Section 3.01. <u>Duties of Servicer.</u> The Servicer, as agent for the Issuer, shall have the following duties:

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### (a) <u>Duties of Servicer Generally.</u>

- The Servicer's duties in general shall include: management, servicing and administration of the Series Property; calculating consumption, billing the Series Charges, collecting the Series Charges from Customers and posting all collections, responding to inquiries by Customers, the Commission or any other Governmental Authority with respect to the Series Property or Series Charges; investigating and handling delinquencies (and furnishing reports with respect to such delinquencies to the Issuer), processing and depositing collections and making periodic remittances; furnishing periodic and current reports to the Issuer, the Commission, the Indenture Trustee and the Rating Agencies; making all filings with the Commission and taking such other action as may be necessary to perfect the Issuer's ownership interests in and the Indenture Trustee's first priority Lien on the Series Property; making all filings and taking such other action as may be necessary to perfect and maintain the perfection and priority of the Indenture Trustee's Lien on all Series Collateral; selling as the agent for the Issuer, as its interests may appear, defaulted or written off accounts in accordance with the Servicer's usual and customary practices; taking all necessary action in connection with True-Up Adjustments as set forth herein; and performing such other duties as may be specified under the Financing Order to be performed by it. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the duties of the Servicer set forth in this Servicing Agreement shall be qualified in their entirety by any Commission Regulations, the Financing Order and the U.S. federal securities laws and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, including Regulation AB, as in effect at the time such duties are to be performed. Without limiting the generality of this Section 3.01(a)(i), in furtherance of the foregoing, the Servicer hereby agrees that it shall also have, and shall comply with, the duties and responsibilities relating to data acquisition, consumption and bill calculation, billing, customer service functions, collections, posting, payment processing and remittance set forth in Exhibit A. Any processing and depositing of collections, making of periodic remittances and furnishing of periodic reports set forth in this Section 3.01(a)(i) shall be subject to the provisions of the Intercreditor Agreement.
- (ii) Commission Regulations Control. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Servicing Agreement, the duties of the Servicer set forth in this Servicing Agreement shall be

qualified and limited in their entirety by the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law, the Financing Order and any Commission Regulations as in effect at the time such duties are to be performed.

#### (b) Reporting Functions.

(i) <u>Monthly Servicer's Certificate</u>. On or before the last Servicer Business Day of each month, the Servicer shall prepare and deliver to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies a written report substantially in the form of <u>Exhibit B</u> (a "<u>Monthly Servicer's Certificate</u>") setting forth certain information relating to Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments in connection with the Series Charges received by the Servicer during the Collection Period preceding such date; provided, however, that, for any month in which the

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Servicer is required to deliver a Semi-Annual Servicer's Certificate pursuant to <u>Section 4.01(c)(ii)</u>, the Servicer shall prepare and deliver the Monthly Servicer's Certificate no later than the date of delivery of such Semi-Annual Servicer's Certificate.

- (ii) <u>Notification of Laws and Regulations</u>. The Servicer shall immediately notify the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, and the Rating Agencies in writing of any Requirement of Law or Commission Regulations hereafter promulgated that have a material adverse effect on the Servicer's ability to perform its duties under this Servicing Agreement.
- (iii) Other Information. Upon the reasonable request of the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission or any Rating Agency, the Servicer shall provide to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission or such Rating Agency, as the case may be, any public financial information in respect of the Servicer, or any material information regarding the Series Property to the extent it is reasonably available to the Servicer, as may be reasonably necessary and permitted by law to enable the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission or the Rating Agencies to monitor the performance by the Servicer hereunder. In addition, so long as any of the Series A Bonds are outstanding, the Servicer shall provide the Issuer, the Commission and the Indenture Trustee, within a reasonable time after written request therefor, any information available to the Servicer or reasonably obtainable by it that is necessary to calculate the Series Charges applicable to each Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Class.
- Preparation of Reports. The Servicer shall prepare and deliver such additional reports as required under this Servicing Agreement, including a copy of each Semi-Annual Servicer's Certificate described in Section 4.01(c)(ii), the annual statements of compliance, attestation reports and other certificates described in Section 3.03 and the Annual Accountant's Report described in Section 3.04. In addition, the Servicer shall prepare, procure, deliver and/or file, or cause to be prepared, procured, delivered or filed, any reports, attestations, exhibits, certificates or other documents required to be delivered or filed with the SEC (and/or any other Governmental Authority) by the Issuer or the Sponsor under the U.S. federal securities or other applicable laws or in accordance with the Basic Documents, including filing with the SEC, if applicable and required by applicable law, a copy or copies of (A) the Monthly Servicer's Certificates described in Section 3.01(b)(i) (under Form 10-D or any other applicable form), (B) the Semi-Annual Servicer's Certificates described in Section 4.01(c)(ii) (under Form 10-D or any other applicable form), (C) the annual statements of compliance, attestation reports and other certificates described in Section 3.03 and (D) the Annual Accountant's Report (and any attestation required under Regulation AB) described in Section 3.04. In addition, the appropriate officer or officers of the Servicer shall (in its separate capacity as Servicer) sign the Sponsor's annual report

on Form 10-K (and any other applicable SEC or other reports, attestations, certifications and other documents), to the extent that the

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Servicer's signature is required by, and consistent with, the U.S. federal securities laws and/or any other applicable law.

- (c) <u>Opinions of Counsel</u>. The Servicer shall obtain on behalf of the Issuer and deliver to the Issuer, the Commission and the Indenture Trustee:
  - (i) promptly after the execution and delivery of this Servicing Agreement and of each amendment hereto, an Opinion of Counsel from external counsel of the Issuer either (A) to the effect that, in the opinion of such counsel, all filings, including filings with the Florida Secured Transactions Registry and the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, that are necessary under the UCC and the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law to fully preserve, protect and perfect the Liens of the Indenture Trustee in the Series Property have been authorized, executed and filed, and reciting the details of such filings or referring to prior Opinions of Counsel in which such details are given, or (B) to the effect that, in the opinion of such counsel, no such action shall be necessary to preserve, protect and perfect such Liens; and
  - (ii) within 90 days after the beginning of each calendar year beginning with the first calendar year beginning more than three months after the date hereof, an Opinion of Counsel, which counsel may be an employee of or counsel to the Issuer or the Servicer and which shall be reasonably satisfactory to the Indenture Trustee, or, in the Indenture Trustee's sole judgment, external counsel of the Issuer, dated as of a date during such 90-day period, either (A) to the effect that, in the opinion of such counsel, all filings, including filings with the Florida Secured Transactions Registry and the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, have been authorized, executed and filed that are necessary under the UCC and the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law to fully preserve, protect and perfect the Liens of the Indenture Trustee in the Series Property, and reciting the details of such filings or referring to prior Opinions of Counsel in which such details are given, or (B) to the effect that, in the opinion of such counsel, no such action shall be necessary to preserve, protect and perfect such Liens.

Each Opinion of Counsel referred to in <u>Section 3.01(c)(i)</u> or <u>Section 3.01(c)(ii)</u> above shall specify any action necessary (as of the date of such opinion) to be taken in the following year to preserve, protect and perfect such interest or Lien.

Section 3.02. <u>Servicing and Maintenance Standards</u>. The Servicer will monitor payments and impose collection policies on Customers, as permitted under the Financing Order and the rules of the Commission. On behalf of the Issuer, the Servicer shall: (a) manage, service, administer, bill, collect, receive and post collections in respect of the Series Property with reasonable care and in material compliance with each applicable Requirement of Law, including all applicable Commission Regulations and guidelines, using the same degree of care and diligence that the Servicer exercises with respect to similar assets for its own account and, if applicable, for others; (b) follow standards, policies and procedures in performing its duties as Servicer that are customary in the electric distribution industry; (c) use all reasonable efforts, consistent with its customary servicing procedures, to enforce, and maintain rights in

respect of, the Series Property and to bill, collect, receive and post the Series Charges; (d) comply with each Requirement of Law, including all applicable Commission Regulations and guidelines, applicable to and binding on it relating to the Series Property; (e) file all reports with the Commission required by the Financing Order; (f) file and maintain the effectiveness of UCC financing statements filed with the Florida Secured Transaction Registry with respect to the property transferred under the Sale Agreement; and (g) take such other action on behalf of the Issuer to ensure that the Lien of the Indenture Trustee on the Series Collateral remains perfected and of first priority. The Servicer shall follow such customary and usual practices and procedures as it shall deem necessary or advisable in its servicing of all or any portion of the Series Property, which, in the Servicer's judgment, may include the taking of legal action, at the Issuer's expense but subject to the priority of payments set forth in Section 8.02(e) of the Indenture.

#### Section 3.03. Annual Reports on Compliance with Regulation AB.

- (a) The Servicer shall deliver to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies, on or before the earlier of (a) March 31 of each year or (b) with respect to each calendar year during which the Issuer's annual report on Form 10-K is required to be filed in accordance with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, the date on which such annual report on Form 10-K is required to be filed in accordance with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, certificates from a Responsible Officer of the Servicer (i) containing, and certifying as to, the statements of compliance required by Item 1123 of Regulation AB, as then in effect, and (ii) containing, and certifying as to, the statements and assessment of compliance required by Item 1122(a) of Regulation AB, as then in effect. These certificates may be in the form of, or shall include the forms attached as Exhibit D and Exhibit E, with, in the case of Exhibit D, such changes as may be required to conform to the applicable securities law.
- (b) The Servicer shall use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain, from each other party participating in the servicing function, any additional certifications as to the statements and assessment required under Item 1122 or Item 1123 of Regulation AB to the extent required in connection with the filing of the annual report on Form 10-K; provided, however, that a failure to obtain such certifications shall not be a breach of the Servicer's duties hereunder. The parties acknowledge that the Indenture Trustee's certifications shall be limited to the Item 1122 certifications described in Exhibit C of the Indenture.
- (c) The initial Servicer, in its capacity as Sponsor, shall post on its or its parent company's website and cause the Issuer to file with or furnish to the SEC, in periodic reports and other reports as are required from time to time under Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act, the information described in Section 3.07(g) of the Indenture to the extent such information is reasonably available to the Sponsor.
- (d) Except to the extent permitted by applicable law, the Issuer shall not voluntarily suspend or terminate its filing obligations as issuing entity with the SEC as described in Section 3.03(c).

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### Section 3.04. <u>Annual Report by Independent Registered Public Accountants.</u>

(a) The Servicer shall cause a firm of Independent registered public accountants (which may provide other services to the Servicer or the Seller) to prepare annually, and the Servicer shall deliver annually to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies on or before the earlier of (i) March 31 of each year, beginning March 31, 2017, or (ii) with respect to each calendar year during which the Issuer's annual report on Form 10-K is required to be filed in accordance with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, the date on which such annual report on Form 10-K is required to be filed in accordance with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder, a report (the "Annual Accountant's Report") that attests to, and reports on, the assessment of compliance made by the Servicer and delivered pursuant to Section 3.03. Such

attestation shall be in accordance with Rules 1-02(a)(3) and 2-02(g) of Regulation S-X under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act.

(b) The Annual Accountant's Report delivered pursuant to <u>Section 3.04(a)</u> shall also indicate that the accounting firm providing such report is independent of the Servicer in accordance with the rules of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and shall include any attestation report required under Item 1122(b) of Regulation AB, as then in effect. The costs of the Annual Accountant's Report shall be reimbursable as an Operating Expense under the Indenture.

### ARTICLE IV SERVICES RELATED TO TRUE-UP ADJUSTMENTS

Section 4.01. <u>True-Up Adjustments</u>. From time to time, until the Collection in Full of the Charges for the Series A Bonds, the Servicer shall identify the need for Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustments, Optional Interim True-Up Adjustments and Non-standard True-Up Adjustments and shall take all reasonable action to obtain and implement such True-Up Adjustments, all in accordance with the following:

(a) <u>Expected Sinking Fund Schedule</u>. The Expected Sinking Fund Schedule for the Series A Bonds is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit F</u>. If the Expected Sinking Fund Schedule is revised, the Servicer shall send a copy of such revised Expected Sinking Fund Schedule to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies promptly thereafter.

### (b) <u>True-Up Adjustments</u>.

(i) <u>Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustments and Filings</u>. At the beginning of Duke Energy Florida's billing cycle that is at least three months but no longer than six months following Duke Energy Florida's first complete billing cycle after the Series Closing Date, and for Duke Energy Florida's billing cycle every six months thereafter, and at least every three months after the Scheduled Final Payment Date for the latest maturing WAL, the Servicer shall: (A) update the data and assumptions underlying the calculation of the Series Charges, including projected electricity consumption during the next Remittance Period for each Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Class and including Periodic Principal, interest and estimated expenses and fees of the Issuer to be paid during such period, the Weighted Average Days Outstanding and write-offs; (B) determine the Periodic

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Payment Requirements and Periodic Billing Requirement for the next Remittance Period based on such updated data and assumptions; (C) determine the Series Charges to be allocated to each Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Class during the next Remittance Period based on such Periodic Billing Requirement and the terms of the Financing Order, the Tariff and any other tariffs filed pursuant thereto; (D) make all required public notices and other filings with the Commission to reflect the revised Series Charges, including any Amendatory Schedule; and (E) take all reasonable actions and make all reasonable efforts to effect such Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment and to enforce the provisions of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law and the Financing Order; provided, that, in the case of any Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment following the Scheduled Final Payment Date for the latest maturing WAL of the Series A Bonds, the Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment will be calculated to ensure that the Series Charges are sufficient to pay the Series A Bonds in full on the next Payment Date. The Servicer shall implement the revised Series Charges, if any, resulting from such Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment as of the Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment Date.

- (ii) Optional Interim True-Up Adjustments and Filings. No later than 60 days prior to the first day of the applicable monthly billing cycle, the Servicer shall: (A) update the data and assumptions underlying the calculation of the Series Charges, including projected electricity consumption during the next Remittance Period for each Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Class and including Periodic Principal, interest and estimated expenses and fees of the Issuer to be paid during such period, the rate of delinquencies and write-offs; (B) determine the Periodic Payment Requirement and Periodic Billing Requirement for the next Remittance Period based on such updated data and assumptions; and (C) based upon such updated data and requirements, project whether existing and projected Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections together with available fund balances in the Excess Funds Subaccount, will be sufficient (x) to make on a timely basis all scheduled payments of Periodic Principal and interest in respect of each Outstanding WAL of Series A Bonds during such Remittance Period, (y) to pay other Ongoing Financing Costs on a timely basis and (z) to maintain the Capital Subaccount at the Required Capital Level. If the Servicer determines that Series Charges will not be sufficient for such purposes, the Servicer shall, no later than the date described in the first sentence of this Section 4.01(b)(ii): (1) determine the Series Charges to be allocated to each Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Class during the next Remittance Period based on such Periodic Billing Requirement and the terms of the Financing Order, the Tariff and other tariffs filed pursuant thereto; (2) make all required public notices and other filings with the Commission to reflect the revised Series Charges, including any Amendatory Schedule; and (3) take all reasonable actions and make all reasonable efforts to effect such Optional Interim True-Up Adjustment and to enforce the provisions of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law and the Financing Order.
- (iii) <u>Non-standard True-Up Adjustments and Filings</u>. In the event that the Servicer determines that a Non-standard True-Up Adjustment is required at

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anytime to be effective simultaneously with a base rate change that includes any change in the cost allocation among customers used in determining the Series Charges, such True-Up Adjustment to go into effect simultaneously with any changes to Duke Energy Florida's other base rates the Servicer shall promptly (A) recalculate the Series Charges to reallocate the Series Charges among customers in accordance with the procedures for Non-standard True-Up Adjustments set forth in the Financing Order; (B) initiate a proceeding with the Commission to determine new allocation factors and make all required public notices and other filings with the Commission to implement the revised Series Charges in a timely manner, including the filing of any revised Amendatory Rider necessary to begin the billing of such revised Series Charges; and (C) take all reasonable actions and make all reasonable efforts to effect such Non-standard True-Up Adjustment and to enforce the provisions of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law and the Financing Order. The Servicer shall implement the revised Series Charges, if any, resulting from such Non-standard True-Up Adjustment on the Non-standard True-Up Adjustment date. For the avoidance of doubt, no Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment or Optional Interim True-Up Adjustment shall be considered a Nonstandard True-Up Adjustment solely because Series Charges are allocated under such Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment or Optional Interim True-Up Adjustment in the same manner as in a preceding Non-standard True-Up Adjustment.

### (c) Reports.

(i) <u>Notification of Amendatory Schedule Filings and True-Up</u>
<u>Adjustments</u>. Whenever the Servicer files an Amendatory Schedule with the Commission or implements revised Series Charges with notice to the Commission without filing an Amendatory Schedule if permitted by the Financing Order, the Servicer shall send a copy of such filing or

notice (together with a copy of all notices and documents that, in the Servicer's reasonable judgment, are material to the adjustments effected by such Amendatory Schedule or notice) to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee and the Rating Agencies concurrently therewith. If, for any reason any revised Series Charges are not implemented and effective on the applicable date set forth herein, the Servicer shall notify the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee and each Rating Agency by the end of the second Servicer Business Day after such applicable date.

(ii) <u>Semi-Annual Servicer's Certificate</u>. Not later than five Servicer Business Days prior to each Payment Date or Special Payment Date, the Servicer shall deliver a written report substantially in the form of <u>Exhibit C</u> (the "<u>Semi-Annual Servicer's Certificate</u>") to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies, which shall include all of the following information (to the extent applicable and including any other information so specified in the Series Supplement) as to the Series A Bonds with respect to such Payment Date or Special Payment Date or the period since the previous Payment Date, as applicable:

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- (A) the amount of the payment to Holders allocable to principal, if any;
- (B) the amount of the payment to Holders allocable to interest;
- (C) the aggregate Outstanding Amount of the Series A Bonds, before and after giving effect to any payments allocated to principal reported under <u>Section</u> 4.01(c)(ii)(A);
- (D) the difference, if any, between the amount specified in <u>Section</u> 4.01(c)(ii)(C) and the Outstanding Amount specified in the Expected Sinking Fund Schedule;
- (E) any other transfers and payments to be made on such Payment Date or Special Payment Date, including amounts paid to the Indenture Trustee and to the Servicer; and
- (F) the amounts on deposit in the Capital Subaccount and the Excess Funds Subaccount, after giving effect to the foregoing payments.

### (iii) Reports to Customers.

- (A) After each revised Series Charge has gone into effect pursuant to a True-Up Adjustment, the Servicer shall, to the extent and in the manner and time frame required by any applicable Commission Regulations, cause to be prepared and delivered to Customers any required notices announcing such revised Series Charges.
- (B) The Servicer shall comply with the requirements of the Financing Order with respect to the filing of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Schedule to ensure that the Series Charges are separate and apart from the Servicer's other charges and appear as a separate line item on the Bills sent to Customers.

### Section 4.02. <u>Limitation of Liability</u>.

(a) The Issuer and the Servicer expressly agree and acknowledge that:

- (i) In connection with any True-Up Adjustment, the Servicer is acting solely in its capacity as the servicing agent hereunder.
- (ii) None of the Servicer, the Issuer or the Indenture Trustee is responsible in any manner for, and shall have no liability whatsoever as a result of, any action, decision, ruling or other determination made or not made, or any delay (other than any delay resulting from the Servicer's failure to make any filings required by Section 4.01 in a timely and correct manner or any breach by the Servicer of its duties under this Servicing Agreement that adversely affects the Series Property or the True-Up Adjustments), by the Commission in any way

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related to the Series Property or in connection with any True-Up Adjustment, the subject of any filings under <u>Section 4.01</u>, any proposed True-Up Adjustment or the approval of any revised Series Charges and the scheduled adjustments thereto.

- (iii) Except to the extent that the Servicer is liable under Section 6.02, the Servicer shall have no liability whatsoever relating to the calculation of any revised Series Charges and the scheduled adjustments thereto, including as a result of any inaccuracy of any of the assumptions made in such calculation regarding expected energy consumption volume and the Weighted Average Days Outstanding, write-offs and estimated expenses and fees of the Issuer, so long as the Servicer has acted in good faith and has not acted in a negligent manner in connection therewith, nor shall the Servicer have any liability whatsoever as a result of any Person, including the Holders, not receiving any payment, amount or return anticipated or expected or in respect of any Series A Bond.
- (b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, this <u>Section 4.02</u> shall not relieve the Servicer of liability for any misrepresentation by the Servicer under <u>Section 6.01</u> or for any breach by the Servicer of its other obligations under this Servicing Agreement.

# ARTICLE V THE NUCLEAR ASSET-RECOVERY PROPERTY

Section 5.01. <u>Custody of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records</u>. To assure uniform quality in servicing the Series Property and to reduce administrative costs, the Issuer hereby revocably appoints the Servicer, and the Servicer hereby accepts such appointment, to act as the agent of the Issuer as custodian of any and all documents and records that the Seller shall keep on file, in accordance with its customary procedures, relating to the Series Property, including copies of the Financing Order and Amendatory Schedules relating thereto and all documents filed with the Commission in connection with any True-Up Adjustment and computational records relating thereto (collectively for the Series A Bonds, the "Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records"), which are hereby constructively delivered to the Indenture Trustee, as pledgee of the Issuer with respect to all Series Property.

# Section 5.02. <u>Duties of Servicer as Custodian.</u>

(a) <u>Safekeeping</u>. The Servicer shall hold the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records on behalf of the Issuer and the Indenture Trustee and maintain such accurate and complete accounts, records and computer systems pertaining to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records as shall enable the Issuer and the Indenture Trustee, as applicable, to comply with this Servicing Agreement, the Sale Agreement and the Indenture. In performing its duties as custodian, the Servicer shall act with reasonable care, using that degree of care and diligence that the Servicer exercises with respect to comparable assets that the Servicer services for itself or, if applicable, for others. The Servicer shall promptly report to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies any failure on its part to hold the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records and maintain

Indenture Trustee of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records. The Servicer's duties to hold the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records set forth in this <u>Section 5.02</u>, to the extent the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records have not been previously transferred to a successor Servicer pursuant to <u>ARTICLE VII</u>, shall terminate one year and one day after the earlier of (i) the date on which the Servicer is succeeded by a successor Servicer in accordance with <u>ARTICLE VII</u> and (ii) the first date on which no Series A Bonds are Outstanding.

- (b) Maintenance of and Access to Records. The Servicer shall maintain the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records at 550 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202 or at its facility located at Iron Mountain, 3125 Parkside Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28208 and Iron Mountain, 4758 Oak Fair Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33610, or at such other office as shall be specified to the Issuer, the Commission and the Indenture Trustee by written notice at least 30 days prior to any change in location. The Servicer shall make available for inspection, audit and copying to the Issuer, the Commission and the Indenture Trustee or their respective duly authorized representatives, attorneys or auditors the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records at such times during normal business hours as the Issuer, the Commission or the Indenture Trustee shall reasonably request and that do not unreasonably interfere with the Servicer's normal operations. Nothing in this Section 5.02(b) shall affect the obligation of the Servicer to observe any applicable law (including any Commission Regulation) prohibiting disclosure of information regarding Customers, and the failure of the Servicer to provide access to such information as a result of such obligation shall not constitute a breach of this Section 5.02(b).
- (c) <u>Release of Documents</u>. Upon instruction from the Indenture Trustee in accordance with the Indenture, the Servicer shall release any Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records to the Indenture Trustee, the Indenture Trustee's agent or the Indenture Trustee's designee, as the case may be, at such place or places as the Indenture Trustee may designate, as soon as practicable. Nothing in this <u>Section 5.02(c)</u> shall affect the obligation of the Servicer to observe any applicable law (including any Commission Regulation) prohibiting disclosure of information regarding Customers, and the failure of the Servicer to provide access to such information as a result of such obligation shall not constitute a breach of this <u>Section 5.02(c)</u>.
- (d) <u>Defending Series Property Against Claims</u>. To the extent not undertaken by the Seller pursuant to Section 4.08 of the Sale Agreement, the Servicer shall negotiate for the retention of legal counsel and such other experts as may be needed to institute and maintain any action or proceeding, on behalf of and in the name of the Issuer, necessary to compel performance by the Commission or the State of Florida of any of their obligations or duties under the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law and the Financing Order, and the Servicer agrees to assist the Issuer and its legal counsel in taking such legal or administrative actions, including defending against or instituting and pursuing legal actions and appearing or testifying at hearings or similar proceedings, as may be reasonably necessary to attempt to block or overturn any attempts to cause a repeal of, modification of or supplement to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law or the Financing Order, or the rights of holders of Series Property by legislative enactment, constitutional amendment or other means that would be adverse to Holders or any series of additional Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds. In any proceedings related to the exercise of the power of eminent domain by any municipality to acquire a portion of Duke Energy Florida's

Order. The costs of any such action shall be payable as an Operating Expense in accordance with the priorities set forth in Section 8.02(d) of the Indenture and any additional indenture. The Servicer's obligations pursuant to this Section 5.02 shall survive and continue notwithstanding the fact that the payment of Operating Expenses pursuant to Section 8.02 of the Indenture and any supplemental indenture may be delayed; provided, that, the Servicer is obligated to institute and maintain such action or proceedings only if it is being reimbursed on a current basis for its costs and expenses in taking such actions in accordance with Section 8.02 of the Indenture and any additional indenture, and is not required to advance its own funds to satisfy these obligations.

Section 5.03. <u>Custodian's Indemnification</u>. The Servicer as custodian shall indemnify the Issuer, any Independent Manager and the Indenture Trustee (for itself and for the benefit of the Holders) and each of their respective officers, directors, employees and agents for, and defend and hold harmless each such Person from and against, any and all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, payments and claims, and reasonable costs or expenses, of any kind whatsoever (collectively, "<u>Indemnified Losses</u>") that may be imposed on, incurred by or asserted against each such Person as the result of any negligent act or omission in any way relating to the maintenance and custody by the Servicer, as custodian, of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records; provided, however, that the Servicer shall not be liable for any portion of any such amount resulting from the willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence of the Issuer, any Independent Manager or the Indenture Trustee, as the case may be.

Indemnification under this <u>Section 5.03</u> shall survive resignation or removal of the Indenture Trustee or any Independent Manager and shall include reasonable out-of-pocket fees and expenses of investigation and litigation (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses).

Section 5.04. <u>Effective Period and Termination</u>. The Servicer's appointment as custodian shall become effective as of the Series Closing Date and shall continue in full force and effect until terminated pursuant to this <u>Section 5.04</u>. If the Servicer shall resign as Servicer in accordance with the provisions of this Servicing Agreement or if all of the rights and obligations of the Servicer shall have been terminated under <u>Section 7.01</u>, the appointment of the Servicer as custodian shall be terminated effective as of the date on which the termination or resignation of the Servicer is effective. Additionally, if not sooner terminated as provided above, the Servicer's obligations as custodian shall terminate one year and one day after the date on which no Series A Bonds are Outstanding. Duke Energy Florida shall not resign as Servicer if such resignation does not satisfy the Rating Agency Condition or without consent of the Commission.

Section 5.05. <u>Alternative Energy Suppliers</u>. So long as any of the Series A Bonds are Outstanding, the Servicer shall take reasonable efforts to assure that no AES bills or collects Series Charges on behalf of the Issuer unless required by applicable law or regulation and, to the extent permitted by applicable law or regulation, the Rating Agency Condition is satisfied. If an AES does bill or collect Series Charges on behalf of the Issuer, upon the reasonable request of the Issuer, the Commission, the Indenture Trustee, or any Rating Agency,

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the Servicer shall take reasonable steps to assure that such an AES provides to the Issuer, the Commission, the Indenture Trustee or the Rating Agencies, as the case may be, any public financial information in respect of such AES, or any material information regarding the Series Property to the extent it is reasonably available to such AES, as may be reasonably necessary and permitted by law for the Issuer, the Commission, the Indenture Trustee or the Rating Agencies to monitor such AES' performance hereunder. In addition, so long as any of the Series A Bonds are Outstanding, Servicer will use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that such AES provide to the Issuer and to the Indenture Trustee, within a reasonable time after written request therefor, any information available to the AES or reasonably obtainable by it that is necessary to calculate the Series Charges.

- Section 6.01. <u>Representations and Warranties of Servicer</u>. The Servicer makes the following representations and warranties, as of the Series Closing Date, and as of such other dates as expressly provided in this <u>Section 6.01</u>, on which the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee and the Commission (for the benefit of the Customers) are deemed to have relied in entering into this Servicing Agreement relating to the servicing of the Series Property. The representations and warranties shall survive the execution and delivery of this Servicing Agreement, the sale of the Series Property and the pledge thereof to the Indenture Trustee pursuant to the Indenture.
- (a) <u>Organization and Good Standing</u>. The Servicer is duly organized, validly existing and is in good standing under the laws of the state of its organization, with requisite power and authority to own its properties, to conduct its business as such properties are currently owned and such business is presently conducted by it, to service the Series Property and hold the records related to the Series Property, and to execute, deliver and carry out the terms of this Servicing Agreement and the Intercreditor Agreement.
- (b) <u>Due Qualification</u>. The Servicer is duly qualified to do business, is in good standing and has obtained all necessary licenses and approvals in all jurisdictions in which the ownership or lease of property or the conduct of its business (including the servicing of the Series Property as required under this Servicing Agreement) requires such qualifications, licenses or approvals (except where a failure to qualify would not be reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Servicer's business, operations, assets, revenues or properties or to its servicing of the Series Property).
- (c) <u>Power and Authority</u>. The execution, delivery and performance of the terms of this Servicing Agreement and the Intercreditor Agreement have been duly authorized by all necessary action on the part of the Servicer under its organizational or governing documents and laws.
- (d) <u>Binding Obligation</u>. Each of this Servicing Agreement and the Intercreditor Agreement constitutes a legal, valid and binding obligation of the Servicer enforceable against the Servicer in accordance with its respective terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, fraudulent transfer and other laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally from time to time in effect and to general principles of

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equity (including concepts of materiality, reasonableness, good faith and fair dealing), regardless of whether considered in a proceeding in equity or at law.

- (e) No Violation. The consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Servicing Agreement and the Intercreditor Agreement do not conflict with, result in any breach of or constitute (with or without notice or lapse of time) a default under the Servicer's organizational documents or any indenture or other agreement or instrument to which the Servicer is a party or by which it or any of its property is bound, result in the creation or imposition of any Lien upon the Servicer's properties pursuant to the terms of any such indenture or agreement or other instrument (other than any Lien that may be granted in favor of the Indenture Trustee for the benefit of Holders under the Basic Documents) or violate any existing law or any existing order, rule or regulation applicable to the Servicer of any Governmental Authority having jurisdiction over the Servicer or its properties.
- (f) No Proceedings. To the Servicer's knowledge, there are no proceedings or investigations pending or, to the Servicer's knowledge, threatened against the Servicer before any court, federal or state regulatory body, administrative agency or other governmental instrumentality having jurisdiction over the Servicer or its properties: (i) seeking to prevent issuance of the Series A Bonds or the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Servicing Agreement or any of the other Basic Documents, or, if applicable, any supplement to the Indenture or amendment to the Sale Agreement; (ii) seeking any determination or ruling that might materially and adversely affect the performance by the Servicer of its obligations under, or the validity or enforceability against

the Servicer of, this Servicing Agreement or any of the other Basic Documents or, if applicable, any supplement to the Indenture or amendment to the Sale Agreement; or (iii) relating to the Servicer and which might materially and adversely affect the treatment of the Series A Bonds for federal or state income, gross receipts or franchise tax purposes;

- (g) <u>Approvals</u>. No governmental approvals, authorizations, consents, orders or other actions or filings with any Governmental Authority are required for the Servicer to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under the Servicing Agreement except those that have previously been obtained or made, those that are required to be made by the Servicer in the future pursuant to Article IV or the Intercreditor Agreement and those that the Servicer may need to file in the future to continue the effectiveness of any financing statements; and
- (h) Reports and Certificates. Each report and certificate delivered in connection with any filing made to the Commission by the Servicer on behalf of the Issuer with respect to the Series Charges or True-Up Adjustments will constitute a representation and warranty by the Servicer that each such report or certificate, as the case may be, is true and correct in all material respects; provided, however, that, to the extent any such report or certificate is based in part upon or contains assumptions, forecasts or other predictions of future events, the representation and warranty of the Servicer with respect thereto will be limited to the representation and warranty that such assumptions, forecasts or other predictions of future events are reasonable based upon historical performance (and facts known to the Servicer on the date such report or certificate is delivered).

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The Servicer, the Indenture Trustee and the Issuer are not responsible as a result of any action, decision, ruling or other determination made or not made, or any delay (other than any delay resulting from the Servicer's failure to make any filings with the Florida Commission required by this Servicing Agreement in a timely and correct manner or any breach by the Servicer of its duties under the Servicing Agreement that adversely affects the Series Property or the True-Up Adjustments), by the Florida Commission in any way related to the Series Property or in connection with any True-Up Adjustment, the subject of any such filings, any proposed True-Up Adjustment or the approval of any revised Series Charges and the scheduled adjustments thereto. Except to the extent that the Servicer otherwise is liable under the provisions of this Servicing Agreement, the Servicer shall have no liability whatsoever relating to the calculation of any revised nuclear asset-recovery charges and the scheduled adjustments thereto, including as a result of any inaccuracy of any of the assumptions made in such calculations, so long as the Servicer has acted in good faith and has not acted in a negligent manner in connection therewith, nor shall the Servicer have any liability whatsoever as a result of any person or entity, including the Holders, not receiving any payment, amount or return anticipated or expected or in respect of any Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond generally.

Section 6.02. <u>Indemnities of Servicer; Release of Claims</u>. The Servicer shall be liable in accordance herewith only to the extent of the obligations specifically undertaken by the Servicer under this Servicing Agreement.

(a) The Servicer shall indemnify the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee (for itself and for the benefit of the Holders) and the Independent Manager and each of their respective trustees, officers, directors, employees and agents (each, an "Indemnified Party"), for, and defend and hold harmless each such Person from and against, any and all Indemnified Losses imposed on, incurred by or asserted against any such Person as a result of (i) the Servicer's willful misconduct, bad faith or negligence in the performance of, or reckless disregard of, its duties or observance of its covenants under the Servicing Agreement and the Intercreditor Agreement, (ii) the Servicer's material breach of any of its representations or warranties that results in a Servicer Default under this Servicing Agreement or a default under the Intercreditor Agreement; and (iii) litigation and related expenses relating to the Servicer's status and obligations as Servicer (other than any proceeding the Servicer is required to institute under this Servicing Agreement), except to the extent of Indemnified Losses either resulting from the willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence of such Person seeking indemnification hereunder or resulting from a breach of a

representation or warranty made by such Person seeking indemnification hereunder in any of the Basic Documents that gives rise to the Servicer's breach.

- (b) For purposes of <u>Section 6.02(a)</u>, in the event of the termination of the rights and obligations of Duke Energy Florida (or any successor thereto pursuant to <u>Section 6.03</u>) as Servicer pursuant to <u>Section 7.01</u>, or a resignation by such Servicer pursuant to this Servicing Agreement, such Servicer shall be deemed to be the Servicer pending appointment of a successor Servicer pursuant to Section 7.02.
- (c) Indemnification under this <u>Section 6.02</u> shall survive any repeal of, modification of, or supplement to, or judicial invalidation of, the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law or

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the Financing Order and shall survive the resignation or removal of the Indenture Trustee or any Independent Manager or the termination of this Servicing Agreement and shall include reasonable out-of-pocket fees and expenses of investigation and litigation (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses).

- (d) Except to the extent expressly provided in this Servicing Agreement or the other Basic Documents (including the Servicer's claims with respect to the Servicing Fee and the payment of the purchase price of Series Property), the Servicer hereby releases and discharges the Issuer, any Independent Manager and the Indenture Trustee, and each of their respective officers, directors and agents (collectively, the "Released Parties"), from any and all actions, claims and demands whatsoever, whenever arising, which the Servicer, in its capacity as Servicer or otherwise, shall or may have against any such Person relating to the Series Property or the Servicer's activities with respect thereto, other than any actions, claims and demands arising out of the willful misconduct, bad faith or gross negligence of the Released Parties.
- The Servicer shall indemnify the Commission, on behalf of the Customers, to the extent Customers incur Losses associated with higher servicing fees payable to a Successor Servicer as a result of the Servicer's negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct or termination of this Servicing Agreement for cause. Further, if the Servicer remains an entity subject to the Commission's regulatory authority as a public utility (or otherwise for ratemaking purposes), the Servicer hereby acknowledges and agrees that the Commission, subject to the outcome of an appropriate Commission proceeding, may take such action as the Commission deems necessary or appropriate under its regulatory authority to require the Servicer to make Customers whole for any Losses they incur in connection with the failure of any material representation, or warranty by the Servicer under this Agreement, or by reason of the Servicer's negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct or termination of this Servicing Agreement for cause, including without limitation Losses attributable to higher Series Charges imposed on Customers by reason of additional Operating Expenses. The Servicer hereby acknowledges and agrees that such action by the Commission may include, but is not limited to, adjustments to the Servicer's other regulated rates and charges or credits to Customers. If the Servicer does not remain, or is not, subject to the Commission's regulatory authority as a public utility (or otherwise for ratemaking purposes), such Servicer shall indemnify the Commission, on behalf of the Customers, for any Losses incurred by Customers by reason of the Servicer's negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct or termination of this Servicing Agreement for cause, including without limitation Losses attributable to higher Series Charges imposed on Customers by reason of additional Operating Expenses. The Servicer's indemnification under this Section 6.02(e) shall survive the termination of this Agreement, and any amounts paid with respect thereto shall be remitted and deposited with the Indenture Trustee for deposit in the Collection Account, unless otherwise directed by the Commission. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Servicing Agreement or in any other Basic Document, so long as any Series A Bonds are Outstanding, any indemnity payments to the Commission (for the benefit of Customers) pursuant to this Section 6.02(e) shall be promptly remitted to the Indenture Trustee for deposit in the applicable Collection Account.
- (f) The Servicer shall not be required to indemnify an Indemnified Party for any amount paid or payable by such Indemnified Party in the settlement of any action,

proceeding or investigation without the written consent of the Servicer, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. Promptly after receipt by an Indemnified Party of notice (or, in the case of the Indenture Trustee, receipt of notice by a Responsible Officer only) of the commencement of any action, proceeding or investigation, such Indemnified Party shall, if a claim in respect thereof is to be made against the Servicer under this Section 6.02, notify the Servicer in writing of the commencement thereof. Failure by an Indemnified Party to so notify the Servicer shall relieve the Servicer from the obligation to indemnify and hold harmless such Indemnified Party under this <u>Section 6.02</u> only to the extent that the Servicer suffers actual prejudice as a result of such failure. With respect to any action, proceeding or investigation brought by a third party for which indemnification may be sought under this Section 6.02, the Servicer shall be entitled to conduct and control, at its expense and with counsel of its choosing that is reasonably satisfactory to such Indemnified Party, the defense of any such action, proceeding or investigation (in which case the Servicer shall not thereafter be responsible for the fees and expenses of any separate counsel retained by the Indemnified Party except as set forth below); provided, that the Indemnified Party shall have the right to participate in such action, proceeding or investigation through counsel chosen by it and at its own expense. Notwithstanding the Servicer's election to assume the defense of any action, proceeding or investigation, the Indemnified Party shall have the right to employ separate counsel (including local counsel), and the Servicer shall bear the reasonable fees, costs and expenses of such separate counsel, if (i) the defendants in any such action include both the Indemnified Party and the Servicer and the Indemnified Party shall have reasonably concluded that there may be legal defenses available to it that are different from or additional to those available to the Servicer, (ii) the Servicer shall not have employed counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Indemnified Party to represent the Indemnified Party within a reasonable time after notice of the institution of such action. (iii) the Servicer shall authorize the Indemnified Party to employ separate counsel at the expense of the Servicer or (iv) in the case of the Indenture Trustee, such action exposes the Indenture Trustee to a material risk of criminal liability or forfeiture or a Servicer Default has occurred and is continuing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Servicer shall not be obligated to pay for the fees, costs and expenses of more than one separate counsel for the Indemnified Parties other than one local counsel, if appropriate. The Servicer will not, without the prior written consent of the Indemnified Party, settle or compromise or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to any pending or threatened claim, action, suit or proceeding in respect of which indemnification may be sought under this Section 6.02 (whether or not the Indemnified Party is an actual or potential party to such claim or action) unless such settlement, compromise or consent includes an unconditional release of the Indemnified Party from all liability arising out of such claim, action, suit or proceeding.

Section 6.03. <u>Binding Effect of Servicing Obligations</u>. The obligations to continue to provide service and to collect and account for Series Charges will be binding upon the Servicer, any Successor and any other entity that provides distribution services to a Person that is a Florida customer of Duke Energy Florida or any Successor so long as the Series Charges have not been fully collected and posted. Any Person (a) into which the Servicer may be merged, converted or consolidated and that is a Permitted Successor, (b) that may result from any merger, conversion or consolidation to which the Servicer shall be a party and that is a Permitted Successor, (c) that may succeed to the properties and assets of the Servicer substantially as a whole and that is a Permitted Successor or (d) that otherwise is a Permitted

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Successor, which Person in any of the foregoing cases executes an agreement of assumption to perform all of the obligations of the Servicer hereunder, shall be the successor to the Servicer under this Servicing Agreement without further act on the part of any of the parties to this Servicing Agreement; provided, however, that (i) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no representation or warranty made pursuant to Section 6.01 shall have been

breached and no Servicer Default and no event that, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become a Servicer Default shall have occurred and be continuing, (ii) the Servicer shall have delivered to the Issuer, the Commission and the Indenture Trustee an Officer's Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel from external counsel stating that such consolidation, conversion, merger or succession and such agreement of assumption complies with this Section 6.03 and that all conditions precedent, if any, provided for in this Servicing Agreement relating to such transaction have been complied with, (iii) the Servicer shall have delivered to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies an Opinion of Counsel from external counsel of the Servicer either (A) stating that, in the opinion of such counsel, all filings to be made by the Servicer, including filings with the Commission pursuant to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law and the UCC, have been executed and filed and are in full force and effect that are necessary to fully preserve, perfect and maintain the priority of the interests of the Issuer and the Liens of the Indenture Trustee in the Series Property and reciting the details of such filings or (B) stating that, in the opinion of such counsel, no such action shall be necessary to preserve and protect such interests, (iv) the Servicer shall have delivered to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies an Opinion of Counsel from independent tax counsel stating that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, such consolidation, conversion, merger or succession and such agreement of assumption will not result in a material adverse U.S. federal income tax consequence to the Issuer or the Holders of Series A Bonds, (v) the Servicer shall have given the Rating Agencies prior written notice of such transaction and (vi) any applicable requirements of the Intercreditor Agreement have been satisfied. When any Person (or more than one Person) acquires the properties and assets of the Servicer substantially as a whole or otherwise becomes the successor, by merger, conversion, consolidation, sale, transfer, lease or otherwise, to all or substantially all the assets of the Servicer in accordance with the terms of this Section 6.03, then, upon satisfaction of all of the other conditions of this Section 6.03, the preceding Servicer shall automatically and without further notice be released from all its obligations hereunder (except for responsibilities for its actions prior to such release).

#### Section 6.04. Limitation on Liability of Servicer and Others.

(a) Except as otherwise provided under this Servicing Agreement, neither the Servicer nor any of the directors, officers, employees or agents of the Servicer shall be liable to the Issuer or any other Person for any action taken or for refraining from the taking of any action pursuant to this Servicing Agreement or for good faith errors in judgment; provided, however, that this provision shall not protect the Servicer or any such Person against any liability that would otherwise be imposed by reason of negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct in the performance of duties or by reason of reckless disregard of obligations and duties under this Servicing Agreement. The Servicer and any director, officer, employee or agent of the Servicer may rely in good faith on the advice of counsel or on any document of any kind, prima facie properly executed and submitted by any Person, respecting any matters arising under this Servicing Agreement.

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- (b) The Servicer acknowledges that the Commission, acting on its own behalf, has authority to enforce all provisions of this Servicing Agreement for the benefit of Customers, including without limitation the enforcement of Section 6.02(e).
- (c) Except as provided in this Servicing Agreement, including Section 5.02(d), the Servicer shall not be under any obligation to appear in, prosecute or defend any legal action relating to the Series Property that is not directly related to one of the Servicer's enumerated duties in this Servicing Agreement or related to its obligation to pay indemnification, and that in its reasonable opinion may cause it to incur any expense or liability; provided, however, that the Servicer may, in respect of any Proceeding, undertake any action that it is not specifically identified in this Servicing Agreement as a duty of the Servicer but that the Servicer reasonably determines is necessary or desirable in order to protect the rights and duties of the Issuer or the Indenture Trustee under this Servicing Agreement and the interests of the Holders and Customers under this Servicing Agreement.

Section 6.05. <u>Duke Energy Florida Not to Resign as Servicer</u>. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.03, Duke Energy Florida shall not resign from the obligations and duties imposed on it as Servicer under this Servicing Agreement except upon a determination that the performance of its duties under this Servicing Agreement shall no longer be permissible under applicable Requirements of Law. Notice of any such determination permitting the resignation of Duke Energy Florida shall be communicated to the Issuer, the Commission, the Indenture Trustee and each Rating Agency at the earliest practicable time (and, if such communication is not in writing, shall be confirmed in writing at the earliest practicable time), and any such determination shall be evidenced by an Opinion of Counsel to such effect delivered to the Issuer, the Commission and each Indenture Trustee concurrently with or promptly after such notice. No such resignation shall become effective until a Successor Servicer has been approved by the Commission and has assumed the servicing obligations and duties hereunder of the Servicer in accordance with Section 7.02.

#### Section 6.06. Servicing Compensation.

(a) In consideration for its services hereunder, until the Collection in Full of the Charges, the Servicer shall receive an annual fee (the "Servicing Fee") in an amount equal to (i) 0.05% of the aggregate initial principal amount of all Series A Bonds for so long as Duke Energy Florida or an Affiliate of Duke Energy Florida is the Servicer or (ii) if Duke Energy Florida or any of its Affiliates is not the Servicer, an amount agreed upon by the Successor Servicer and the Indenture Trustee, provided, that the annual Servicing Fee shall not exceed 0.6% of the aggregate initial principal amount of all Series A Bonds, unless the Commission has approved the appointment of the Successor Servicer or the Commission does not act to either approve or disapprove such appointment on or before the date which is 45 days after notice of the proposed appointment of the Successor Servicer is provided to the Commission in the same manner substantially as provided in Section 8.01(c). The Servicing Fee owing shall be calculated based on the initial principal amount of the Series A Bonds and shall be paid semi-annually, with half of the Servicing Fee being paid on each Payment Date, except for the amount of the Servicing Fee to be paid on the first Payment Date in which the Servicing Fee then due will be calculated based on the number of days that this Servicing Agreement has been in effect.

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In addition, the Servicer shall be entitled to be reimbursed by the Issuer for filing fees and fees and expenses for attorneys, accountants, printing or other professional services retained by the Issuer and paid for by the Servicer (or procured by the Servicer on behalf of the Issuer and paid for by the Servicer) to meet the Issuer's obligations under the Basic Documents ("Reimbursable Expenses"). Except for such Reimbursable Expenses, the Servicer shall be required to pay all other costs and expenses incurred by the Servicer in performing its activities hereunder (but, for the avoidance of doubt, excluding any such costs and expenses incurred by Duke Energy Florida in its capacity as Administrator).

- (b) The Servicing Fee set forth in Section 6.06(a) shall be paid to the Servicer by the Indenture Trustee, on each Payment Date in accordance with the priorities set forth in Section 8.02(e) of the Indenture, by wire transfer of immediately available funds from the Collection Account to an account designated by the Servicer. Any portion of the Servicing Fee not paid on any such date shall be added to the Servicing Fee payable on the subsequent Payment Date. In no event shall the Indenture Trustee be liable for the payment of any Servicing Fee or other amounts specified in this Section 6.06; provided, that this Section 6.06 does not relieve the Indenture Trustee of any duties it has to allocate funds for payment for such fees under Section 8.02 of the Indenture.
- (c) The Servicer and the Issuer acknowledge and agree that the Servicer's actual collections of Series Charges on some days might exceed the Servicer's deemed collections, and that the Servicer's actual collections of Series Charges on other days might be less than the Servicer's deemed collections. The Servicer and the Issuer further acknowledge and agree that the amount of these variances are likely to be small and are not likely to be biased in favor of over-remittances or under-remittances. Consequently, so long as the Servicer faithfully makes all daily remittances based on weighted average days sales outstanding, as provided for herein, the Servicer

and the Issuer agree that no actual or deemed investment earnings shall be payable in respect of such over-remittances or under-remittances. However, the Servicer shall remit at least annually to the Indenture Trustee, for the benefit of the Issuer, any late charges received from Customers in respect of Series Charges.

- (d) The foregoing Servicing Fee constitutes a fair and reasonable compensation for the obligations to be performed by the Servicer. Such Servicing Fee shall be determined without regard to the income of the Issuer, shall not be deemed to constitute distributions to the recipient of any profit, loss or capital of the Issuer and shall be considered a fixed Operating Expense of the Issuer subject to the limitations on such expenses set forth in the Financing Order.
- (e) Any services required for or contemplated by the performance of the above-referenced services by the Servicer to be provided by unaffiliated third parties may, if provided for or otherwise contemplated by the Financing Order and if the Issuer deems it necessary or desirable, be arranged by the Issuer or by the Servicer at the direction (which may be general or specific) of the Issuer. Costs and expenses associated with the contracting for such third-party professional services may be paid directly by the Issuer or paid by the Servicer and reimbursed by the Issuer in accordance with Section 6.06(a), or otherwise as the Servicer and the Issuer may mutually arrange.

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Section 6.07. <u>Compliance with Applicable Law</u>. The Servicer covenants and agrees, in servicing the Series Property, to comply in all material respects with all laws applicable to, and binding upon, the Servicer and relating to the Series Property, the noncompliance with which would have a material adverse effect on the value of the Series Property; provided, however, that the foregoing is not intended to, and shall not, impose any liability on the Servicer for noncompliance with any Requirement of Law that the Servicer is contesting in good faith in accordance with its customary standards and procedures. It is expressly acknowledged that the payment of fees to the Rating Agencies shall be at the expense of the Issuer and that, if the Servicer advances such payments to the Rating Agencies, the Issuer shall reimburse the Servicer for any such advances.

Section 6.08. Access to Certain Records and Information Regarding Series Property. The Servicer shall provide to the Indenture Trustee access to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records for the Series A Bonds as is reasonably required for the Indenture Trustee to perform its duties and obligations under the Indenture and the other Basic Documents and shall provide access to such records to the Holders as required by applicable law. Access shall be afforded without charge, but only upon reasonable request and during normal business hours at the offices of the Servicer. Nothing in this Section 6.08 shall affect the obligation of the Servicer to observe any applicable law (including any Commission Regulation) prohibiting disclosure of information regarding Customers, and the failure of the Servicer to provide access to such information as a result of such obligation shall not constitute a breach of this Section 6.08.

Section 6.09. <u>Appointments</u>. The Servicer may at any time appoint any Person to perform all or any portion of its obligations as Servicer hereunder, including a collection agent acting pursuant to the Intercreditor Agreement; provided, however, that, unless such Person is an Affiliate of Duke Energy Florida, the Rating Agency Condition shall have been satisfied in connection therewith; provided, further, that the Servicer shall remain obligated and be liable under this Servicing Agreement for the servicing and administering of the Series Property in accordance with the provisions hereof without diminution of such obligation and liability by virtue of the appointment of such Person and to the same extent and under the same terms and conditions as if the Servicer alone were servicing and administering the Series Property. The fees and expenses of any such Person shall be as agreed between the Servicer and such Person from time to time, and none of the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Holders or any other Person shall have any responsibility therefor or right or claim thereto. Any such appointment shall not constitute a Servicer resignation under Section 6.05.

Section 6.10. <u>No Servicer Advances</u>. The Servicer shall not make any advances of interest on or principal of the Series A Bonds.

#### Section 6.11. Remittances.

(a) The Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections on any Servicer Business Day (the "<u>Daily Remittance</u>") shall be calculated according to the procedures set forth in <u>Exhibit A</u> and remitted by the Servicer as soon as reasonably practicable to the General Subaccount of the Collection Account but in no event later than two Servicer Business Days following such Servicer Business Day. Prior to each remittance to the General Subaccount of the Collection

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Account pursuant to this <u>Section 6.11</u>, the Servicer shall provide written notice (which may be via electronic means, including electronic mail) to the Indenture Trustee and, upon request, to the Issuer of each such remittance (including the exact dollar amount to be remitted). The Servicer shall also, promptly upon receipt, remit to the Collection Account any other proceeds of the Series Collateral that it may receive from time to time. Reconciliations of bank statements shall be as set forth in <u>Exhibit A</u>.

- (b) The Servicer agrees and acknowledges that it holds all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments collected by it and any other proceeds for the Series Collateral received by it for the benefit of the Indenture Trustee and the Holders and that all such amounts will be remitted by the Servicer in accordance with this Section 6.11 without any surcharge, fee, offset, charge or other deduction except for and interest earnings permitted by Section 6.06. The Servicer further agrees not to make any claim to reduce its obligation to remit all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments collected by it in accordance with this Servicing Agreement.
- (c) Unless otherwise directed to do so by the Issuer, the Servicer shall be responsible for selecting Eligible Investments in which the funds in the Collection Account shall be invested pursuant to Section 8.03 of the Indenture.
- Section 6.12. <u>Maintenance of Operations</u>. Subject to <u>Section 6.03</u>, Duke Energy Florida agrees to continue, unless prevented by circumstances beyond its control, to operate its electric distribution system to provide service so long as it is acting as the Servicer under this Servicing Agreement.

### ARTICLE VII DEFAULT

Section 7.01. <u>Servicer Default</u>. If any one or more of the following events (a "<u>Servicer Default</u>") shall occur and be continuing:

- (a) any failure by the Servicer to remit to the Collection Account on behalf of the Issuer any required remittance that shall continue unremedied for a period of five Business Days after written notice of such failure is received by the Servicer and the Commission from the Issuer or the Indenture Trustee or after discovery of such failure by a Responsible Officer of the Servicer;
- (b) any failure on the part of the Servicer or, so long as the Servicer is Duke Energy Florida or an Affiliate thereof, any failure on the part of Duke Energy Florida, as the case may be, duly to observe or to perform in any material respect any covenants or agreements of the Servicer or Duke Energy Florida, as the case may be, set forth in this Servicing Agreement (other than as provided in Section 7.01(a) or Section 7.01(c)) or any other Basic Document to which it is a party, which failure shall (i) materially and adversely affect the rights of the Holders and (ii) continue unremedied for a period of 60 days after the date on which (A) written notice of such failure, requiring the same to be remedied, shall have been given to the Servicer or Duke Energy Florida, as the case may be, by the Issuer, the Commission (with a copy to the Indenture Trustee) or to the Servicer or Duke Energy

- (c) any failure by the Servicer duly to perform its obligations under <u>Section 4.01(b)</u> in the time and manner set forth therein, which failure continues unremedied for a period of five Business Days;
- (d) any representation or warranty made by the Servicer in this Servicing Agreement or any other Basic Document shall prove to have been incorrect in a material respect when made, which has a material adverse effect on the Holders and which material adverse effect continues unremedied for a period of 60 days after the date on which (i) written notice thereof, requiring the same to be remedied, shall have been delivered to the Servicer (with a copy to the Indenture Trustee) by the Issuer, the Commission or the Indenture Trustee or (ii) such failure is discovered by a Responsible Officer of the Servicer; or
  - (e) an Insolvency Event occurs with respect to the Servicer or Duke Energy Florida;

then, and in each and every case, so long as the Servicer Default shall not have been remedied, either the Indenture Trustee shall, upon the instruction of Holders evidencing a majority of the Outstanding Amount of the Series A Bonds or by the Commission, subject to the terms of the Intercreditor Agreement, by notice then given in writing to the Servicer (and to the Indenture Trustee if given by the Holders) (a "Termination Notice"), terminate all the rights and obligations (other than the obligations set forth in Section 6.02 and the obligation under Section 7.02 to continue performing its functions as Servicer until a successor Servicer is appointed) of the Servicer under this Servicing Agreement and under the Intercreditor Agreement; provided, however the Indenture Trustee shall not give a Termination Notice upon instruction of the Commission unless the Rating Agency Condition is satisfied. In addition, upon a Servicer Default described in Section 7.01(a), the Holders and the Indenture Trustee as financing parties under the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law (or any of their representatives) shall be entitled to apply to the Commission or a court of appropriate jurisdiction for an order for sequestration and payment of revenues arising with respect to the Series Property. On or after the receipt by the Servicer of a Termination Notice, all authority and power of the Servicer under this Servicing Agreement, whether with respect to the Series A Bonds, the Series Property, the Series Charges or otherwise, shall, without further action, pass to and be vested in such successor Servicer as may be appointed under Section 7.02; and, without limitation, the Indenture Trustee is hereby authorized and empowered to execute and deliver, on behalf of the predecessor Servicer, as attorney-in-fact or otherwise, any and all documents and other instruments, and to do or accomplish all other acts or things necessary or appropriate to effect the purposes of such Termination Notice, whether to complete the transfer of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records and related documents, or otherwise. The predecessor Servicer shall cooperate with the successor Servicer, the Issuer and the Indenture Trustee in effecting the termination of the responsibilities and rights of the predecessor Servicer under this Servicing Agreement, including the transfer to the successor Servicer for administration by it of all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records and all cash amounts that shall at the time be held by the predecessor Servicer for remittance, or shall thereafter be received by it with respect to the Series Property or the Series Charges. As soon as practicable

incurred in connection with transferring the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records to the successor Servicer and amending this Servicing Agreement and the Intercreditor Agreement to reflect such succession as Servicer pursuant to this Section 7.01 shall be paid by the predecessor Servicer upon presentation of reasonable documentation of such costs and expenses. Termination of Duke Energy Florida as Servicer shall not terminate Duke Energy Florida's rights or obligations under the Sale Agreement (except rights thereunder deriving from its rights as the Servicer hereunder).

### Section 7.02. Appointment of Successor.

- Upon the Servicer's receipt of a Termination Notice pursuant to <u>Section 7.01</u> or the Servicer's resignation or removal in accordance with the terms of this Servicing Agreement, the predecessor Servicer shall continue to perform its functions as Servicer under this Servicing Agreement and shall be entitled to receive the requisite portion of the Servicing Fee, until a successor Servicer shall have assumed in writing the obligations of the Servicer hereunder as described below. In the event of the Servicer's removal or resignation hereunder, the Indenture Trustee may, at the written direction and with the consent of the Holders of a majority of the Outstanding Amount of the Series A Bonds or of the Commission shall, but subject to the provisions of the Intercreditor Agreement, appoint a successor Servicer with the Issuer's prior written consent thereto (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld), and the successor Servicer shall accept its appointment by a written assumption in form reasonably acceptable to the Issuer and the Indenture Trustee and provide prompt written notice of such assumption to the Issuer, the Commission and the Rating Agencies. If, within 30 days after the delivery of the Termination Notice, a new Servicer shall not have been appointed, the Indenture Trustee may, at the direction of the Holders of a majority of the Series A Bonds, petition the Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction to appoint a successor Servicer under this Servicing Agreement. A Person shall qualify as a successor Servicer only if (i) such Person is permitted under Commission Regulations to perform the duties of the Servicer, (ii) the Rating Agency Condition shall have been satisfied, (iii) such Person enters into a servicing agreement with the Issuer having substantially the same provisions as this Servicing Agreement and (iv) such Person agrees to perform the obligations of the Servicer under the Intercreditor Agreement. In no event shall the Indenture Trustee be liable for its appointment of a successor Servicer. The Indenture Trustee's expenses incurred under this Section 7.02(a) shall be at the sole expense of the Issuer and payable from the Collection Account as provided in Section 8.02 of the Indenture.
- (b) Upon appointment, the successor Servicer shall be the successor in all respects to the predecessor Servicer and shall be subject to all the responsibilities, duties and liabilities arising thereafter placed on the predecessor Servicer and shall be entitled to the Servicing Fee and all the rights granted to the predecessor Servicer by the terms and provisions of this Servicing Agreement.

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Section 7.03. Waiver of Past Defaults. The Indenture Trustee, with the written consent of the Commission and the consent of the Holders evidencing a majority of the Outstanding Amount of the Series A Bonds, may waive in writing any default by the Servicer in the performance of its obligations hereunder and its consequences, except a default in making any required deposits to the Collection Account in accordance with this Servicing Agreement. Upon any such waiver of a past default, such default shall cease to exist, and any Servicer Default arising therefrom shall be deemed to have been remedied for every purpose of this Servicing Agreement. No such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other default or impair any right consequent thereto. Promptly after the execution of any such waiver, the Servicer shall furnish copies of such waiver to each of the Rating Agencies.

Section 7.04. <u>Notice of Servicer Default</u>. The Servicer shall deliver to the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, the Commission and the Rating Agencies, promptly after having obtained knowledge thereof, but in no event later than five Business Days thereafter, written notice of any event that, with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become a Servicer Default under <u>Section 7.01</u>.

Section 7.05. <u>Cooperation with Successor</u>. The Servicer covenants and agrees with the Issuer that it will, on an ongoing basis, cooperate with the successor Servicer and provide whatever information is, and take whatever actions are, reasonably necessary to assist the successor Servicer in performing its obligations hereunder.

# ARTICLE VIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Section 8.01. Amendment.

- (a) Subject to Section 8.01(c), this Servicing Agreement may be amended in writing by the Servicer and the Issuer with the prior written consent of the Indenture Trustee and the satisfaction of the Rating Agency Condition; provided, that any such amendment may not adversely affect the interest of any Holder in any material respect without the consent of the Holders of a majority of the Outstanding Amount. Promptly after the execution of any such amendment or consent, the Issuer shall furnish copies of such amendment or consent to each of the Rating Agencies and the Commission.
- (b) Prior to the execution of any amendment to this Servicing Agreement, the Issuer and the Indenture Trustee shall be entitled to receive and conclusively rely upon an Opinion of Counsel of external counsel stating that such amendment is authorized and permitted by this Servicing Agreement and all conditions precedent, if any, provided for in this Servicing Agreement relating to such amendment have been satisfied and upon the Opinion of Counsel from external counsel referred to in Section 3.01(c)(i). The Issuer and the Indenture Trustee may, but shall not be obligated to, enter into any such amendment that affects their own rights, duties, indemnities or immunities under this Servicing Agreement or otherwise.
- (c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this <u>Section 8.01</u>, no amendment or modification of this Servicing Agreement, nor any waiver required by <u>Section</u>

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7.03 hereof, shall be effective except upon satisfaction of the conditions precedent in this paragraph (c).

- (i) At least 15 days prior to the effectiveness of any such amendment or modification and after obtaining the other necessary approvals set forth in <a href="Section 8.01(a)">Section 8.01(a)</a> (except that the consent of the Indenture Trustee may be subject to the consent of the Holders if such consent is required or sought by the Indenture Trustee in connection with such amendment or modification) or prior to the effectiveness of any waiver of a default approved by the Holders of a majority of the Outstanding Amount of the Series A Bonds, the Servicer shall have delivered to the Commission's executive director and general counsel written notification of any proposed amendment, which notification shall contain:
  - (A) a reference to Docket Nos. 150171-EI;
  - (B) an Officer's Certificate stating that the proposed amendment or modification has been approved by all parties to this Servicing Agreement or alternatively, the waiver of default has been approved by the Holders of a majority of the Outstanding Amount of Series A Bonds; and
  - (C) a statement identifying the person to whom the Commission is to address any response to the proposed amendment or to request additional time.

- (ii) If the Commission or an authorized representative of the Commission, within 15 days (subject to extension as provided in clause (iii)) of receiving a notification complying with subparagraph (i), shall have delivered to the office of the person specified in clause (i)(C) a written statement that the Commission might object to the proposed amendment or modification, or to the waiver of default, then, subject to clause (iv) below, such proposed amendment or modification, or the waiver of default, shall not be effective unless and until the Commission subsequently delivers a written statement that it does not object to such proposed amendment or modification.
- (iii) If the Commission or an authorized representative of the Commission, within 15 days of receiving a notification complying with subparagraph (i), shall have delivered to the office of the person specified in clause (i)(C) a written statement requesting an additional amount of time not to exceed thirty days (or, in the case of a waiver of default, 15 days) in which to consider such proposed amendment or modification, then such proposed amendment or modification shall not be effective if, within such extended period, the Commission shall have delivered to the office of the person specified in clause (i)(C) a written statement as described in subparagraph (ii), unless and until the Commission subsequently delivers a written statement that it does not object to such proposed amendment or modification.

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- (iv) If (A) the Commission or an authorized representative of the Commission, shall not have delivered written notice that the Commission might object to such proposed amendment or modification, or the waiver of default, within the time periods described in subparagraphs (ii) or (iii), whichever is applicable, or (B) the Commission or authorized representative of the Commission, has delivered such written notice but does not within 60 days of the delivery of the notification in (a) above, provide subsequent written notice confirming that it does in fact object and the reasons therefore or advise that it has initiated a proceeding to determine what action it might take with respect to the matter, then the Commission shall be conclusively deemed not to have any objection to the proposed amendment or modification or waiver of default, as the case may be, and such amendment or modification or waiver of default, as the case may be, may subsequently become effective upon satisfaction of the other conditions specified in Section 8.01(a).
- (v) Following the delivery of a statement from the Commission or an authorized representative of the Commission to the Servicer under subparagraph (ii), the Servicer and the Issuer shall have the right at any time to withdraw from the Commission further consideration of any proposed amendment, modification or waiver of default.
- (d) For the purpose of this <u>Section 8.01(a)</u>, an "authorized representative of the Commission" means any person authorized to act on behalf of the Commission, as evidenced by an Opinion of Counsel (which may be the general counsel) to the Commission.

# Section 8.02. <u>Maintenance of Accounts and Records.</u>

- (a) The Servicer shall maintain accounts and records as to the Series Property accurately and in accordance with its standard accounting procedures and in sufficient detail to permit reconciliation between Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments received by the Servicer and Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections from time to time deposited in the Collection Account.
- (b) The Servicer shall permit the Indenture Trustee and its agents at any time during normal business hours, upon reasonable notice to the Servicer and to the extent it does not unreasonably interfere with the Servicer's normal operations, to inspect, audit and make copies of and abstracts from the Servicer's records

regarding the Series Property and the Series Charges. Nothing in this <u>Section 8.02(b)</u> shall affect the obligation of the Servicer to observe any applicable law (including any Commission Regulation) prohibiting disclosure of information regarding Customers, and the failure of the Servicer to provide access to such information as a result of such obligation shall not constitute a breach of this Section 8.02(b).

Section 8.03. <u>Notices.</u> Any notice, report or other communication given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be effective (i) upon receipt when sent through the mails, registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, with such receipt to be effective the date of delivery indicated on the return receipt, (ii) upon receipt when sent by an overnight courier, (iii) on the date personally delivered to an authorized officer of the party to

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which sent or (iv) on the date transmitted by facsimile or other electronic transmission with a confirmation of receipt in all cases, addressed as follows:

- (a) in the case of the Servicer, to Duke Energy Florida, LLC, at (i) 299 First Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701, Attention: Director, Rates and Regulatory Strategy, Telephone: 727-820-4560 and (ii) 550 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, Attention: Treasurer, Telephone: 704-382-3853 c/o Assistant Treasurer;
- (b) in the case of the Issuer, to Duke Energy Florida Project Finance, LLC, at 299 First Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701, Attention: Managers, Telephone: (980) 373-8659;
  - (c) in the case of the Indenture Trustee, to the Corporate Trust Office;
- (d) in the case of Fitch, to Fitch Ratings, 33 Whitehall Street, New York, New York 10004, Attention: ABS Surveillance, Telephone: (212) 908-0500, Facsimile: (212) 908-0355;
- (e) in the case of S&P, to Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC business, Structured Credit Surveillance, 55 Water Street, New York, New York 10041, Telephone: (212) 438-8991, Email: servicer\_reports@standardandpoors.com (all such notices to be delivered to S&P in writing by email); and
- (f) in the case of the Commission, Florida Public Services Commission, 2450 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0850, Attention: Staff Director of Accounting & Finance.

Each party hereto may, by notice given in accordance herewith to the other party or parties hereto, designate any further or different address to which subsequent notices, reports and other communications shall be sent.

Section 8.04. <u>Assignment</u>. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, except as provided in <u>Section 6.03</u> and as provided in the provisions of this Servicing Agreement concerning the resignation of the Servicer, this Servicing Agreement may not be assigned by the Servicer. Any assignment of this Servicing Agreement is subject to satisfaction of any conditions set forth in the Intercreditor Agreement.

Section 8.05. <u>Limitations on Rights of Others</u>. The provisions of this Servicing Agreement are solely for the benefit of the Servicer, the Issuer, the Commission, on behalf of itself and Customers, and, to the extent provided herein or in the other Basic Documents, the Indenture Trustee and the Holders, and the other Persons expressly referred to herein, and such Persons shall have the right to enforce the relevant provisions of this Servicing Agreement. Nothing in this Servicing Agreement, whether express or implied, shall be construed to give to any other Person any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim in the Series Property or Series Collateral or

contained herein, for the avoidance of doubt, any right, remedy or claim to which any Customer may be entitled pursuant to the Financing Order and to this Servicing Agreement may be asserted or exercised only by the Commission (or by its counsel in the name of the Commission) for the benefit of such Customer.

Section 8.06. <u>Severability</u>. Any provision of this Servicing Agreement that is prohibited or unenforceable in any jurisdiction shall, as to such jurisdiction, be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition or unenforceability without invalidating the remainder of such provision (if any) or the remaining provisions hereof (unless such a construction shall be unreasonable), and any such prohibition or unenforceability in any jurisdiction shall not invalidate or render unenforceable such provision in any other jurisdiction.

Section 8.07. <u>Separate Counterparts</u>. This Servicing Agreement may be executed by the parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be an original, but all such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

Section 8.08. <u>Governing Law.</u> This Servicing Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, without reference to its conflict of law provisions, and the obligations, rights and remedies of the parties hereunder shall be determined in accordance with such laws.

Section 8.09. <u>Assignment to Indenture Trustee</u>. The Servicer hereby acknowledges and consents to the assignment by the Issuer to the Indenture Trustee of any or all of the Issuer's rights hereunder. In no event shall the Indenture Trustee have any liability for the representations, warranties, covenants, agreements or other obligations of the Issuer hereunder or in any of the certificates delivered pursuant hereto, as to all of which any recourse shall be had solely to the assets of the Issuer subject to the availability of funds therefor under Section 8.02 of the Indenture.

Section 8.10. <u>Nonpetition Covenants</u>. Notwithstanding any prior termination of this Servicing Agreement or the Indenture, the Servicer shall not, prior to the date that is one year and one day after the satisfaction and discharge of the Indenture, acquiesce, petition or otherwise invoke or cause the Issuer to invoke or join with any Person in provoking the process of any Governmental Authority for the purpose of commencing or sustaining an involuntary case against the Issuer under any U.S. federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency or similar law or appointing a receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee, custodian, sequestrator or other similar official of the Issuer for any substantial part of the property of the Issuer or ordering the dissolution, winding up or liquidation of the affairs of the Issuer.

Section 8.11. <u>Limitation of Liability</u>. It is expressly understood and agreed by the parties hereto that this Servicing Agreement is executed and delivered by the Indenture Trustee, not individually or personally but solely as Indenture Trustee in the exercise of the powers and authority conferred and vested in it, and that the Indenture Trustee, in acting hereunder, is entitled to all rights, benefits, protections, immunities and indemnities accorded to it under the Indenture.

any Rating Agency under this Servicing Agreement or any other Basic Document to which it is a party for the purpose of determining the initial credit rating of the Series A Bonds or undertaking credit rating surveillance of the Series A Bonds with any Rating Agency, or satisfy the Rating Agency Condition, shall be substantially concurrently posted by the Servicer on the 17g-5 Website.

Section 8.13. <u>Indenture Trustee Actions</u>. In acting hereunder, the Indenture Trustee shall have the rights, protections and immunities granted to it under the Indenture.

{SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS}

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Servicing Agreement to be duly executed by their respective officers as of the day and year first above written.

DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA PROJECT FINANCE, LLC, as Issuer
Ву:
Name: Title:
DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC, as Servicer
Ву:
Name: Title:

Signature Page to Nuclear Asset Recovery Servicing Agreement

ACKNOWLEDGED AND ACCEPTED:

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON

as Indenture Trustee

Name: Title:

By:

TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

#### SERVICING PROCEDURES

The Servicer agrees to comply with the following servicing procedures:

#### **SECTION 1. Definitions.**

Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Servicing Agreement (the "Agreement").

#### SECTION 2. Data Acquisition.

- (a) <u>Installation and Maintenance of Meters</u>. The Servicer shall cause to be installed, replaced and maintained meters in accordance with the Servicer Policies and Practices.
- (b) <u>Meter Reading</u>. In accordance with the Servicer Policies and Practices, the Servicer shall obtain consumption measurements for each Customer or determine any Customer's consumption on the basis of estimates in accordance with Commission Regulations.
- (c) <u>Cost of Metering</u>. The Issuer shall not be obligated to pay any costs associated with the metering duties set forth in this Section 2, including the costs of installing, replacing and maintaining meters, nor shall the Issuer be entitled to any credit against the Servicing Fee for any cost savings realized by the Servicer as a result of new metering and/or billing technologies.

# **SECTION 3. Consumption and Bill Calculation.**

The Servicer shall obtain a calculation of each Customer's consumption (which may be based on data obtained from such Customer's meter read or on consumption estimates determined in accordance with Commission Regulations) in accordance with the Servicer Policies and Practices and shall determine therefrom Billed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges for the Series A Bonds.

# SECTION 4. Billing.

- (a) <u>Commencement of Billing</u>. The Servicer shall implement the Series Charges as of the date following Series Closing Date for the Series A Bonds and shall thereafter bill each Customer for each Customer's Billed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges for the Series A Bonds in accordance with the provisions of this Section 4.
- (b) <u>Frequency of Bills; Billing Practices</u>. In accordance with the Servicer Policies and Practices, the Servicer shall generate and issue a Bill to each Customer. In the event that the Servicer makes any material modification to the Servicer Policies and Practices, it shall notify

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the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee and the Rating Agencies as soon as practicable, and in no event later than 60 Servicer Business Days after such modification goes into effect, but the Servicer may not make any modification that will materially adversely affect the Holders.

#### (c) Format.

(i) The Customer's Bill will contain a separate line item identifying the monthly charge representing the Series Property. The Customer's Bill shall contain in text or in a footnote, text substantially to the effect that the monthly charge representing Series Property has been approved by the

Financing Order, and that a portion of the monthly charge is being collected by the Servicer, as servicer, on behalf of the Issuer as owner of the Series Property.

- (ii) The Servicer shall conform to such requirements in respect of the format, structure and text of Bills delivered to Customers as Commission Regulations shall from time to time prescribe. To the extent that Bill format, structure and text are not prescribed by applicable law or by Commission Regulations, the Servicer shall, subject to clause (i) of this subsection (c), determine the format, structure and text of all Bills in accordance with its reasonable business judgment, the Servicer Policies and Practices and historical practice.
- (d) <u>Delivery</u>. Except as provided in the next sentence, the Servicer shall deliver all Bills to Customers (i) by United States mail in such class or classes as are consistent with the Servicer Policies and Practices or (ii) by any other means, whether electronic or otherwise, that the Servicer may from time to time use in accordance with the Servicer Policies and Practices. The Servicer shall pay from its own funds all costs of issuance and delivery of all Bills that it renders, including printing and postage costs as the same may increase or decrease from time to time.

#### **SECTION 5. Customer Service Functions.**

The Servicer shall handle all Customer inquiries and other Customer service matters according to the Servicer Policies and Practices.

# SECTION 6. Collections; Payment Processing; Remittance.

- (a) Collection Efforts, Policies, Procedures.
- (i) The Servicer shall collect Billed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges for the Series A Bonds (including late charges in respect of Series Charges) from Customers as and when the same become due in accordance with such collection procedures as it follows with respect to comparable assets that it services for itself or others including, in accordance with Commission Regulations and the Servicer Policies and Practices, that:
  - (A) The Servicer shall prepare and deliver overdue notices to Customers.
  - (B) The Servicer shall deliver past-due and shut-off notices.

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- (C) The Servicer may employ the assistance of collection agents.
- (D) The Servicer shall apply Customer deposits to the payment of delinquent accounts.
- (ii) The Servicer shall not waive any late payment charge or any other fee or charge relating to delinquent payments, if any, or waive, vary or modify any terms of payment of any amounts payable by a Customer, in each case unless such waiver or action: (A) would be in accordance with the Servicer Policies and Practices and (B) would comply in all material respects with applicable law.
- (iii) The Servicer shall accept payment from Customers in respect of Billed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges for the Series A Bonds in such forms and methods and at such times and places in accordance with the Servicer Policies and Practices.

- (b) <u>Payment Processing</u>; <u>Allocation</u>; <u>Priority of Payments</u>. The Servicer shall post all payments received to Customer accounts as promptly as practicable, and, in any event, substantially all payments shall be posted no later than two Servicer Business Days after receipt.
- (c) <u>Investment of Estimated Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments Received</u>. Prior to remittance on the applicable remittance date, the Servicer may invest estimated Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges Payments at its own risk and for its own benefit, and such investments and funds shall not be required to be segregated from the other investments and funds of the Servicer.

# (d) Calculation of Daily Remittance.

- (i) The Servicer will remit Series Charges directly to the Indenture Trustee pursuant to Section 6.11 of the Servicing Agreement. The Servicer will remit Series Charges based on estimated collections using a weighted average balance of days outstanding ("ADO") on Duke Energy Florida's retail bills. Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections for the Series A Bonds remitted will represent the charges estimated to be received for any period based upon the ADO and an estimated system-wide write-off percentage.
- (ii) The Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections for the Series A Bonds will be remitted by the Servicer to the Indenture Trustee as soon as reasonably practicable to the General Subaccount of the Collection Account on each Servicer Business Day, but in no event later than two Servicer Business Days following such Servicer Business Day. Estimated daily Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections for the Series A Bonds will be remitted to the Indenture Trustee on each Servicer Business Day based upon the ADO and estimated write-offs. Each day on which those remittances are made is referred to as a daily remittance date.
- (iii) No less often than annually, the Servicer and the Indenture Trustee will reconcile remittances of estimated Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections for the Series A Bonds with actual Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments for the Series A

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Bonds received by the Servicer to more accurately reflect the amount of Billed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges for the Series A Bonds that should have been remitted, based on ADO and the actual system-wide write-off percentage. To the extent the remittances of estimated payments arising from the Series Charges exceed the amounts that should have been remitted based on actual system-wide write-offs, the Servicer will be entitled to withhold the excess amount from any subsequent remittance to the Indenture Trustee until the balance of such excess is reduced to zero. To the extent the remittances of estimated payments arising from the Series Charges are less than the amount that should have been remitted based on actual system wide write-offs, the Servicer will remit the amount of the shortfall to the Indenture Trustee within two Servicer Business Days. Although the Servicer will remit estimated Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections for the Series A Bonds to the Indenture Trustee, the Servicer will not be obligated to make any payments on the Series A Bonds.

- (iv) At least annually, the Servicer also will remit to the Indenture Trustee, for the benefit of the Issuer, any late charges received from Customers with respect to the Series Charges.
- (v) The Servicer agrees and acknowledges that it holds all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections for the Series A Bonds received by it and any other proceeds for the Series Collateral received by it for the benefit of the Indenture Trustee and the Holders and that all such amounts will be remitted by the Servicer without any surcharge, fee, offset, charge or other deduction. The Servicer further agrees not

to make any claim to reduce its obligation to remit all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments for the Series A Bonds collected by it in accordance with the Servicing Agreement.

- (e) <u>Partial Collections</u>. Upon a partial payment of amounts billed, including amounts billed under special contracts, such partial payments shall be allocated ratably among the Series Charges and the Seller's other billed amounts (including any accrued interest and late fees) based on the ratio of each component of the bill to the total bill. If more than one Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds are Outstanding, partial payments allocable to Series Charges shall be allocated pro rata based upon the amount of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges owing with respect to each series.
  - (f) No Advances. The Servicer shall not be obligated to advance any of its own funds to the Issuer.

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#### EXHIBIT B

# FORM OF MONTHLY SERVICER'S CERTIFICATE

See Attached

E-B-1

# MONTHLY SERVICER'S CERTIFICATE

# DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA PROJECT FINANCE, LLC \$1,294,290,000 Series A Senior Secured Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds

Pursuant to <u>Section 3.01(b)</u> of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Servicing Agreement dated as of June 22, 2016 by and between **Duke Energy Florida**, **LLC**, as <u>Servicer</u>, and **Duke Energy Florida Project Finance**, **LLC**, as <u>Issuer</u> (the "<u>Servicing Agreement</u>"), the Servicer does hereby certify as follows:

Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Monthly Servicer's Certificate have their respective meanings as set forth in the Servicing Agreement. References herein to certain sections and subsections are references to the respective sections or subsections of the Servicing Agreement.

Current BILLING MONTH: {

**Current BILLING MONTH:** { / /20 } - { / /20 }

# Standard Billing for prior BILLING MONTH

Residential Total Billed	\${	}		
Residential NUCLEAR ASSET-RECOVERY CHARGE ("NARC") Billed	\${	}	{ .	}%
General Service Non-Demand Total Billed	\${	}		
General Service Non-Demand NARC Billed	\${	}	{ .	}%

General Service Billed	\${		}		
General Service NARC Billed	\${		}	{ .	}%
General Service Demand Total Billed	\${		}		
General Service Demand NARC Billed	\${		}	{ .	}%
Curtailable Total Billed	\${		}		
Curtailable NARC Billed	\${		}	{ .	}%
Interruptible Total Billed	\${		}		
Interruptible NARC Billed	\${		}	{ .	}%
Lighting Total Billed	\${		}		
Lighting NARC Billed	\${		}	{ .	}%
YTD Net Write-offs as a % of Billed Revenue					
Non-Residential Class Customer Write-offs		{ .	}%		
Residential Class Customer Write-offs		{ .	}%		
Total Write-offs		{ .	}%		

# E-B-2

# **Aggregate NARC Collections**

Total NARC Remitted for BILLING MONTH		
Residential NARC Collected	\${	}
General Service Non-Demand NARC Collected	\${	}
General Service NARC Collected	\${	}
General Service Demand NARC Collected	\${	}
Curtailable NARC Collected	\${	}
Interruptible NARC Collected	\${	}
Lighting NARC Collected	\${	}
Sub-Total of NARC Collected	\${	}
Total NARC Collected and Remitted	\${	}
Aggregate NARC Remittances for { 20 } BILLING MONTH	\${	}
Aggregate NARC Remittances for { 20 } BILLING MONTH	\${	}
Aggregate NARC Remittances for { 20 } BILLING MONTH	\${	}
Total Current NARC Remittances	\${	}
<b>Current BILLING MONTH:</b> { / /20 } - { / /20 }		
Executed as of this $\{ \}$ day of $\{ \}$ 20 $\{ \}$ .		

**DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC, as Servicer** 

By:			
	Name:		

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#### **EXHIBIT C**

# FORM OF SEMI-ANNUAL SERVICER'S CERTIFICATE

See attached

E-C-1

#### SEMI-ANNUAL SERVICER'S CERTIFICATE

Pursuant to Section 4.01(c)(ii) of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Servicing Agreement, dated as of June 22, 2016 (the "Servicing Agreement"), by and between DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC, as servicer (the "Servicer"), and Duke Energy Florida Project Finance, LLC, the Servicer does hereby certify, for the { }, 20{ } Payment Date (the "Current Payment Date"), as follows:

Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have their respective meanings as set forth in the Servicing Agreement. References herein to certain sections and subsections are references to the respective sections of the Servicing Agreement or the Indenture, as the context indicates.

Collection Periods: {	} to {	
Payment Date: {	}, 20{ }	

1. Collections Allocable and Aggregate Amounts Available for the Current Payment Date:

i.	Remittances for the {	} Collection Period	\$ {	}
ii.	Remittances for the {	Collection Period	\$ {	}
iii.	Remittances for the {	Collection Period	\$ {	}
iv.	Remittances for the {	Collection Period	\$ {	}
v.	Remittances for the {	} Collection Period	\$ {	}
vi.	Remittances for the {	Collection Period	\$ {	}
vii.	Investment Earnings on Ca	\$ {	}	
viii.	Investment Earnings on Ex	\$ {	}	
ix.	Investment Earnings on Ge	\$ {	}	
х.	General Subaccount Bala	nce (sum of i through ix above)	\$ {	}
xi.	Excess Funds Subaccount	\$ {	}	
xii.	Capital Subaccount Balance	\$ {	}	
xiii.	Collection Account Balan	ce (sum of xi through xii above)	\$ {	}

**2.** Outstanding Amounts of as of prior Payment Date:

IV.	Series A 2033 { } Outstanding Amount  Aggregate Outstanding Amount of all Series A Bonds	<b>5</b> {	}
:	Soming A 2022 ( ) Outstanding Amount	¢ (	5
iii.	Series A 2026 { } Outstanding Amount	\$ {	}
ii.	Series A 2021 { } Outstanding Amount	\$ {	}
i.	Series A 2018 { } Outstanding Amount	\$ {	}

E-C-2

**3.** Required Funding/Payments as of Current Payment Date:

	Principal	Principal Due
i.	Series A 2018 { }	\$ {
ii.	Series A 2021 { }	\$ {
iii.	Series A 2026{ }	\$ {
iv.	Series A 2033 { }	\$ {
v.	All Series A Bonds	\$ {

# Interest

WAL	Interest Rate	Days in Interest Period(1)	Principal Balance	I	nterest Due
v. Series A 2018 { }	{ }	}% {	<b>\$</b> {	\$	{ }
vi. Series A 2021 { }	{ }	}% {	} \$ {	\$	{ }
vii. Series A 2026{ }	{ }	}% {	} \$ {	\$	{ }
viii. Series A 2033 { }	{ }	}% {	} \$ {	\$	{ }
ix.	All Series A Bo	onds		\$	{ }
			Required Level	Func	ding Required
x. Capital Subaccount			\$ {	\$ {	}

4. Allocation of Remittances as of Current Payment Date Pursuant to 8.02(e) of Indenture:

i. Trustee Fees and Expenses; Indemnity Amounts	\${	}
ii. Servicing Fee	\${	}
iii. Administration Fee	\${	}
iv. Operating Expenses	\${	}

Per \$1,000 of Original Principal Series A Bonds Amount Aggregate v. Semi-Annual Interest (including any past-due for \$ prior periods) \${ } \$ 1. Series A 2018 { }Interest Payment \${ 2. Series A 2021 { } Interest Payment }\$ }\$ 3. Series A 2026 { } Interest Payment \${ 4. Series A 2033 { } Interest Payment \${ }\$ \${ vi. Principal Due and Payable as a Result of an Event \${ of Default or on Final Maturity Date \${ 1. Series A 2018 { } Interest Payment }\$ }\$ } Interest Payment \${ 2. Series A 2021 { 3. Series A 2026 { \${ } \$ } Interest Payment }\$ 4. Series A 2033 { } Interest Payment \${

		\${	}			
vii. Semi-Annual					\${	}
	} Interest Payment	\${	} \$	{	}	
2. Series A 2021 {	Interest Payment	\${	}\$	{	}	
(1)On 20	/260 day basis for initial resument d	latar athamyida	uga ama half	of ommunal moto		
(1)011 30	/360 day basis for initial payment d	iate; otherwise	use one-nan	or annual rate	•	
		E-C-3				
-						
3. Series A 2026 {	} Interest Payment	\${	} \$	{	}	
4. Series A 2033 {	} Interest Payment	<b>\$</b> {	} \$	{	}	
		\${	}			
	Operating Expenses				\${	}
	pital Subaccount (to required level)				\${	}
	ount Return to Duke Energy Florida	a			\${	}
	ess Funds Subaccount				\${	}
	suer upon Retirement of all Series A	A				,
Bonds	0.0				\${	}
	emittances as of Current Payment				Φ.(	,
Date					\${	}
	ade on such Payment Date):					
	ries A 2018 { }				\${	}
	ries A 2021 { }				\${	}
	ries A 2026 { }				\${	}
	ries A 2033 { } gregate Outstanding Amount of all	Sarias A Rand	ls.		\${ \${	}
	cess Funds Subaccount Balance	Series A Dolla	15		\${ \${	<i>S</i>
	pital Subaccount Balance				\${	}
	gregate Collection Account Balance	e			\${	}
8	<i>5 5</i>				* (	,
6. Subacco	ount Withdrawals as of Current Pays	ment Date (if a	pplicable, pu	rsuant to Sect	ion 8.02(e) of	
Indenture):						
	cess Funds Subaccount				\${	}
	pital Subaccount				\${	}
iii. To	tal Withdrawals				\${	}
7. Shortfal	ls in Interest and Principal Payment	ts as of Current	Payment De	ate:		
7. Shortian	is in interest and i interpar i ayment	is as of Carrent	i i ayincin Di			
i. Sei	mi-annual Interest					
	ries A 2018 { } Interest Payment				\$ {	}
	ries A 2021 { } Interest Payment				\$ {	}
Sei	ries A 2026 { } Interest Payment				\$ {	}
	ries A 2033 { } Interest Payment				<b>\$</b> {	}
To					\$ {	}
	mi-annual Principal					
	ries A 2018 { } Interest Payment				\$ {	}
Sei	ries A 2021 { } Principal Paymen	it			\$ {	}

	Series A 2026 { } Principal Payment	\$ {	}
	Series A 2033 { } Principal Payment Total	\$ {	
		\$ {	j
	E-C-4		
8.	Shortfalls in Payment of Return on Invested Capital as of Current Paymen	nt Date:	
i.	Return on Invested Capital	\${	}
9.	Shortfalls in Required Subaccount Levels as of Current Payment Date:		
i.	Capital Subaccount	\${	}
	E-C-5		
	E-C-5		
	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has duly executed and delivered	ed this Semi-Annual Service	cer's
Certi	ificate this $\{$ $\}$ day of $\{$ $\}$ , $20\{$ $\}$ .		
	DUKE ENERGY FLOI as Servicer	RIDA, INC.,	
	as Servicer		
	By:		
	Name:		
	Title:		
	E-C-6		
	EXHIBIT D		
	FORM OF SERVICER CERTIFICATE		
	See attached		
	E-D-1		

The undersigned hereby certifies that the undersigned is the duly elected and acting {
 of **DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC**, as servicer (the "Servicer") under the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property
Servicing Agreement dated as of June 22, 2016 (the "Servicing Agreement") by and between the Servicer
and **DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA PROJECT FINANCE, LLC**, and further certifies that:

- 1. The undersigned is responsible for assessing the Servicer's compliance with the servicing criteria set forth in Item 1122(d) of Regulation AB (the "Servicing Criteria").
- 2. With respect to each of the Servicing Criteria, the undersigned has made the following assessment of the Servicing Criteria in accordance with Item 1122(d) of Regulation AB, with such discussion regarding the performance of such Servicing Criteria during the fiscal year covered by the Sponsor's annual report on Form 10-K:

Regulation AB Reference	Servicing Criteria	Assessment
reference	General Servicing Considerations	rissessment
1122(d)(1)(i)	Policies and procedures are instituted to monitor any performance or other triggers and events of default in accordance with the transaction agreements.	Applicable; assessment below.
1122(d)(1)(ii)	If any material servicing activities are outsourced to third parties, policies and procedures are instituted to monitor the third party's performance and compliance with such servicing activities.	Not applicable; no servicing activities were outsourced.
1122(d)(1)(iii)	Any requirements in the transaction agreements to maintain a back-up servicer for pool assets are maintained.	Not applicable; transaction agreements do not provide for a back-up servicer.
1122(d)(1)(iv)	A fidelity bond and errors and omissions policy is in effect on the party participating in the servicing function throughout the reporting period in the amount of coverage required by and otherwise in accordance with the terms of the transaction agreements.	Not applicable; transaction agreements do not require a fidelity bond or errors and omissions policy.
1122(d)(1)(v)	Aggregation of information, as applicable, is mathematically accurate and the information conveyed accurately reflects the information.	Applicable
	Cash Collection and Administration	
1122(d)(2)(i)	Payments on pool assets are deposited into the appropriate custodial bank accounts and related bank clearing accounts no more than two business days following receipt, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements.	Applicable.
1122(d)(2)(ii)	Disbursements made via wire transfer on behalf of an obligor or to an investor are made only by authorized personnel.	Applicable.
	E-D-2	

Regulation AB Reference	Servicing Criteria	Assessment		
1122(d)(2)(iii)	Advances of funds or guarantees regarding	Applicable; no advances by the		
	collections, cash flows or distributions, and any	Servicer are permitted under the		
	interest or other fees charged for such advances, are	transaction agreements, except		

	made, reviewed and approved as specified in the transaction agreements.	for payments of certain indemnities.
1122(d)(2)(iv)	The related accounts for the transaction, such as cash reserve accounts or accounts established as a form of overcollateralization, are separately maintained (e.g., with respect to commingling of cash) as set forth in the transaction agreements.	Applicable, but no current assessment is required since the related accounts are maintained by the Indenture Trustee.
1122(d)(2)(v)	Each custodial account is maintained at a federally insured depository institution as set forth in the transaction agreements. For purposes of this criterion, "federally insured depository institution" with respect to a foreign financial institution means a foreign financial institution that meets the requirements of Rule 13k-1(b)(1) under the Exchange Act.	Applicable, but no current assessment required; all "custodial accounts" are maintained by the Indenture Trustee.
1122(d)(2)(vi)	Unissued checks are safeguarded so as to prevent unauthorized access.	Not applicable; all payments made by wire transfer.
1122(d)(2)(vii)	Reconciliations are prepared on a monthly basis for all asset-backed securities related bank accounts, including custodial accounts and related bank clearing accounts. These reconciliations are:  (A) mathematically accurate; (B) prepared within 30 calendar days after the bank statement cutoff date, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements; (C) reviewed and approved by someone other than the person who prepared the reconciliation; and (D) contain explanations for reconciling items. These reconciling items are resolved within 90 calendar days of their original identification, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements.	Applicable; assessment below.
	Investor Remittances and Reporting	
1122(d)(3)(i)	Reports to investors, including those to be filed with the SEC, are maintained in accordance with the transaction agreements and applicable SEC requirements. Specifically, such reports: (A) are prepared in accordance with timeframes and other terms set forth in the transaction agreements; (B) provide information calculated in accordance with the terms specified in the transaction agreements; (C) are filed with the SEC as required by its rules and regulations; and (D) agree with investors' or the trustee's records as to the total unpaid principal balance and number of pool assets serviced by the servicer.	Applicable; assessment below.

# E-D-3

Regulation AB		
Reference	Servicing Criteria	Assessment
1122(d)(3)(ii)	Amounts due to investors are allocated and remitted	Not applicable; investor records
	in accordance with timeframes, distribution priority	maintained by the Indenture
		Trustee.

	and other terms set forth in the transaction agreements.	
1122(d)(3)(iii)	Disbursements made to an investor are posted within two business days to the servicer's investor records, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements.	Applicable.
1122(d)(3)(iv)	Amounts remitted to investors per the investor reports agree with cancelled checks, or other form of payment, or custodial bank statements.	Applicable; assessment below.
	Pool Asset Administration	
1122(d)(4)(i)	Collateral or security on pool assets is maintained as required by the transaction agreements or related pool asset documents.	Applicable; assessment below.
1122(d)(4)(ii)	Pool assets and related documents are safeguarded as required by the transaction agreements.	Applicable; assessment below.
1122(d)(4)(iii)	Any additions, removals or substitutions to the asset pool are made, reviewed and approved in accordance with any conditions or requirements in the transaction agreements.	Not applicable; no removals or substitutions of Nuclear Asset- Recovery Property are contemplated or allowed under the transaction documents.
1122(d)(4)(iv)	Payments on pool assets, including any payoffs, made in accordance with the related pool asset documents are posted to the servicer's obligor records maintained no more than two business days after receipt, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements, and allocated to principal, interest or other items (e.g., escrow) in accordance with the related pool asset agreements.	Applicable; assessment below.
1122(d)(4)(v)	The servicer's records regarding the pool assets agree with the servicer's records with respect to an obligor's unpaid principal balance.	Not applicable; because underlying obligation (Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge) is not an interest-bearing instrument.
1122(d)(4)(vi)	Changes with respect to the terms or status of an obligor's pool assets (e.g., loan modifications or reagings) are made, reviewed and approved by authorized personnel in accordance with the transaction agreements and related pool asset documents.	Applicable; assessment below.
1122(d)(4)(vii)	Loss mitigation or recovery actions (e.g., forbearance plans, modifications and deeds in lieu of foreclosure, foreclosures and repossessions, as applicable) are initiated, conducted and concluded in accordance with the timeframes or other requirements established by the transaction agreements.	Applicable; limited assessment below. Servicer actions governed by Commission regulations.

E-D-4

Regulation AB		
Reference	Servicing Criteria	Assessment
1122(d)(4)(viii)	Records documenting collection efforts are	Applicable, but does not require
	maintained during the period a pool asset is	assessment since no explicit
	delinquent in accordance with the transaction	documentation requirement with

	agreements. Such records are maintained on at least a monthly basis, or such other period specified in the transaction agreements, and describe the entity's activities in monitoring delinquent pool assets, including, for example, phone calls, letters and payment rescheduling plans in cases where delinquency is deemed temporary (e.g., illness or unemployment).	respect to delinquent accounts are imposed under the transaction agreements due to availability of "true-up" mechanism; and any such documentation is maintained in accordance with applicable Florida commission rules and regulations
1122(d)(4)(ix)	Adjustments to interest rates or rates of return for pool assets with variable rates are computed based on the related pool asset documents.	Not applicable; Nuclear Asset- Recovery Charges are not interest-bearing instruments.
1122(d)(4)(x)	Regarding any funds held in trust for an obligor (such as escrow accounts): (A) such funds are analyzed, in accordance with the obligor's pool asset documents, on at least an annual basis, or such other period specified in the transaction agreements; (B) interest on such funds is paid, or credited, to obligors in accordance with applicable pool asset documents and state laws; and (C) such funds are returned to the obligor within 30 calendar days of full repayment of the related pool assets, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements.	Not applicable.
1122(d)(4)(xi)	Payments made on behalf of an obligor (such as tax or insurance payments) are made on or before the related penalty or expiration dates, as indicated on the appropriate bills or notices for such payments, provided that such support has been received by the servicer at least 30 calendar days prior to these dates, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements.	Not applicable; Servicer does not make payments on behalf of obligors.
1122(d)(4)(xii)	Any late payment penalties in connection with any payment to be made on behalf of an obligor are paid from the servicer's funds and not charged to the obligor, unless the late payment was due to the obligor's error or omission.	Not applicable; Servicer cannot make advances of its own funds on behalf of customers under the transaction agreements.
1122(d)(4)(xiii)	Disbursements made on behalf of an obligor are posted within two business days to the obligor's records maintained by the servicer, or such other number of days specified in the transaction agreements.	Not applicable; Servicer cannot make advances of its own funds on behalf of customers to pay principal or interest on the bonds.
	E-D-5	

Regulation AB Reference	Servicing Criteria	Assessment		
1122(d)(4)(xiv)	Delinquencies, charge-offs and uncollectible accounts are recognized and recorded in accordance with the transaction agreements.	Applicable; assessment below.		
1122(d)(4)(xv)	Any external enhancement or other support, identified in Item 1114(a)(1) through (3) or Item	Not applicable; no external enhancement is required under the transaction agreements.		

1115 of Regulation AB, is maintained as set forth in the transaction agreements.

in all material respects with the applicable servicing criteria set forth above as of and for the period ended the end of the fiscal year covered by the Issuer's annual report on Form 10-K. {If not true, include description of any material instance of noncompliance.}
4. {[ ], an independent registered public accounting firm, has issued an attestation report on the Servicer's assessment of compliance with the applicable servicing criteria as of and for the period ended the end of the fiscal year covered by the Issuer's annual report on Form 10-K.}
5. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have their respective meanings as set forth in the Servicing Agreement.
E-D-6
Executed as of this $\{$ $\}$ day of $\{$ $\}$ , $20\{$ $\}$ .
DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC, as Servicer
By: Name:
Title:
E-D-7
EXHIBIT E
FORM OF CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE
See attached
E-E-1

# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the undersigned is the duly elected and acting {
 of **DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC**, as servicer (the "Servicer") under the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Servicing Agreement dated as of June 22, 2016 (the "Servicing Agreement") by and between the Servicer and **DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA PROJECT FINANCE, LLC**, and further certifies that:

1. A review of the activities of Agreement during the twelve months ended { }, undersigned pursuant to Section 3.03 of the Servicing	
2. To the undersigned's know its obligations in all material respects under the Servic $20\{\ \}$ , except as set forth on <u>EXHIBIT A</u> hereto.	ledge, based on such review, the Servicer has fulfilled all of ing Agreement throughout the twelve months ended { },
Executed as of this { } day of {	}, 20{ }.
	DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC, as Servicer
	By: Name: Title:
	E-E-2
CERTIFICAT LIST OF SEF	
Nature of Default  { }	Status {
	E-E-3
E	XHIBIT F
EXPECTED SINK	KING FUND SCHEDULE
Se	e Attached
	E-F-1

# Outstanding Principal Balance Per Series A Bond

Semi-Annual Payment Date		Series A 2018	Series A 2021	Series A 2026	Series A 2032	Series A 2035
Series Closing Date	\$	183,000,000	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2017	\$	147,300,00	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2017	\$	120,300,000	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2018	\$	91,968,362	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2018	\$	66,819,301	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2019	\$	38,167,849	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2019	\$	12,697,061	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2020			\$ 133,721,958	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2020			\$ 107,883,912	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2021			\$ 78,473,209	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2021			\$ 52,163,338	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2022			\$ 22,276,781	\$ 436,000,000	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2022				\$ 431,486,993	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2023				\$ 401,419,122	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2023				\$ 374,328,724	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2024				\$ 343,548,495	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2024				\$ 315,736,958	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2025				\$ 284,226,703	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2025				\$ 255,676,143	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2026				\$ 223,417,756	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2026				\$ 194,109,843	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000

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March 1, 2027	\$ 161,084,768	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2027	\$ 131,000,718	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2028	\$ 97,189,941	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2028	\$ 66,310,505	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2029	\$ 31,694,550	\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2029		\$ 250,000,000	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2030		\$ 214,357,231	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2030		\$ 181,556,335	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2031		\$ 144,928,619	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2031		\$ 111,133,282	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2032		\$ 73,491,827	\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2032		\$ 38,669,301	\$ 275,290,000
March 1, 2033			\$ 275,290,000
September 1, 2033			\$ 239,255,018
March 1, 2034			\$ 199,408,169
September 1, 2034			\$ 162,192,506
March 1, 2035			\$ 121,146,581
September 1, 2035			\$ 82,613,161
March 1, 2036			\$ 40,324,274
September 1, 2036			

#### APPENDIX A

#### DEFINITIONS AND RULES OF CONSTRUCTION

- A. <u>Defined Terms</u>. The following terms have the following meanings:
  - "17g-5 Website" is defined in Section 10.18(a) of the Indenture.
  - "Account Records" is defined in Section 1(a)(i) of the Administration Agreement.
  - "Act" is defined in Section 10.03(a) of the Indenture.

"Additional Series" means issuance by the Issuer of any series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds issued after the date hereof, that will be undertaken only if (i) such issuance has been authorized by the Commission, (ii) the Rating Agency Condition has been satisfied and it is a condition of issuance for each Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds that the new Series receive a rating or ratings as required by the Financing Order or a Subsequent Financing Order, (iii) the Issuer has delivered to the Indenture Trustee an Opinion of Counsel of a nationally recognized firm experienced in such matters to the effect that after such issuance, in the opinion of such counsel, if either or both of Duke Energy Florida or the Seller were to become a debtor in a case under the United States Bankruptcy Code (Title 11, U.S.C.), a federal court exercising bankruptcy jurisdiction and exercising reasonable judgment after full consideration of all relevant factors would not order substantive consolidation of the assets and liabilities of the Issuer with those of the bankruptcy estate of Duke Energy Florida or the Seller, subject to the customary exceptions, qualifications and assumptions contained therein.

"Administration Agreement" means the Administration Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, by and between Duke Energy Florida and the Issuer.

"Administration Fee" is defined in Section 2 of the Administration Agreement.

"Administrator" means Duke Energy Florida, as Administrator under the Administration Agreement, or any successor Administrator to the extent permitted under the Administration Agreement.

"AES" means an alternative energy supplier which is authorized by law to sell electric service to a customer using the transmission or distribution system of Duke Energy Florida.

"Affiliate" means, with respect to any specified Person, any other Person controlling or controlled by or under common control with such specified Person. For the purposes of this definition, "control" when used with respect to any specified Person means the power to direct the management and policies of such specified Person, directly or indirectly, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise, and the terms "controlling" and "controlled" have meanings correlative to the foregoing.

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"<u>Amendatory Schedule</u>" means a revision to service riders or any other notice filing filed with the Commission in respect of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Schedule pursuant to a True-Up Adjustment.

"Annual Accountant's Report" is defined in Section 3.04(a) of the Servicing Agreement.

"<u>Authorized Denomination</u>" means, with respect to any Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond, the authorized denomination therefor specified in the Series Supplement, which shall be at least \$2,000 and, except as otherwise provided in the Series Supplement, integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof, except for one Nuclear Asset-Recovery bond which may be of a smaller denomination.

"Bankruptcy Code" means Title 11 of the United States Code (11 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.).

"Basic Documents" means the Indenture, each Series Supplement, the Certificate of Formation, the LLC Agreement, the Administration Agreement, and, with respect to each Series, the applicable Sale Agreement, Bill of Sale, Servicing Agreement, Intercreditor Agreement, Letter of Representations, Underwriting Agreement and all other documents and certificates delivered in connection therewith.

"Bill of Sale" means a bill of sale substantially in the form of Exhibit A to the Sale Agreement delivered pursuant to Section 2.02(a) of the Sale Agreement.

"Billed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges" means the amounts of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges billed by the Servicer.

"Billing Period" means the period created by dividing the calendar year into 12 consecutive periods of approximately 21 Servicer Business Days.

"<u>Bills</u>" means each of the regular monthly bills, summary bills, opening bills and closing bills issued to Customers by Duke Energy Florida in its capacity as Servicer.

"Bond Interest Rate" means, with respect to any Series or WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the rate at which interest accrues on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds of such Series or WAL, as specified in the applicable Series Supplement.

"Book-Entry Form" means, with respect to any Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond, that such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond is not certificated and the ownership and transfers thereof shall be made through book entries by a Clearing Agency as described in Section 2.11 of the Indenture and the Series Supplement pursuant to which such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond was issued.

"Book-Entry Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds" means any Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds issued in Book-Entry Form; provided, however, that, after the occurrence of a condition whereupon book-entry registration and transfer are no longer permitted and Definitive Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds are to be issued to the Holder of such Nuclear Asset-Recovery

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Bonds, such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds shall no longer be "Book-Entry Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds".

"Business Day" means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in St. Petersburg, Florida, Charlotte, North Carolina or New York, New York are, or DTC or the Corporate Trust Office is, authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to be closed.

"Capital Contribution" means the amount of cash contributed to the Issuer by Duke Energy Florida as specified in the LLC Agreement.

"Capital Subaccount" is defined in Section 8.02(a) of the Indenture.

"Certificate of Compliance" means the certificate referred to in Section 3.03 of the Servicing Agreement and substantially in the form of Exhibit  $\underline{E}$  to the Servicing Agreement.

"Certificate of Formation" means the Certificate of Formation filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on January 5, 2016 pursuant to which the Issuer was formed.

"Charge" means any nuclear asset-recovery charges as defined in Section 366.95(1)(j) of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law that are authorized by the Financing Order or any Subsequent Financing Order.

"Claim" means a "claim" as defined in Section 101(5) of the Bankruptcy Code.

"Clearing Agency" means an organization registered as a "clearing agency" pursuant to Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

"Clearing Agency Participant" means a securities broker, dealer, bank, trust company, clearing corporation or other financial institution or other Person for whom from time to time a Clearing Agency effects book entry transfers and pledges of securities deposited with such Clearing Agency.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"Collateral" is defined in the preamble of the Indenture.

"Collection Account" is defined in Section 8.02(a) of the Indenture for such Series.

"Collection in Full of the Charges" means the day on which the aggregate amounts on deposit in the General Subaccount and the Excess Funds Subaccount are sufficient to pay in full all the Outstanding Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds and to replenish any shortfall in the Capital Subaccount.

"Collection Period" means any period commencing on the first Servicer Business Day of any Billing Period and ending on the last Servicer Business Day of such Billing Period.

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"Commission" means the Florida Public Service Commission.

"Commission Condition" means the satisfaction of any precondition to any amendment or modification to or action under any Basic Documents through the obtaining of Commission consent or acquiescence, as described in the related Basic Document.

"Commission Regulations" means any regulations, including temporary regulations, promulgated by the Commission pursuant to Florida law.

"Company Minutes" is defined in Section 1(a)(iv) of the Administration Agreement.

"Corporate Trust Office" means the office of the Indenture Trustee at which, at any particular time, its corporate trust business shall be administered, which office as of the date hereof is located at BNY Mellon Global Corporate Trust, 10161 Centurion Parkway North, Jacksonville, Florida 32256; Telephone: 904-998-4714; Facsimile: 904-645-1930, or at such other address as the Indenture Trustee may designate from time to time by notice to the Holders of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds and the Issuer, or the principal corporate trust office of any successor trustee designated by like notice.

"Covenant Defeasance Option" is defined in Section 4.01(b) of the Indenture.

"Customer" means any existing or future customer (including individuals, corporations, other businesses, and federal, state and local governmental entities) receiving transmission or distribution service from Duke Energy Florida or its successors or assignees under Commission-approved rate schedules or under special contracts, even if such customer elects to purchase electricity from an AES following a fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in Florida.

"Daily Remittance" is defined in Section 6.11(a) of the Servicing Agreement.

"<u>Default</u>" means any occurrence that is, or with notice or the lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default.

"Definitive Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds" is defined in Section 2.11 of the Indenture.

"<u>Delaware UCC</u>" means the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect on the Series Closing Date in the State of Delaware.

"DTC" means The Depository Trust Company.

"Duke Energy Florida" means Duke Energy Florida, LLC, a Florida limited liability company.

"<u>Eligible Account</u>" means a segregated non-interest-bearing trust account with an Eligible Institution.

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### "Eligible Institution" means:

- (a) the corporate trust department of the Indenture Trustee or a subsidiary thereof, so long as any of the securities of the Indenture Trustee has a credit rating from each Rating Agency in one of its generic rating categories that signifies investment grade; or
- (b) a depository institution organized under the laws of the United States of America or any State (or any domestic branch of a foreign bank) (i) that has either (A) a long-term issuer rating of "AA-" or higher by S&P, "A2" or higher by Moody's and "AA" or higher by Fitch, if rated by Fitch, or (B) a short-term issuer rating of "A-1+" or higher by S&P, "P-1" or higher by Moody's and "F1" or higher by Fitch, if rated by Fitch, or any other long-term, short-term or certificate of deposit rating acceptable to the Rating Agencies, and (ii) whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

If so qualified under clause (b) of this definition, the Indenture Trustee may be considered an Eligible Institution for the purposes of clause (a) of this definition.

"Eligible Investments" means instruments or investment property that evidence:

- (a) direct obligations of, or obligations fully and unconditionally guaranteed as to timely payment by, the United States of America;
- (b) demand or time deposits of, unsecured certificates of deposit of, money market deposit accounts of, bank deposit products of or bankers' acceptances issued by, any depository institution (including, but not limited to, bank deposit products of the Indenture Trustee, acting in its commercial capacity) incorporated or organized under the laws of the United States of America or any State thereof and subject to supervision and examination by U.S. federal or state banking authorities, so long as the

commercial paper or other short-term debt obligations of such depository institution are, at the time of deposit, rated at least "A-1" and "P-1" or their equivalents by each of S&P and Moody's and, if Fitch provides ratings thereon by Fitch, or such lower rating as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds;

- (c) commercial paper (including commercial paper of the Indenture Trustee, acting in its commercial capacity, and other than commercial paper of Duke Energy Florida or any of its Affiliates), which at the time of purchase is rated at least "A-1" and "P-1" or their equivalents by each of S&P and Moody's or such lower rating as will not result in the downgrading or withdrawal of the ratings of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds;
- (d) investments in money market funds having a rating in the highest investment category granted thereby (including funds for which the Indenture Trustee or any of its Affiliates is investment manager or advisor) from Moody's, S&P and Fitch, if rated by Fitch;

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- (e) repurchase obligations with respect to any security that is a direct obligation of, or fully guaranteed by, the United States of America or its agencies or instrumentalities, entered into with Eligible Institutions;
- (f) repurchase obligations with respect to any security or whole loan entered into with an Eligible Institution or with a registered broker/dealer acting as principal and that meets the ratings criteria set forth below:
  - (i) a broker/dealer (acting as principal) registered as a broker or dealer under Section 15 of the Exchange Act (any such broker/dealer being referred to in this definition as a "broker/dealer"), the unsecured short-term debt obligations of which are rated at least "P-1" by Moody's, "A-1+" by S&P and, if Fitch provides a rating thereon, "F-1+" by Fitch at the time of entering into such repurchase obligation; or
  - (ii) an unrated broker/dealer, acting as principal, that is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a non-bank or bank holding company the unsecured short-term debt obligations of which are rated at least "P-1" by Moody's, "A-1+" by S&P and, if Fitch provides a rating thereon, "F-1+" by Fitch at the time of purchase so long as the obligations of such unrated broker/dealer are unconditionally guaranteed by such non-bank or bank holding company; and
  - (g) any other investment permitted by each of the Rating Agencies;

in each case maturing not later than the Business Day preceding the next Payment Date or Special Payment Date, if applicable (for the avoidance of doubt, investments in money market funds or similar instruments that are redeemable on demand shall be deemed to satisfy the foregoing requirement). Notwithstanding the foregoing: (1) no securities or investments that mature in 30 days or more shall be "Eligible Investments" unless the issuer thereof has either a short-term unsecured debt rating of at least "P-1" from Moody's or a long-term unsecured debt rating of at least "A1" from Moody's and also has a long-term unsecured debt rating of at least "A" from S&P; (2) no securities or investments described in clauses (b) through (d) above that have maturities of more than 30 days but less than or equal to 3 months shall be "Eligible Investments" unless the issuer thereof has a long-term unsecured debt rating of at least "A1" from Moody's; and (3) no securities or investments described in clauses (b) through (d) above that have maturities of more than 3 months shall be "Eligible Investments" unless the issuer thereof has a long-term unsecured debt rating of at least "A1" from Moody's and a short-term unsecured debt rating of at least "P-1" from Moody's.

"Event of Default" is defined in Section 5.01 of the Indenture.

"Excess Funds Subaccount" is defined in Section 8.02(a) of the Indenture.

"Exchange Act" means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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"Expected Sinking Fund Schedule" means, with respect to any WAL, the expected sinking fund schedule related thereto set forth in the applicable Series Supplement.

"Federal Book-Entry Regulations" means 31 C.F.R. Part 357 et seq. (Department of Treasury).

"Federal Funds Rate" means, for any period, a fluctuating interest rate per annum equal for each day during such period to the weighted average of the rates on overnight federal funds transactions with members of the Federal Reserve System arranged by federal funds brokers, as published for such day (or, if such day is not a Business Day, for the preceding Business Day) by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, or, if such rate is not so published for any day that is a Business Day, the average of the quotations for such day on such transactions received by the Servicer from three federal funds brokers of recognized standing selected by it.

"<u>Final</u>" means, with respect to the Financing Order or Subsequent Financing Order, that the Financing Order has become final, that the Financing Order is not being appealed and that the time for filing an appeal thereof has expired.

"Final Maturity Date" means, with respect to each Series of WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the final maturity date therefor as specified in the applicable Series Supplement.

"<u>Financing Costs</u>" means all financing costs as defined in <u>Section 366.95(1)(e)</u> of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law allowed to be recovered by Duke Energy Florida under the Financing Order.

"<u>Financing Order</u>" means the financing order issued by the Commission to Duke Energy Florida on November 19, 2015, Docket No. 150148-EI, authorizing the creation of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property.

"<u>Financing Party</u>" means any and all of the following: the Holders, the Indenture Trustee, Duke Energy Florida, collateral agents, any party under the Basic Documents, or any other person acting for the benefit of the Holders.

"<u>Fitch</u>" means Fitch Ratings or any successor thereto. References to Fitch are effective so long as Fitch is a Rating Agency.

"Florida Secured Transactions Registry" means the centralized database in which all initial financing statements, amendments, assignments, and other statements of charge authorized to be filed under Chapter 679 of the Florida statutes.

"Florida UCC" means the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect on the Series Closing Date in the State of Florida.

"General Subaccount" is defined in Section 8.02(a) of the Indenture for such Series.

"Global Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond" means a Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond to be issued to the Holders thereof in Book-Entry Form, which Global Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond shall be issued to the Clearing Agency, or its nominee, in accordance with Section 2.11 of the Indenture and the Series Supplement.

"Governmental Authority" means any nation or government, any U.S. federal, state, local or other political subdivision thereof and any court, administrative agency or other instrumentality or entity exercising executive, legislative, judicial, regulatory or administrative functions of government.

"Grant" means mortgage, pledge, bargain, sell, warrant, alienate, remise, release, convey, grant, transfer, create, grant a lien upon, a security interest in and right of set-off against, deposit, set over and confirm pursuant to the Indenture and the Series Supplement. A Grant of the Collateral shall include all rights, powers and options (but none of the obligations) of the granting party thereunder, including the immediate and continuing right to claim for, collect, receive and give receipt for payments in respect of the Collateral and all other moneys payable thereunder, to give and receive notices and other communications, to make waivers or other agreements, to exercise all rights and options, to bring Proceedings in the name of the granting party or otherwise and generally to do and receive anything that the granting party is or may be entitled to do or receive thereunder or with respect thereto.

"<u>Holder</u>" means the Person in whose name a Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond is registered on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond Register.

"Indemnified Losses" is defined in Section 5.03 of the Servicing Agreement.

"Indemnified Party" is defined in Section 6.02(a) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Indemnified Person" is defined in Section 5.01(f) of the Sale Agreement.

"Indenture" means the Indenture, dated as June 22, 2016, by and between the Issuer and The Bank of New York Mellon, a National Association, as Indenture Trustee and as Securities Intermediary.

"Indenture Trustee" means The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, a national banking association, as indenture trustee for the benefit of the Secured Parties, or any successor indenture trustee for the benefit of the Secured Parties, under the Indenture.

"Independent" means, when used with respect to any specified Person, that such specified Person (a) is in fact independent of the Issuer, any other obligor on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the Seller, the Servicer and any Affiliate of any of the foregoing Persons, (b) does not have any direct financial interest or any material indirect financial interest in the Issuer, any such other obligor, the Seller, the Servicer or any Affiliate of any of the foregoing Persons and (c) is not connected with the Issuer, any such other obligor, the Seller, the Servicer or any Affiliate of any of the foregoing Persons as an officer, employee, promoter, underwriter, trustee,

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partner, director (other than as an independent director or manager) or person performing similar functions.

"Independent Certificate" means a certificate to be delivered to the Indenture Trustee under the circumstances described in, and otherwise complying with, the applicable requirements of Section 10.01 of the

Indenture, made by an Independent appraiser or other expert appointed by an Issuer Order and consented to by the Indenture Trustee, and such certificate shall state that the signer has read the definition of "Independent" in the Indenture and that the signer is Independent within the meaning thereof.

"Independent Manager" is defined in Section 4.01(a) of the LLC Agreement.

"Independent Manager Fee" is defined in Section 4.01(a) of the LLC Agreement.

"Insolvency Event" means, with respect to a specified Person: (a) the filing of a decree or order for relief by a court having jurisdiction in the premises in respect of such specified Person or any substantial part of its property in an involuntary case under any applicable U.S. federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law in effect as of the date hereof or thereafter, or appointing a receiver, liquidator, assignee, custodian, trustee, sequestrator or similar official for such specified Person or for any substantial part of its property, or ordering the winding-up or liquidation of such specified Person's affairs, and such decree or order shall remain unstayed and in effect for a period of 60 consecutive days; or (b) the commencement by such specified Person of a voluntary case under any applicable U.S. federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law in effect as of the Series Closing Date or thereafter, or the consent by such specified Person to the entry of an order for relief in an involuntary case under any such law, or the consent by such specified Person to the appointment of or taking possession by a receiver, liquidator, assignee, custodian, trustee, sequestrator or similar official for such specified Person or for any substantial part of its property, or the making by such specified Person of any general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or the failure by such specified Person generally to pay its debts as such debts become due, or the taking of action by such specified Person in furtherance of any of the foregoing.

"Intercreditor Agreement" means the Intercreditor Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, by and among the Issuer, the Indenture Trustee, Duke Energy Florida and the parties to the accounts receivables sale program of Duke Energy Florida Receivables LLC, and any subsequent such agreement.

"Interim True-Up Adjustment" means either an Optional Interim True-Up Adjustment made in accordance with Section 4.01(b)(ii) of the Servicing Agreement or a Non-standard True-Up Adjustment made in accordance with Section 4.01(b)(iii) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Investment Company Act" means the Investment Company Act of 1940.

"Investment Earnings" means investment earnings on funds deposited in the Collection Account net of losses and investment expenses.

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"Issuer" means Duke Energy Florida Project Finance, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, named as such in the Indenture until a successor replaces it and, thereafter, means the successor and, for purposes of any provision contained herein and required by the Trust Indenture Act, each other obligor on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Issuer Documents" is defined in Section 1(a)(iv) of the Administration Agreement.

"Issuer Order" means a written order signed in the name of the Issuer by any one of its Responsible Officers and delivered to the Indenture Trustee or Paying Agent, as applicable.

"Issuer Request" means a written request signed in the name of the Issuer by any one of its Responsible Officers and delivered to the Indenture Trustee or Paying Agent, as applicable.

"Legal Defeasance Option" is defined in Section 4.01(b) of the Indenture.

"<u>Letter of Representations</u>" means any applicable agreement between the Issuer and the applicable Clearing Agency, with respect to such Clearing Agency's rights and obligations (in its capacity as a Clearing Agency) with respect to any Book-Entry Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"<u>Lien</u>" means a security interest, lien, mortgage, charge, pledge, claim or encumbrance of any kind.

"LLC Agreement" means the Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Duke Energy Florida Project Finance, LLC, dated as of June 10, 2016.

"Losses" means (a) any and all amounts of principal of and interest on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds not paid when due or when scheduled to be paid in accordance with their terms and the amounts of any deposits by or to the Issuer required to have been made in accordance with the terms of the Basic Documents or the Financing Order or Subsequent that are not made when so required and (b) any and all other liabilities, obligations, losses, claims, damages, payments, costs or expenses of any kind whatsoever.

"Manager" means each manager of the Issuer under the LLC Agreement.

"Member" has the meaning specified in the first paragraph of the LLC Agreement.

"Monthly Servicer's Certificate" is defined in Section 3.01(b)(i) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Moody's" means Moody's Investors Service, Inc.. References to Moody's are effective so long as Moody's is a Rating Agency.

"Non-standard True-Up Adjustment" means any Non-standard True-Up Adjustment made pursuant to Section 4.01(b)(iii) of the Servicing Agreement.

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"NRSRO" is defined in Section 10.18(b) of the Indenture.

"Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond Register" is defined in Section 2.05 of the Indenture.

"Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond Registrar" is defined in Section 2.05 of the Indenture.

"<u>Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds</u>" means all Series of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds issued under the Indenture.

"<u>Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections</u>" means Charges actually received by the Servicer to be remitted to the Collection Account.

"<u>Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments</u>" means the payments made by Customers based on the Charges.

"Nuclear Asset-Recovery Costs" means (i) the balance of the Crystal River Unit 3 Regulatory Asset as of December 31, 2015 as allowed under the Financing Order minus (ii) \$35,894,547.00, which, pursuant to the Commission's Final Order PSC-16-0138-FOF-EI issued on April 5, 2016, shall not be included in, recovered or further trued up as part of the Crystal River Unit 3 Regulatory Asset, plus (iii) carrying charges accruing at 6.0% per annum on the balance of the Crystal River Unit 3 Regulatory Asset (adjusted as described in (ii) above) from December 31, 2015 through the date hereof.

"Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law" means the laws of the State of Florida adopted in May 2015 enacted as Section 366.95, Florida Statutes.

"<u>Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Records</u>" is defined in <u>Section 5.01</u> of the Servicing Agreement.

"Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Class" means one of the seven separate rate classes to whom Charges are allocated for ratemaking purposes in accordance with the Financing Order.

"<u>Nuclear Asset-Recovery Rate Schedule</u>" means the Tariff sheets to be filed with the Commission stating the amounts of the Charges, as such Tariff sheets may be amended or modified from time to time pursuant to a True-Up Adjustment.

"NY UCC" means the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect on the date hereof in the State of New York.

"Officer's Certificate" means a certificate signed by a Responsible Officer of the Issuer under the circumstances described in, and otherwise complying with, the applicable requirements of Section 10.01 of the Indenture, and delivered to the Indenture Trustee.

"Ongoing Financing Costs" means the Financing Costs described as such in the Financing Order, including Operating Expenses and any other costs identified in the Basic

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Documents; <u>provided</u>, <u>however</u>, that Ongoing Financing Costs do not include the Issuer's costs of issuance of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Operating Expenses" means all unreimbursed fees, costs and out-of-pocket expenses of the Issuer, including all amounts owed by the Issuer to the Indenture Trustee (including indemnities, legal, audit fees and expenses) or any Manager, the Servicing Fee, the Administration Fee, legal and accounting fees, Rating Agency fees, any Regulatory Assessment Fees and related fees (i.e. website provider fees) and any franchise or other taxes owed by the Issuer, including on investment income in the Collection Account.

"Opinion of Counsel" means one or more written opinions of counsel, who may, except as otherwise expressly provided in the Basic Documents, be employees of or counsel to the party providing such opinion of counsel, which counsel shall be reasonably acceptable to the party receiving such opinion of counsel, and shall be in form and substance reasonably acceptable to such party.

"Optional Interim True-Up Adjustment" means any Optional Interim True-Up Adjustment made pursuant to Section 4.01(b)(ii) of the Servicing Agreement.

"<u>Outstanding</u>" means, as of the date of determination, all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds theretofore authenticated and delivered under the Indenture, except:

- (a) Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds theretofore canceled by the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond Registrar or delivered to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond Registrar for cancellation;
- (b) Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds or portions thereof the payment for which money in the necessary amount has been theretofore deposited with the Indenture Trustee or any Paying Agent in trust for the Holders of such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds; and

(c) Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds in exchange for or in lieu of other Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds that have been issued pursuant to the Indenture unless proof satisfactory to the Indenture Trustee is presented that any such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds are held by a Protected Purchaser;

provided, that, in determining whether the Holders of the requisite Outstanding Amount of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds or any Series or WAL thereof have given any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent or waiver under any Basic Document, Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds owned by the Issuer, any other obligor upon the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the Member, the Seller, the Servicer or any Affiliate of any of the foregoing Persons shall be disregarded and deemed not to be Outstanding (unless one or more such Persons owns 100% of such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds), except that, in determining whether the Indenture Trustee shall be protected in relying upon any such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent or waiver, only Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds that the Indenture Trustee actually knows to be so owned shall be so disregarded. Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds so owned that have been pledged in good faith may be regarded as Outstanding if the pledgee establishes to the satisfaction of the Indenture Trustee the pledgee's right so to act with respect to such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds and that the pledgee is not the Issuer, any other obligor upon the Nuclear

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Asset-Recovery Bonds, the Member, the Seller, the Servicer or any Affiliate of any of the foregoing Persons.

"Outstanding Amount" means the aggregate principal amount of all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, or, if the context requires, all Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds of a Series or WAL, Outstanding at the date of determination.

"Paying Agent" means, with respect to the Indenture, the Indenture Trustee and any other Person appointed as a paying agent for the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds pursuant to the Indenture.

"<u>Payment Date</u>" means, with respect to any Series or WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the dates specified in the applicable Series Supplement; <u>provided</u>, that if any such date is not a Business Day, the Payment Date shall be the Business Day succeeding such date.

"<u>Periodic Billing Requirement</u>" means, for any Remittance Period, the aggregate amount of Charges calculated by the Servicer as necessary to be billed during such period in order to collect the Periodic Payment Requirement on a timely basis.

"<u>Periodic Interest</u>" means, with respect to any Payment Date, the periodic interest for such Payment Date as specified in the Series Supplement.

"Periodic Payment Requirement" for any Remittance Period means the total dollar amount of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Collections reasonably calculated by the Servicer in accordance with Section 4.01 of the Servicing Agreement as necessary to be received during such Remittance Period (after giving effect to the allocation and distribution of amounts on deposit in the Excess Funds Subaccount at the time of calculation and that are projected to be available for payments on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds at the end of such Remittance Period and including any shortfalls in Periodic Payment Requirements for any prior Remittance Period) in order to ensure that, as of the last Payment Date occurring in such Remittance Period, (a) all accrued and unpaid principal of and interest on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds then due shall have been paid in full on a timely basis, (b) the Outstanding Amount of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds is equal to the Projected Unpaid Balance on each Payment Date during such Remittance Period, (c) the balance on deposit in the Capital Subaccount equals the Required Capital Level and (d) all other fees and expenses due and owing and required or allowed to be paid under Section 8.02 of the Indenture as of such date shall have been paid in full; provided, that, with respect to any Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment or Interim True-Up Adjustment occurring after the date that is one year prior to the last

Scheduled Final Payment Date for the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the Periodic Payment Requirements shall be calculated to ensure that sufficient Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges will be collected to retire the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds in full as of the next Payment Date.

"<u>Periodic Principal</u>" means, with respect to any Payment Date, the excess, if any, of the Outstanding Amount of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds over the outstanding principal balance specified for such Payment Date on the Expected Sinking Fund Schedule.

"Permitted Lien" means the Lien created by the Indenture.

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"Permitted Successor" is defined in Section 5.02 of the Sale Agreement.

"<u>Person</u>" means any individual, corporation, limited liability company, estate, partnership, joint venture, association, joint stock company, trust (including any beneficiary thereof), unincorporated organization or Governmental Authority.

"Predecessor Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond" means, with respect to any particular Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond, every previous Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond evidencing all or a portion of the same debt as that evidenced by such particular Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond, and, for the purpose of this definition, any Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond authenticated and delivered under Section 2.06 of the Indenture in lieu of a mutilated, lost, destroyed or stolen Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond shall be deemed to evidence the same debt as the mutilated, lost, destroyed or stolen Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond.

"Premises" is defined in Section 1(g) of the Administration Agreement.

"Proceeding" means any suit in equity, action at law or other judicial or administrative proceeding.

"Projected Unpaid Balance" means, as of any Payment Date, the sum of the projected outstanding principal amount of each WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds for such Payment Date set forth in the Expected Sinking Fund Schedule.

"Property" means all nuclear asset-recovery property as defined in Section 366.95(1)(1) of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law created pursuant to the Financing Order or a Subsequent Financing Order and under the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law, including the right to impose, bill, collect and receive the Charges authorized under the Financing Order and to obtain periodic adjustments of the Charges and all revenue, collections, claims, rights to payments, money, or proceeds arising from the rights and interests specified in Section 366.95(1)(1)1., regardless of whether such revenues, collections, claims, rights to payment, payments, money, or proceeds are imposed, billed, received, collected, or maintained together with or commingled with other revenues, collections, rights to payment, payments, money, or proceeds.

"Protected Purchaser" has the meaning specified in Section 8-303 of the UCC.

"Rating Agency" means, with respect to any WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, any of Moody's, S&P or Fitch that provides a rating with respect to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds. If no such organization (or successor) is any longer in existence, "Rating Agency" shall be a nationally recognized statistical rating organization or other comparable Person designated by the Issuer, notice of which designation shall be given to the Indenture Trustee and the Servicer.

"<u>Rating Agency Condition</u>" means, with respect to any action, at least ten Business Days' prior written notification to each Rating Agency of such action, and written confirmation from each of S&P and Moody's

to the Servicer, the Indenture Trustee and the Issuer that such action will not result in a suspension, reduction or withdrawal of the then current rating by such Rating Agency of any WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds; provided, that, if,

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within such ten Business Day period, any Rating Agency (other than S&P) has neither replied to such notification nor responded in a manner that indicates that such Rating Agency is reviewing and considering the notification, then (a) the Issuer shall be required to confirm that such Rating Agency has received the Rating Agency Condition request and, if it has, promptly request the related Rating Agency Condition confirmation and (b) if the Rating Agency neither replies to such notification nor responds in a manner that indicates it is reviewing and considering the notification within five Business Days following such second request, the applicable Rating Agency Condition requirement shall not be deemed to apply to such Rating Agency. For the purposes of this definition, any confirmation, request, acknowledgment or approval that is required to be in writing may be in the form of electronic mail or a press release (which may contain a general waiver of a Rating Agency's right to review or consent).

"Record Date" means one Business Day prior to the applicable Payment Date.

"Registered Holder" means the Person in whose name a Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond is registered on the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bond Register.

"Regulation AB" means the rules of the SEC promulgated under Subpart 229.1100 — Asset Backed Securities (Regulation AB), 17 C.F.R. §§229.1100-229.1123.

"Regulatory Assessment Fee" means any assessment fee due to the Commission pursuant to Section 350.113, Florida Statutes.

"Reimbursable Expenses" is defined in Section 2 of the Administration Agreement and Section 6.06(a) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Released Parties" is defined in Section 6.02(d) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Remittance Period" means, with respect to any True-Up Adjustment, the period comprised of 6 consecutive Collection Periods beginning with the Collection Period in which such True-Up Adjustment would go into effect, from the Series Closing Date to the first Scheduled Payment Date, and for each subsequent period between Scheduled Payment Dates.

"<u>Required Capital Level</u>" means, with respect to any Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the amount specified as such in the Series Supplement therefor.

"Requirement of Law" means any foreign, U.S. federal, state or local laws, statutes, regulations, rules, codes or ordinances enacted, adopted, issued or promulgated by any Governmental Authority or common law.

"Responsible Officer" means, with respect to: (a) the Issuer, any Manager or any duly authorized officer; (b) the Indenture Trustee, any officer within the Corporate Trust Office of such trustee (including the President, any Vice President, any Assistant Vice President, any Secretary, any Assistant Treasurer or any other officer of the Indenture Trustee customarily performing functions similar to those performed by persons who at the time shall be such officers, respectively, and that has direct responsibility for the administration of the Indenture and also, with respect to a particular matter, any other officer to whom such matter is referred to because of such officer's knowledge and familiarity with the particular subject); (c) any

corporation (other than the Indenture Trustee), the Chief Executive Officer, the President, any Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer, the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer or any other duly authorized officer of such Person who has been authorized to act in the circumstances; (d) any partnership, any general partner thereof; and (e) any other Person (other than an individual), any duly authorized officer or member of such Person, as the context may require, who is authorized to act in matters relating to such Person.

"Return on Invested Capital" means, for any Payment Date with respect to any Remittance Period, the sum of (i) rate of return, payable to Duke Energy Florida, on its Capital Contribution equal to the rate of interest payable on the longest maturing WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds plus (ii) any Return on Invested Capital not paid on any prior Payment Date.

"S&P" means Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC business. References to S&P are effective so long as S&P is a Rating Agency.

"Sale Agreement" means the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, or any subsequent Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Purchase and Sale Agreement relating to another Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds by and between the Issuer and Duke Energy Florida, and acknowledged and accepted by the Indenture Trustee.

"Scheduled Final Payment Date" means, with respect to each Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the date when all interest and principal is scheduled to be paid with respect to that applicable Series in accordance with the Expected Sinking Fund Schedule, as specified in the Series Supplement. For the avoidance of doubt, the Scheduled Final Payment Date with respect to any Series shall be the last Scheduled Payment Date set forth in the Expected Sinking Fund Schedule relating to such Series. The "last Scheduled Final Payment Date" means the Scheduled Final Payment Date of the latest maturing WAL of a Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Scheduled Payment Date" means, with respect to each Series or WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, each Payment Date on which principal for such Series or WAL is to be paid in accordance with the Expected Sinking Fund Schedule for such Series or WAL.

"SEC" means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Secured Obligations" means the payment of principal of and premium, if any, interest on, and any other amounts owing in respect of, the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds and all fees, expenses, counsel fees and other amounts due and payable to the Indenture Trustee.

"<u>Secured Parties</u>" means the Indenture Trustee, the Holders and any credit enhancer described in a Series Supplement.

"Securities Act" means the Securities Act of 1933.

"<u>Securities Intermediary</u>" means The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, a national banking association, solely in the capacity of a "securities

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"Seller" is defined in the preamble to the Sale Agreement.

"Semi-Annual Servicer's Certificate" is defined in Section 4.01(c)(ii) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment" means each adjustment to the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges made in accordance with Section 4.01(b)(i) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment Date" means the first billing cycle of March and September of each year, commencing in July 1, 2016.

"Series" means any series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Series A Bonds" means the Series A Senior Secured Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds issued by the Issuer on June 22, 2016.

"Series Charges" means Charges for the benefit of a particular Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Series Closing Date" means the date on which a Series of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds are originally issued in accordance with Section 2.10 of the Indenture and the respective Series Supplement.

"Series Collateral" means Collateral for the benefit of a particular Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Series Property" means Property for the benefit of a particular Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Series Supplement" means an indenture supplemental to the Indenture in the form attached as  $\underline{\text{Exhibit B}}$  to the Indenture that authorizes the issuance of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds.

"Servicer" means Duke Energy Florida, as Servicer under the Servicing Agreement.

"Servicer Business Day" means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in St. Petersburg, Florida, Charlotte, North Carolina or New York, New York are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to be closed, on which the Servicer maintains normal office hours and conducts business.

"Servicer Default" is defined in Section 7.01 of the Servicing Agreement.

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"Servicer Policies and Practices" means, with respect to the Servicer's duties under Exhibit A to the Servicing Agreement, the policies and practices of the Servicer applicable to such duties that the Servicer follows with respect to comparable assets that it services for itself and, if applicable, others.

"Servicing Agreement" means the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Servicing Agreement, dated as of the date hereof, or any subsequent Nuclear Asset-Recovery Property Servicing Agreement relating to another Series of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds by and between the Issuer and Duke Energy Florida, and acknowledged and accepted by the Indenture Trustee.

"Servicing Fee" is defined in Section 6.06(a) of the Servicing Agreement.

"Servicing Standard" means the obligation of the Servicer to calculate, apply, remit and reconcile proceeds of the Property, including Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge Payments, and all other Collateral for the benefit of the Issuer and the Holders (a) with the same degree of care and diligence as the Servicer applies with respect to payments owed to it for its own account, (b) in accordance with all applicable procedures and requirements established by the Commission for collection of electric utility tariffs and (c) in accordance with the other terms of the Servicing Agreement.

"Special Payment Date" means the date on which, with respect to any Series or WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, any payment of principal of or interest (including any interest accruing upon default) on, or any other amount in respect of, the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds of such Series or WAL that is not actually paid within five days of the Payment Date applicable thereto is to be made by the Indenture Trustee to the Holders.

"Special Record Date" means, with respect to any Special Payment Date, the close of business on the fifteenth day (whether or not a Business Day) preceding such Special Payment Date.

"Sponsor" means Duke Energy Florida, in its capacity as "sponsor" of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds within the meaning of Regulation AB.

"State" means any one of the fifty states of the United States of America or the District of Columbia.

"State Pledge" means the pledge of the State of Florida as set forth in Section 366.95(11) of the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law.

"Subaccounts" is defined in Section 8.02(a) of the Indenture.

"Subsequent Financing Order" means, a financing order of the Commission under the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law issued to Duke Energy Florida subsequent to the Financing Order.

"Successor" means any successor to Duke Energy Florida under the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Law, whether pursuant to any bankruptcy, reorganization or other insolvency

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proceeding or pursuant to any merger, conversion, acquisition, sale or transfer, by operation of law, as a result of electric utility restructuring, or otherwise.

"Successor Servicer" is defined in Section 3.07(e) of the Indenture.

"Tariff" means the most current version on file with the Commission of July 1, 2016.

"Tax Returns" is defined in Section 1(a)(iii) of the Administration Agreement.

"Temporary Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds" means Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds executed and, upon the receipt of an Issuer Order, authenticated and delivered by the Indenture Trustee pending the preparation of Definitive Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds pursuant to Section 2.04 of the Indenture.

"Termination Notice" is defined in Section 7.01 of the Servicing Agreement.

"<u>True-Up Adjustment</u>" means any Semi-Annual True-Up Adjustment or Interim True-Up Adjustment, as the case may be.

"Trust Indenture Act" means the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 as in force on the Series Closing Date, unless otherwise specifically provided.

"<u>UCC</u>" means the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect in the relevant jurisdiction.

"<u>Underwriters</u>" means the underwriters who purchase Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds of any Series from the Issuer and sell such Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds in a public offering.

"<u>Underwriting Agreement</u>" means the Underwriting Agreement, dated June 15, 2016, by and among Duke Energy Florida, the representatives of the several Underwriters named therein and the Issuer.

"<u>U.S. Government Obligations</u>" means direct obligations (or certificates representing an ownership interest in such obligations) of the United States of America (including any agency or instrumentality thereof) for the payment of which the full faith and credit of the United States of America is pledged and that are not callable at the option of the issuer thereof.

"<u>WAL</u>" means any one of the groupings of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds of a Series differentiated by sinking fund schedule, interest rate or sinking fund schedule, as specified in the Series Supplement.

"<u>WAL Maturity Date</u>" means, with respect to any WAL of Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds, the maturity date therefor, as specified in the Series Supplement therefor.

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"Weighted Average Days Outstanding" means the weighted average number of days Duke Energy Florida's monthly bills to Customers remain outstanding during the calendar year preceding the calculation thereof pursuant to Section 4.01(b)(i) of the Servicing Agreement.

- B. <u>Rules of Construction</u>. Unless the context otherwise requires, in each Basic Document to which this <u>Appendix A</u> is attached:
- (a) All accounting terms not specifically defined herein shall be construed in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles. To the extent that the definitions of accounting terms in any Basic Document are inconsistent with the meanings of such terms under generally accepted accounting principles or regulatory accounting principles, the definitions contained in such Basic Document shall control.
- (b) The term "<u>including</u>" means "including without limitation", and other forms of the verb "<u>include</u>" have correlative meanings.
- (c) All references to any Person shall include such Person's permitted successors and assigns, and any reference to a Person in a particular capacity excludes such Person in other capacities.
- (d) Unless otherwise stated in any of the Basic Documents, in the computation of a period of time from a specified date to a later specified date, the word "from" means "from and including" and each of the words "to" and "until" means "to but excluding".
- (e) The words "hereof", "herein" and "hereunder" and words of similar import when used in any Basic Document shall refer to such Basic Document as a whole and not to any particular provision of such Basic Document. References to Articles, Sections, Appendices and Exhibits in any Basic Document are references to

Articles, Sections, Appendices and Exhibits in or to such Basic Document unless otherwise specified in such Basic Document.

- (f) The various captions (including the tables of contents) in each Basic Document are provided solely for convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of any Basic Document.
- (g) The definitions contained in this <u>Appendix A</u> apply equally to the singular and plural forms of such terms, and words of the masculine, feminine or neuter gender shall mean and include the correlative words of other genders.
- (h) Unless otherwise specified, references to an agreement or other document include references to such agreement or document as from time to time amended, restated, reformed, supplemented or otherwise modified in accordance with the terms thereof (subject to any restrictions on such amendments, restatements, reformations, supplements or modifications set forth in such agreement or document) and include any attachments thereto.
- (i) References to any law, rule, regulation or order of a Governmental Authority shall include such law, rule, regulation or order as from time to time in effect, including any amendment, modification, codification, replacement or reenactment thereof or any substitution therefor.

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- (j) The word "will" shall be construed to have the same meaning and effect as the word "shall".
- (k) The word "or" is not exclusive.
- (l) All terms defined in the relevant Basic Document to which this <u>Appendix A</u> is attached shall have the defined meanings when used in any certificate or other document made or delivered pursuant thereto unless otherwise defined therein.
  - (m) A term has the meaning assigned to it.

### Pre-Marked Exhibit 28 Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1262 and E-7, Sub 1243

## **Public Staff Heath Cross-Examination Exhibit 3**

Fichera Exhibit 1

**Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1262 and E-7, Sub 1243** 

## Joseph S. Fichera

#### **Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer**

Saber Partners, LLC 2000-Present

#### **Fellow**

National Regulatory Research Institute 2018-2019

#### **Senior Advisor**

The Williams Capital Group, L.P. 2010-2016, 2018-2019

### **Adjunct Professor of Public and International Affairs**

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School Public & International Affairs Fall 2011, Spring 2008

#### Manager

Saber Capital Partners, LLC (FINRA) 2003-2009

### **Managing Director and Group Head**

Investment Banking, Business Origination & Product Development Prudential Securities 1997-2000

#### **Executive Fellow**

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs Princeton University 1995-1996

#### Member, Board of Directors (Audit Committee)

Czech & Slovak American Enterprise Fund by designation of President Clinton 1994-96

### **Managing Director-Principal**

Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc. 1989-1995

#### **Vice President**

Smith Barney, Harris Upham &Co. 1984-1989

### **Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary**

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development as political appointee in President Carter's administration, 1977-1980

## Member, Leadership Council

RFK Center for Human Rights 2010-Present

### Member, Advisory Council to the Chairman (Ben Bernanke, Harvey Rosen)

Princeton University, Economics Department 1996-2004 (Chairman, 2003)

### Member, Board of Advisors

Center for Economic Policy Studies (CEPS), Princeton University 1999-Present

## Joseph S. Fichera

## Member, Economic Club of New York 2007-Present

### Life Member, Council on Foreign Relations

#### **Previous Professional Licenses**

FINRA/SEC Series 24: Securities Principal and Series 7: Registered Representative

**Author** of articles concerning the interaction between corporate finance and public policy. Published in: *The New York Times, Barron's, The Wall Street Journal, Dow Jones Library of Investment Banking, Q2 Yale Management Magazine.* Contributor on *Bloomberg View, Fox Business*.

BA, Princeton, 1976; MBA, Yale, 1982

JOSEPH S. FICHERA PUBLISHED WORKS	AND AWARDS (as of December	r 2020)
Title	Publisher	Date
"Utility Securitization: An Update"	National Regulatory Research Institute	January 2019
Special Achievement in Finance	National Italian American Foundation	April 10, 2018
"The S.E.C. Should Copy the D.M.V."	The New York Times	November 7, 2014
"Were Detroit Swaps Unfair"	Bloomberg View	January 27, 2014
"Price Transparency and the ABS Market"	Asset Securitization Report	September, 2013
"Market Rejuvenation = National Municipal Bond Exchange"	MuniIC newsletter	September, 2011
"Auction Rate Securities Need Reform, Not Just Redemption"	Saber Partners, LLC	June, 2011
"Grid Modernization Monetization: Long-Term Ratepayer Obligation Charge Bonds May Provide Answers" (with Michael E. Ebert)	Intelligent Utility Magazine	March/April 2011
"Securing the Grid: Intelligent Financing Creates New Options for Grid Modernization" (with Michael E. Ebert)	Intelligent Utility Magazine	December 6, 2010
Comment on Municipal Service Rulemaking Board ("MSRB") Auction Rate Securities ("ARS") Transparency Proposal Submitted to SEC	Saber Partners, LLC	April, 2010
Comment on ARS Transparency Proposal Submitted to MSRB	Saber Partners, LLC	July, 2008
"Treasury Should Use New Powers to Invest in Muni ARS"	The Bond Buyer	October 6, 2008

## Joseph S. Fichera

Title	Publisher	Date
"Can Environmental Control Bonds Emerge in Europe"	Chapter 6: Thomson Reuters IFR, New Frontiers in European Securitisation: Opportunities in Troubled Times	2008
'How Can Directors Become Truly Independent"	Directors Monthly	June 2008
"How Can Directors Become Truly Independent"	Q2 Yale Management Magazine	Fall 2007
"Lowering Environmental and Capital Costs with Ratepayer-Backed Bonds"	Natural Gas & Electricity	February 2007
"A Rising Tide: Do Utility Securitizations Have a Future?"	Asset Securitization Report	February 9, 2005
"Deal of the Year"	Asset Securitization Report	December 1, 2003
"The State of Utility Securitization: Stranded Costs and Other Tariff-Based Financings: Opportunities, Risks and Rewards"	Prudential Securities: A Fixed- Income Research Publication	March 1998
"Why Is Wall Street Waiting?"	Electrical World Business Edition	November 1997
"Uncle Sam, Venture Capitalist"	The Wall Street Journal	May 2, 1996
"Street Smart: A Road Map for the Investment Banking Analyst"	Princeton University's Business Today	May 1996
"You Call That Debt?"	Barron's	February 26 1996
"Deal of the Year"	Institutional Investor	1992
"Refinancing High-Coupon Tax-Exempt Debt: Understanding the Benefits and Risks of Alternative Strategies"	Financial Analytics and Structured Transactions, Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc	1991
"Making Matters Worse: The Danger of Dutch Auction Securities"	Bear Stearns & Co, Inc.	1991
"Deal of the Year"	Institutional Investor	1991
"Preferred Stock IV: Advantages of Remarketed Preferred Stock"	Chapter 16, Dow–Jones Irwin, Library of Investment Banking	1989
"Corporate Tax-Exempt Financing"	Chapter 39: <i>Dow–Jones Irwin, Library of Investment Banking</i>	1989
"Of Money and Merit: The Upside Down Effects of Wall Street's Bonus System"	Smith Barney Harris Upham, Inc.	1988

## **Order Book Status**

A-1: \$217MI	М		Whisper Talk			Price Guidance		Final Pricing		
	At			At Price					Final	
	Announcement	% Subscribed	Swaps -10/-8	Guidance	% Subscribed	Swaps -7/-6	At Pricing - 10/5	Swaps -7	Allocation	% Subscribed
IOI/Orders	\$85.0	39%		\$128.3	59%		\$261.8		\$217.0	121%
A-2: \$341M	INA		Whisper Talk			Whisper Talk		Final Pricing		
A-2. \$34 HVI	At		willsper raik	At Price		Willsper Talk		Final Fricing	Final	
	Announcement	% Subscribed	Swaps -6/-3	Guidance	% Subscribed	Swaps -3/-2	At Pricing - 10/5	Swaps -2	Allocation	% Subscribed
IOI/Orders	\$106.0	31%		\$127.7	37%		\$402.6		\$341.0	118%
	*			*			,		7	
A-3: \$250MI			Whisper Talk			Whisper Talk		Final Pricing	<u></u>	
	At Announcement	% Subscribed	Swaps + 0/3	At Price Guidance	% Subscribed	Swaps +2A	At Pricing - 10/5	Swaps +3	<u>Final</u> Allocation	% Subscribed
			<u> </u>			OWAPS -ZA		Owaps .o		
IOI/Orders	\$97.0	39%		\$180.0	72%		\$280.5		\$250.0	112%
A-4: \$437MI	М		Whisper Talk			Whisper Talk		Final Pricing		
	<u>At</u>			At Price					<u>Final</u>	
	<u>Announcement</u>	% Subscribed	<u>Swaps + 3/6</u>	<u>Guidance</u>	% Subscribed	Swaps + 5/6	At Pricing - 10/5	Swaps +6	<u>Allocation</u>	% Subscribed
IOI/Orders	\$68.0	16%		\$163.0	37%		\$420.0		\$437.0	96%
A-5: \$494.71	мм		Whisper Talk			Whisper Talk		Final Pricing		
	<u>At</u>			At Price					Final	
	Announcement	% Subscribed	Swaps + 9/13	Guidance	% Subscribed	Swaps + 11/12	At Pricing - 10/5	Swaps +14.1	Allocation	% Subscribed
IOI/Orders	\$25.0	5%		\$167.0	34%		\$648.0		\$494.7	131%
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## **State of Florida**



## **Public Service Commission**

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

**DATE:** October 13, 2015

**TO:** Carlotta S. Stauffer, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

**FROM:** Rosanne Gervasi, Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel

**RE:** Docket No. 150171-EI - Petition for issuance of nuclear asset-recovery financing

order, by Duke Energy Florida, Inc. d/b/a Duke Energy.

Please place the attached Proposed Stipulations on Financing Order Issues in the above-referenced docket file.

### **DOCKET NOS. 150148-EI, 150171-EI**

### PROPOSED STIPULATIONS ON FINANCING ORDER ISSUES\*

<u>LEGAL ISSUE A</u>: What is the definition of "incremental bond issuance costs" as that term is used in Section 366.95(2)(c)5., Florida Statutes?

## LEGAL ISSUE B: In determining whether some or all actual bond issuance costs should be disallowed pursuant to Section 366.95(2)(c)5., Florida Statutes, what should the Commission take into account?

If the parties reach stipulations on all the issues as proposed below, these legal issues do not need to be decided by the Commission.

## <u>ISSUE 14</u>: Do the cost amounts contained in DEF's CR3 Regulatory Asset meet the definition of "nuclear asset-recovery costs" pursuant to Section 366.95(1)(k),Florida Statutes?

The cost amounts contained in DEF's CR3 Regulatory Asset meet the definition of "nuclear asset-recovery costs" pursuant to Section 366.95(1)(k), Florida Statutes.

## <u>ISSUE 15</u>: Do the ongoing financing costs identified in DEF's Petition qualify as "financing costs" pursuant to Section 366.95(1)(e), Florida Statutes?

The types of ongoing financing costs identified in DEF's Petition qualify as "financing costs" pursuant to Section 366.95(1)(e), Florida Statutes.

# ISSUE 16: Has DEF demonstrated that securitization has a significant likelihood of resulting in lower overall costs or would avoid or significantly mitigate rate impacts compared to the traditional method of cost recovery pursuant to Section 366.95(2)(a)6., Florida Statutes?

DEF has demonstrated that securitization has a significant likelihood of resulting in lower overall costs or would avoid or significantly mitigate rate impacts compared to the traditional method of cost recovery pursuant to Section 366.95(2)(a)6., Florida Statutes.

## <u>ISSUE 17</u>: What amount, if any, should the Commission authorize DEF to recover through securitization?

The amounts that should be authorized for DEF to recover through securitization must meet the criteria set forth in Section 366.95, Florida Statutes. By the nature of this proceeding, that amount will not be known with precision until the bonds are issued. The principal amount of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds should be \$1,283,012,000, representing the projected December 31, 2015 balance of the CR3 Regulatory Asset, subject to true-up to the actual December 31, 2015

balance, plus carrying charges beyond 2015 until the date of the bond issuance, plus upfront financing costs.

## **ISSUE 18:** What is the appropriate treatment of the deferred tax liability consistent with paragraph 5(j) of the RRSSA?

No adjustment is necessary for the deferred tax liability. However, consistent with paragraph 5(j) of the RRSSA, the deferred tax liability will be excluded for earnings surveillance purposes.

# <u>ISSUE 19</u>: Should DEF indemnify customers to the extent customers incur losses associated with higher servicing fees payable to a substitute servicer, or with higher administration fees payable to a substitute administrator, as a result of DEF's termination for cause?

DEF should be required to indemnify customers to the extent customers incur losses associated with higher servicing fees payable to a substitute servicer, or with higher administration fees payable to a substitute administrator, as a result of DEF's termination for cause attributable to its own actions.

## <u>ISSUE 20</u>: What should be the up-front and ongoing fee for the role of servicer throughout the term of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds?

The up-front fee for the role of servicer is currently estimated to be \$915,000. The actual amount may change based on DEF's final cost. So long as DEF or an affiliate of DEF is servicer, the annual fee for the role of servicer throughout the term of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds is 0.05% of the original principal balance of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds (currently estimated to be approximately \$650,000).

## ISSUE 21: What amount, if any, of DEF's periodic servicing fee in this transaction should DEF be required to credit back to customers through an adjustment to other rates and charges?

DEF will credit back to customers through the Capacity Cost Recovery Clause all periodic servicing fees in excess of DEF's or an affiliate of DEF's incremental cost of performing the servicer function until the next rate case when costs and revenues associated with the servicing fees will be included in the cost of service.

## <u>ISSUE 22</u>: What should be the ongoing fee for the role of the administrator throughout the term of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds?

The ongoing fee for the role of the administrator throughout the term of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds will be \$50,000.

## ISSUE 23: What amount, if any, of DEF's periodic administration fee in this transaction should DEF be required to credit back to customers through an adjustment to other rates and charges?

DEF will credit back to customers through the Capacity Cost Recovery Clause all periodic administration fees in excess of DEF's or any affiliate of DEF's incremental cost of performing the administration function until the next rate case when costs and revenues associated with the administration fee will be included in the cost of service.

## **ISSUE 24:** How frequently should DEF in its role as servicer be required to remit funds collected from customers to the SPE?

DEF will remit funds collected from customers to the SPE either on a daily basis based on estimated daily collections or on a monthly basis if certain conditions can be satisfied. These conditions have yet to be determined and will be driven both by rating agency requirements to achieve and maintain the targeted "AAA" rating on the bonds and by investor concerns in the marketing and pricing of the bonds.

## <u>ISSUE 25</u>: If remittances are not daily, should DEF be required periodically to remit actual earnings on collections pending remittance?

If remittances are not daily, DEF will be required monthly to remit estimated earnings on collections pending remittance. The calculation of earnings will be consistent with the methodology for calculating interest on over- and undercollections associated with DEF's cost recovery clauses.

## ISSUE 26: Is DEF's proposed process for determining whether the upfront bond issuance costs satisfy the statutory standard of Section 366.95(2)(c)5., Florida Statutes, reasonable and should it be approved?

In accordance with Section 366.95(2)(c)5., Florida Statutes, within 120 days after the issuance of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds, DEF will file supporting information on the actual upfront bond issuance costs, for the categories of costs as reflected on page 1 of Exhibit No. \_\_ (BB-1). The Commission shall review such costs to determine compliance with Section 366.95(2)(c)5., Florida Statutes. As part of this review, the Commission shall only consider actual upfront bond issuance costs, but not ongoing financing costs, interest rate, or pricing of the bonds.

After the issuance of a Financing Order, if DEF decides not to cause nuclear asset-recovery bonds to be issued, then as provided in Section 366.95(2)(c)6., Florida Statutes, DEF may not recover financing costs, as defined in Section 366.95(1)(e), Florida Statutes, from customers.

### **ISSUE 27**: Issue dropped.

## <u>ISSUE 28</u>: What additional conditions, if any, should be made in the Financing Order that are authorized by Section 366.95(2)(c)2.i.?

The Financing Order will include ordering paragraphs, findings of fact, and conclusions of law that will give appropriate comfort to investors about the high quality of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds as a potential investment. Examples include:

- 1. A finding of fact that the Commission anticipates stress case analyses will show that the broad-based nature of the true-up mechanism under Section 366.95(2)(c)2.d, Florida Statutes, and the State pledge under Section 366.95(11), Florida Statutes, will serve to effectively eliminate for all practical purposes and circumstances any credit risk to the payment of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds (*i.e.*, that sufficient funds will be available and paid to discharge the principal and interest obligations when due);
- 2. A finding of fact and ordering paragraph directing that the automatic trueup mechanism is to be applied at least every six months;
- 3. A finding of fact and ordering paragraph that the automatic true-up mechanism will be implemented no later than 60 days after a filing by the servicer;
- 4. A finding of fact that the credit quality of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds are enhanced by Section 366.95, Florida Statutes, due to the requirements that (1) the nuclear asset-recovery charge in amounts authorized by the Commission are to be imposed on all customer bills and collected in full in the form of a nonbypassable charge separate from the electric utility's base rates, (2) the charge shall be paid by all existing and future customers receiving transmission or distribution services from the electric utility, and (3) following any fundamental change in regulation of public utilities in the State, a customer electing to purchase electricity from an alternate electricity supplier must still pay the charge. Furthermore, through the true-up mechanism, any delinquencies or under-collections in one customer rate class will be taken into account in the application of the True Up Mechanism to adjust the nuclear asset-recovery charge for all customers of DEF, not just the class of customers from which the delinquency or under-collection arose;
- 5. A finding of fact that the Commission interprets the legislative intent of the true-up mechanism provided for in Section 366.95 for allocating costs among customers rises to the level of joint and several liability among the customers of DEF.
- 6. A finding of fact and conclusion of law that the broad nature of the State pledge under Section 366.95(11), Florida Statutes, constitutes a contract with the bondholders, the owners of the nuclear asset-recovery property,

and other financing parties that the state will not: (1) Alter the provisions of this section which make the nuclear asset-recovery charges imposed by a Financing Order irrevocable, binding, and nonbypassable charges; (2) Take or permit any action that impairs or would impair the value of nuclear asset-recovery property or revises the nuclear asset-recovery costs for which recovery is authorized; or (3) Except as authorized under Section 366.95, reduce, alter, or impair nuclear asset-recovery charges that are to be imposed, collected, and remitted for the benefit of the bondholders and other financing parties until any and all principal, interest, premium, financing costs and other fees, expenses, or charges incurred, and any contracts to be performed, in connection with the related nuclear asset-recovery bonds have been paid and performed in full;

- 7. A finding of fact that this Commission guarantees that it will act pursuant to this Financing Order as expressly authorized by Section 366.95, Florida Statutes, to ensure that nuclear asset-recovery charge revenues are sufficient to pay principal and interest on the nuclear asset-recovery bonds issued pursuant to this Financing Order and other costs, including fees and expenses, in connection with the nuclear asset-recovery bonds;
- 8. A finding of fact that the broad based nature of the State pledge under Section 366.95(11), Florida Statutes, and the irrevocable character of this Financing Order, in conjunction with the true-up adjustment provisions required by Section 366.95(2)(c)2.d, Florida Statutes, and included in this Order, constitutes a guarantee of regulatory action for the benefit of investors in nuclear asset-recovery bonds;
- 9. A conclusion of law that nuclear asset-recovery property is not a receivable or a pool of receivables;
- 10. A conclusion of law that the nuclear asset-recovery property is not a financial asset in that it only represents a legally-enforceable regulatory property right under Section 366.95 to bill and collect nuclear asset-recovery charges on persons who receive electric transmission and distribution services from the electric utility or its successors or assignees;
- 11. A finding of fact that the issuer of the bonds is a special purpose finance subsidiary of DEF and a corporate issuer;
- 12. A conclusion of law that the Commission's obligation under the Financing Order relating to nuclear asset-recovery bonds, including the specific actions the Commission guarantees to take, are direct, explicit, irrevocable, and unconditional upon the issuance of nuclear asset-recovery bonds, and are legally enforceable against the Commission, a United States public sector entity; and

13. A conclusion of law and ordering paragraph that the Financing Order is irrevocable under Section 366.95(2)(c)6, Florida Statutes.

In addition, the Financing Order will call for the Commission's financial advisor to deliver to the Commission a certification as to whether the structuring, marketing, and pricing of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds resulted in the lowest nuclear asset-recovery charges consistent with prevailing market conditions and the terms of the Financing Order and other applicable law. That certification shall include a report of any action or inaction which the Commission's financial advisor believes might have caused the transaction not to achieve the lowest nuclear asset-recovery charges, regardless of whether DEF's reason for action or inaction was the result of DEF's sole view that it would expose DEF or the SPE to securities law liability. The Financing Order will provide that the Commission will take that certification from its financial advisor, along with any other facts and circumstances, except for a change in market conditions after the moment of pricing, into account in determining whether the remaining requirements of Section 366.95, Florida Statutes, and the Financing Order have been met and whether to issue a stop order no later than 5:00 pm Eastern time on the third business day following pricing, as provided in Ordering Paragraph 54 of the Financing Order.

The parties agree that the Financing Order shall be silent on the issue of whether any judgment or other finding of liability against the SPE(s) constitutes "financing costs" as those costs are defined in Section 366.95. Furthermore, the parties each agree that no party will assert that the Financing Order supports a finding in favor of or against the proposition that any judgment or finding of liability against the SPE(s) constitutes "financing costs" as defined in Section 366.95.

### ISSUE 29: Should all legal opinions be subject to review by the Bond Team?

All legal opinions should be reviewed by the Bond Team. All legal opinions associated with the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Bonds should be submitted to the Commission automatically without requiring the Commission to specifically request the documents.

## **ISSUE 30:** Should all transaction documents and subsequent amendments be filed with the Commission before becoming operative?

All transaction documents and subsequent amendments should be reviewed and approved by the Bond Team before becoming operative.

## **ISSUE 31:** Is DEF's proposed pre-issuance review process reasonable and should it be approved?

DEF, its structuring advisor, and designated Commission staff and its financial advisor will serve on the Bond Team. One designated representative of DEF and one designated representative of the Commission shall be joint decision makers in

all aspects of the structuring, marketing and pricing of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds except for those recommendations that in the sole view of DEF would expose DEF or the SPE to securities law and other potential liability (i.e., such as, but not limited to, the making of any untrue statement of a material fact or omissions to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading) or contractual law liability (e.g., including but not limited to terms and conditions of the underwriter agreement(s)). The Commission's designated staff and financial advisor will be visibly involved, in advance, in all aspects of the structuring, marketing, and pricing of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds. All Bond Team members will actively participate in the design of the marketing materials for the transactions as well as in the development and implementation of the marketing and sales plan for the bonds. DEF believes DEF and the Commission staff and its financial advisor as Bond Team members, excluding DEF's structuring advisor, should also have equal rights on the hiring decisions for the underwriters and counsel to the underwriters. However, DEF will have sole right to select and engage all counsel for DEF and the SPE. In addition, together with the Bond Team's involvement in the structuring, marketing and pricing of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds, and the Issuance Advice Letter process, the Commission will be able to fully review the pricing of the bonds as the Commission determines whether to issue a stop order no later than 5:00 pm Eastern time on the third business day following pricing, as provided in Ordering Paragraph 54 of the Financing Order.

## <u>ISSUE 32</u>: Should the Financing Documents be approved in substantially the form proposed by DEF, subject to modifications as addressed in the draft form of the Financing Order?

No. The specific terms, conditions, covenants, warranties, representations, and specific language contained in the Financing Documents may be impacted by the Commission's decisions on other issues and must be reviewed in consideration of the Financing Order approved by the Commission.

## <u>ISSUE 33</u>: Is DEF's proposed Issuance Advice Letter process reasonable and consistent with the statutory financing cost objective contained in Section 366.95(2)(c)2.b., Florida Statutes?

Yes. DEF, its structuring advisor, and designated Commission staff and its financial advisor will serve on the Bond Team. One designated representative of DEF and one designated representative of the Commission shall be joint decision makers in all aspects of the structuring, marketing and pricing of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds, except for those recommendations that in the sole view of DEF would expose DEF or the SPE to securities law and other potential liability (*i.e.*, such as, but not limited to, the making of any untrue statement of a material fact or omissions to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading) or contractual law liability (*e.g.*, including but not limited to terms and conditions of the underwriter agreement(s)), so the Commission will be provided with information in real time

about the transaction. Furthermore, the Commission will have an opportunity to review a draft of the proposed Issuance Advice Letter in advance of pricing the transaction.

## **ISSUE 34:** Should the Standard True-up Letter be approved in substantially the form proposed by DEF?

The Standard True-up Letter should be approved in substantially the form proposed by DEF.

ISSUE 35: Is DEF's proposed process for determining whether the structure, plan of marketing, expected pricing and financing costs of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds have a significant likelihood of resulting in lower overall costs or would avoid or significantly mitigate rate impacts to customers as compared with the traditional method of financing and recovering nuclear asset-recovery costs reasonable and should it be approved?

Yes. DEF's proposed process for determining whether the structure, plan of marketing, expected pricing and financing costs of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds has a significant likelihood of resulting in lower overall costs or would avoid or significantly mitigate rate impacts to customers as compared with the traditional method of financing and recovering nuclear asset-recovery costs.

# ISSUE 36: Is the degree of flexibility afforded to DEF in establishing the terms and conditions of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds as described in the proposed form of Financing Order, reasonable and consistent with Section 366.95(2)(c)2.f., Florida Statutes?

Yes, as modified by this Stipulation. DEF, its structuring advisor, and designated Commission staff and its financial advisor will serve on the Bond Team. One designated representative of DEF and one designated representative of the Commission shall be joint decision makers in a collaborative process, except for those recommendations that in the sole view of DEF would expose DEF or the SPE to securities law or other potential liability (*i.e.*, such as, but not limited to, the making of any untrue statement of a material fact or omission to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading) or contractual law liability (*e.g.*, including but not limited to terms and conditions of the underwriter agreement(s)). This affords the flexibility that is reasonable and consistent with Section 366.95(2)(c)2f.

### ISSUE 37: What persons or entities should be represented on the Bond Team?

DEF, its structuring advisor, and designated Commission staff and its financial advisor should be represented on the Bond Team.

## **ISSUE 38:** Based on resolution of the preceding issues, should a Financing Order in substantially the form proposed by DEF be approved, including the findings of fact and conclusions of law as proposed?

The Financing Order, including findings of fact and conclusions of law, proposed by DEF should be revised, following consultation with and input from the active parties, to reflect the Commission's resolution of all issues in this proceeding.

## <u>ISSUE 39</u>: If the Commission votes to issue a Financing Order, what post-Financing Order regulatory oversight is appropriate and how should that oversight be implemented?

DEF's customers will be effectively represented throughout the proposed transaction. DEF, its structuring advisor, and designated Commission staff and its financial advisor will serve on the Bond Team. One designated representative of DEF and one designated representative of the Commission shall be joint decision makers for all matters concerning the structuring, marketing, and pricing of the bonds except for those recommendations that in the sole view of DEF would expose DEF or the SPE to securities law and other potential liability (*i.e.*, such as, but not limited to, the making of any untrue statement of a material fact or omission to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements made not misleading) or contractual law liability (*e.g.*, including but not limited to terms and conditions of the underwriter agreement(s)). The final structure of the transaction, including pricing, will be subject to review by the Commission for the limited purpose of ensuring that all requirements of law and the Financing Order have been met.

## <u>ISSUE 40</u>: Are the energy sales forecasts used to develop the bond amortization schedules and the recovery mechanism appropriate?

The energy sales forecasts used to develop the bond amortization schedules and the recovery mechanism are appropriate.

# ISSUE 41: If the Commission approves recovery of any nuclear asset-recovery related costs through securitization, how should the recovery of these costs be allocated to the rate classes consistent with Section 366.95(2)(c)2.g., Florida Statutes?

In accordance with Section 366.95(2)(c)2.g., Florida Statutes, DEF should allocate the nuclear asset-recovery costs recoverable under the nuclear asset-recovery charge consistent with the allocation methodology adopted in the RRSSA approved on November 12, 2013 in Order No. PSC-13-0598-FOF-EI. That approved allocation methodology for DEF is the 12CP and 1/13 AD. Spelled out, that means twelve-thirteenths of the revenue requirement is allocated based on 12 monthly coincident peaks (or demand) and one-thirteenth is allocated based on average demand (or energy).

## ISSUE 42: If the Commission approves recovery of any nuclear asset-recovery related costs through securitization, what is the appropriate recovery period for the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge?

If the Commission approves recovery of any nuclear asset-recovery related costs through securitization, the appropriate recovery period for the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge is 240 months or until the nuclear asset-recovery bonds and associated charges and approved adjustments have been paid in full but not to exceed 276 months.

### **ISSUE 43:** Issue dropped.

## **ISSUE 44:** What should be the scheduled final maturity and the legal final maturity of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds?

The scheduled final maturity and the legal final maturity of the nuclear assetrecovery bonds are to be determined after the issuance of the Financing Order.

## <u>ISSUE 45</u>: Is DEF's proposed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge True-Up Mechanism appropriate and consistent with Section 366.95, Florida Statutes, and should it be approved?

DEF's proposed Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge True-Up Mechanism is appropriate and consistent with Section 366.95, Florida Statutes, and it should be approved.

## **ISSUE 46:** How frequently should the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge True-up Mechanism be conducted?

The Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge True-up Mechanism should be conducted not less than every six months.

## <u>ISSUE 47</u>: If the Commission approves an amount to be securitized, on what date should the Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charge become effective?

The Nuclear Asset-Recovery Charges should become effective upon the first day of the billing cycle for the month following the issuance of the nuclear asset-recovery bonds.

### **ISSUE 48:** Issue dropped.

ISSUE 49: If the Commission denies DEF's request for a Financing Order, or if the nuclear asset-recovery bonds are not issued for any reason after the Commission issues a Financing Order, should the Commission approve DEF's alternative request for a base rate increase pursuant to the RRSSA, to be implemented beginning six months after the final order rejecting DEF's request (in the event the Financing Order is not issued) or the date upon which DEF notifies the Commission that the bonds will not be issued (in the event the Financing Order is issued), with carrying costs on the nuclear asset-recovery costs collected from January 1, 2016, through the Capacity Cost Recovery Clause, until such time as the base rate increase goes into effect?

If the Commission denies DEF's request for a Financing Order, or if the nuclear asset-recovery bonds are not issued for any reason after the Commission issues a Financing Order, the Commission should approve DEF's alternative request for a base rate increase pursuant to the RRSSA, to be implemented beginning six months after the final order rejecting DEF's request (in the event the Financing Order is not issued) or the date upon which DEF notifies the Commission that the bonds will not be issued (in the event the Financing Order is issued), with carrying costs on the nuclear asset-recovery costs collected from January 1, 2016, through the Capacity Cost Recovery Clause, until such time as the base rate increase goes into effect.

## **ISSUE 50:** Should the form of tariff sheets to be filed under DEF's tariff, as provided in Exhibit \_\_ (MO-6A) of Witness Olivier's testimony, be approved?

The form of tariff sheets to be filed under DEF's tariff, as provided in Exhibit \_\_\_ (MO-6A) of Witness Olivier's testimony, should be approved.

# <u>ISSUE 51</u>: In accordance with Section 366.95(2)(c)2.h., Florida Statutes, if the Commission does not issue a stop order by 5:00 p.m. on the third business day after pricing, should the nuclear asset-recovery charges become final and effective without further action from the Commission?

In accordance with Section 366.95(2)(c)2.h., Florida Statutes, if the Commission does not issue a stop order by 5:00 p.m. on the third business day after pricing, the nuclear asset-recovery charges should become final and effective without further action from the Commission.

### **ISSUE 52:** Should this docket be closed?

This docket should remain open pursuant to Section 366.95(2)(c)4., Florida Statutes.

<sup>\*</sup>FIPUG takes no position on these proposed stipulations.

## PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OHIO

The following three tables describe the final order book and investor allocations that were made to reflect oversubscription of the trade.

## CLASS A-1 (\$111.971MM) FINAL PRICING LEVELS AND ALLOCATIONS

Investor	<u>Order</u>	<u>Investor</u>	<u>Order</u>
Invesco	\$ 42	Invesco	\$ 42
Wells	30	Wells	30
ING	25	ING	10
Blackrock	12	Blackrock	12
3M	15	3M	10
Thrivent	7	Thrivent	5
Asset Allocation Advisors	5	Asset Allocation Advisors	2
Morley Capital	2	Morley Capital	1
Total Book	\$ 137		\$ 112
# of Investors	8		8
Subscription Level	123%		100%

#### CLASS A-2 (\$70.468MM) FINAL PRICING LEVELS AND ALLOCATIONS

Indication		Allocation	
Investor	<u>Order</u>	Investor	<u>Order</u>
USAA	\$ 71	USAA	\$ 26
Principal	35	Principal	15
Capital One	25	Capital One	11
Seix Investment Advisors	15	Seix Investment Advisors	6
ADP	10	ADP	4
Ambassador Capital	10	Ambassador Capital	4
Invesco	12	Invesco	4
Advantas	0	Advantas	0
Total Book	\$ 178		\$ 70
# of Investors	8		8
Subscription Level	253%		100%

## CLASS A-3 (\$262.483MM) FINAL PRICING LEVELS AND ALLOCATIONS

Indication		Allocation	
Investor	Order	Investor	Order
TIAA-CREF	\$ 150	TIAA-CREF	\$ 100
John Hancock	150	John Hancock	100
USAA	35	USAA	25
Advantus	20	Advantus	11
American United Life	20	American United Life	11
Asset Allocation Advisors	9	Asset Allocation Advisors	6
Kansas City Life Insurance	8	Kansas City Life Insurance	5
Mountain Asset Management	10	Mountain Asset Management	5
Total Book	\$ 402		\$ 263
# of Investors	8		8
Subscription Level	153%		100%

## Fichera Exhibit 5 Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1262 and E-7, Sub 1243

Structured Products Research



## **Consumer ABS Research**

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# **ABSolute Value: Rate Reduction Bond ABS Primer An Overview of Utility Receivables Securitization**

## **Executive Summary**

- Securitizations of utility receivables have been known by several names: stranded-asset, rate-reduction and storm-recovery bonds. The market convention is to refer to all bonds in this sector as rate-reduction bonds or RRBs. We follow that convention in this report, which surveys the structural features of and conditions in the market for RRBs.
- RRBs are securitizations backed by the future collections of special charges applied to electric utility bills. The amount of the collection is based on power usage, which can vary from year to year based on weather or economic conditions.
- The bonds issued in this sector are structured with robust legal and regulatory
  protections to mitigate the potential political risks that may stem from the introduction of
  the utility tariff on ratepayer bills.
- Internal credit enhancement tends to be relatively low compared to benchmark consumer ABS due to these legal safeguards as well as the presence of the "true-up mechanism." This procedure allows the utility tariff to be adjusted, either up or down, in the event that tariff collections are significantly different than what would be needed to meet the scheduled amortization of the bonds. It has been used successfully in several cases.
- RRB issuance has been relatively light in recent years, although outstanding bonds stood at \$11.3 billion as of Q2 2013 due to the relatively long average lives of the bonds. RRBs repay principal based on a scheduled amortization, which limits the prepayment risk and may make payments quarterly or semiannually, similar to corporate bonds.
- RRBs have similarities to secured utility bonds, such as first-mortgage bonds, and have found an audience from corporate crossover buyers, in our opinion. However, RRBs have significant legal and regulatory protections not normally found in corporate bonds.
- In our opinion, RRBs offer some of the best relative value in the consumer ABS market for the credit risk taken. Spreads of rate-reduction bond ABS have remained relatively wide throughout the post-crisis period. RRB spreads that trade at +4 bps or more to benchmark credit card ABS represent better relative value opportunities, in our opinion.

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Please see the disclosure appendix of this publication for certification and disclosure information.

All estimates/forecasts are as of 07/17/13 unless otherwise stated.

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## **Utility Receivables – What's in a Name?**

Rate-reduction bond ABS are securitizations backed by the future collections of special charges applied to electric utility bills. The amount of the collection is based on power usage. These utility receivables deals have been identified by different names since first coming on the ABS scene in 1997. The earliest deals were called "stranded assets" because the charges applied to ratepayer bills were meant to defray the costs of nuclear power plants that would no longer be economic in a deregulated power-generation market. The investments were economically "stranded" under the previous regulatory regime and could not be recovered under ordinary market conditions.

Later deals were termed "rate-reduction" bonds because electric utilities were allowed to recover the costs of certain infrastructure investments and, in turn, pass along lower utility rates to customers. Again, a deregulated power-generation market was intended to bring lower costs to end users. More recent deals have been christened "storm-recovery" bonds because utilities in various states have been allowed to apply a surcharge to bills to help pay for reconstruction and repairs to power networks damaged by hurricanes or other storms.

Despite the different names and reasons for implementation of the utility tariffs, the structural features and credit protections are generally the same. The market convention is to refer to all bonds in this sector *rate-reduction bonds*, or RRBs. We follow that convention in this report, which surveys the structural features of and conditions in the market for RRBs.

## **Issuance and Outstanding**

The amount of RRB issuance in the early years was substantial, and many market participants expected considerable upside from the sector. Indeed, \$27.5 billion of RRBs were issued in the five years from 1997–2001. However, in the following 12 years, including YTD 2013, the market has averaged just \$1.6 billion per year, and only 2005 exceeded \$5 billion (Exhibit 1). RRBs have become a smaller niche sector than many would have anticipated, but we believe RRBs offer certain characteristics that may not be found in other ABS sectors.

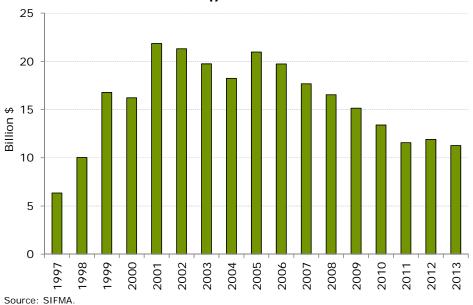
**Exhibit 1: Rate Reduction Bond ABS Issuance** 

Source: Asset-Backed Alert, Bloomberg, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC.

RRBs repay principal based on a scheduled amortization, which limits the prepayment risk found in many other ABS backed by consumer receivables. Furthermore, the bonds may pay interest and principal quarterly or semiannually, similar to corporate bonds. This feature is one reason that RRBs have found an audience from corporate crossover buyers, in our opinion. RRBs have similarities to secured utility bonds such as first-mortgage bonds.

However, RRBs have significant legal and regulatory protections not normally found in a secured corporate bond. In addition, RRBs, in most cases, offer longer average lives than the typical auto or credit card ABS, with many bonds reaching seven years or more. Bonds with average lives of 10 years or more are not unusual. The longer average lives, combined with fixed-rate coupons offer ABS investors access to longer duration bonds.

**Exhibit 2: RRB ABS Outstanding** 



Those longer principal windows and average lives are the reasons that the amount of RRBs outstanding is much higher than might have been expected given the dearth of new-issue volume over the past few years. Total RRBs outstanding fell to the \$11 billion—\$12 billion range from 2011—2013 from the most recent peak of \$21 billion in 2005 (Exhibit 2). The RRB sector accounted for about 2% of total consumer ABS outstanding as of Q2 2013. A modest amount of issuance should keep the amount of ABS backed by utility receivables stable.

However, it can be difficult to forecast new-issue volume of RRBs because of the long legislative and regulatory lead times required to complete these deals. The utilities may also find it more advantageous to issue corporate debt instead of ABS. The history of RRB deals and their utility sponsors are listed in Exhibit 3. Deal sizes averaged approximately \$1.1 billion from 1997–2005, but declined to \$575 million after 2005. This average amount was boosted by two deals that weighed in at \$1.7 billion each. Excluding those two deals, the average deal size since 2005 has been \$433 million.

**Exhibit 3: Rate Reduction Bond ABS Deals and Utility Sponsors** 

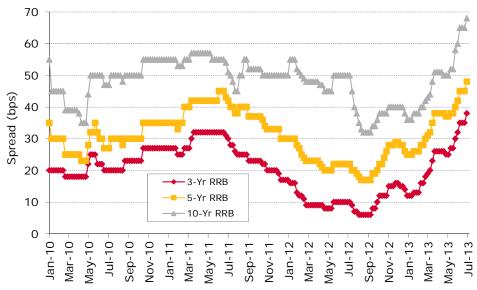
Deal Name	Pricing Date	Original Balance (MM\$)	Trust Name	Utility Sponsor
CIPGE 1997-1	11/25/97	2,901	California Infrastructure PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
CISDG 1997-1	12/4/97	658	California Infrastructure SDG&E	San Diego Gas and Electric Company
CISCE 1997-1	12/4/97	2,463	California Infrastructure SCE	Southern California Edison Company
COMED 1998-1	12/7/98	3,400	COMED Transitional Funding Trust	Commonwealth Edison Company
IPSPT 1998-1	12/10/98	864	Illinois Power Special Purpose Trust	Illinois Power Company
PECO 1999-A	3/18/99	4,000	Peco Energy Transition Trust	Peco Energy Company
SPPC 1999-1	3/30/99	24	Sierra Pacific Power Company	Sierra Pacific Power Company
BECO 1999-1	7/14/99	725	Massachusetts RRB Special Purpose Trust	Boston Edison Company
PPL 1999-1	7/29/99	2,420	PP&L Transition Bond Company LLC	PPL Electric Utilities Corp.
WPP 1999-A	11/3/99	600	West Penn Funding LLC Transition Bonds	West Penn Power
PECO 2000-A	4/27/00	1,000	Peco Energy Transition Trust	Peco Energy Company
PEGTF 2001-1	1/25/01	2,525	PSE&G Transition Funding LLC	Public Service Electric & Gas Co.
PECO 2001-A	2/15/01	805	Peco Energy Transition Trust	Peco Energy Co
DESF 2001-1	3/2/01	1,750	Detroit Edison Securitization Funding LLC	Detriot Edison Company
CTRRB 2001-1	3/27/01	1,438	Connecticut RRB Special Purpose Trust	Connecticut Light & Power
PSNH 2001-1	4/20/01	525	Public Service New Hampshire Funding LLC	Public Service Company of New Hampshire
WMECO 2001-1	5/14/01	155	Massachusetts RRB Special Purpose Trust	Western Massachusetts Electric Company
CNP 2001-1	10/17/01	749	CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company IV	CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric LLC
CONFD 2001-1	10/31/01	469	Consumers Funding LLC	Consumers Energy Co
PSNH 2002-1	1/16/02	50	Public Service New Hampshire Funding LLC	Public Service Company of New Hampshire
AEPTC 2002-1	1/31/02	797	AEP Texas Central Transition Funding	Central Power and Light Company
JCPL 2002-A	6/4/02	320	JCP&L Transition Funding LLC	Jersey Central Power & Light
ACETF 2002-1	12/11/02	440	Atlantic City Electric Transition Funding LLC	Atlantic City Electric Company
ONCOR 2003-1	8/14/03	500	Oncor Electric Delivery Transition Bond LLC	Oncor Electric Delivery Co.
ACETF 2003-1	12/18/03	152	Atlantic City Electric Transition Funding LLC	Atlantic City Electric Company
ONCOR 2004-1	5/28/04	790	Oncor Electric Delivery Transition Bond LLC	Oncor Electric Delivery Co.
RCTF 2004-1A	7/28/04	46	Rockland Electric Co Transition Funding LLC	Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.
PERF 2005-1	2/3/05	1,888	PG&E Energy Recovery Funding LLC	Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
BECO 2005-1	2/15/05	675	Massachusetts RRB Special Purpose Trust	Boston Edison Co.; Commonwealth Electric Co.
PEGTF 2005-1	9/9/05	103	PSE&G Transition Funding LLC	Public Service Electric and Gas Co.
WPP 2005-A	9/22/05	115	West Penn Funding LLC Transition Bonds	West Penn Power
PERF 2005-2	11/9/05	844	PG&E Energy Recovery Funding L	Pacific Gas & Electric Co
CNP 2005-A	12/9/05	1,851	CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company IV	CenterPoint Energy
JCPL 2006-A	8/4/06	182	JCP&L Transition Funding LLC	Jersey Central Power & Light
AEPTC 2006-A	9/26/06	1,740	AEP Texas Central Transition Funding	AEP Texas Central Co.
FPL 2007-A	5/17/07	652	FPL Recovery Funding LLC	Florida Power & Light Co
EGSI 2007-A	6/22/07	330	Entergy Gulf States Reconstruction Funding LLC	Entergy Texas Inc
RSBBC 2007-A	6/29/07	623	RSB Bondco LLC	Baltimore Gas & Electric Co
CNP 2008-A	1/29/08	488	CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company IV	CenterPoint Energy
CLECO 2008-A	2/28/08	181	Cleco Katrina/Rita Hurricane Recovery Funding LLC	Cleco Power LLC
LPFA 2008-ELL	7/22/08	688	Louisiana Utilities Restoration Corp./ELL	Entergy Louisiana LLC
LPFA 2008-EGSL	8/20/08	278	Louisiana Utilities Restoration Corp./EGSL	Entergy Gulf States Louisiana
ETI 2009-A	10/29/09	546	Entergy Texas Restoration Funding LLC	Entergy Texas Inc
CNP 2009-1	11/18/09	665	CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company IV	CenterPoint Energy
LCDA 2010-EGSL	7/16/10	244	Louisiana Local Gov't Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority	Entergy Gulf States Louisiana
LCDA 2010-ELL	7/16/10	469	Louisiana Local Gov't Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority	Entergy Louisiana LLC
EAI 2010-A	8/11/10	124	Entergy Arkansas Restoration F	Entergy Arkansas Inc
ELL 2011-A	9/15/11	207	Entergy Louisiana Investment R	Entergy Louisiana LLC
CNP 2012-1	1/11/12	1,695	CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company IV	CenterPoint Energy
AEPTC 2012-1	3/7/12	800	AEP Texas Central Transition Funding	AEP Texas Central Co.
FEOH 2013-1	6/12/13	445	FirstEnergy Ohio PIRB Special Purpose Trust	FirstEnergy Corp.

Source: Asset-Backed Alert, Bloomberg, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC.

## **Relative Value Analysis to Benchmark Cards**

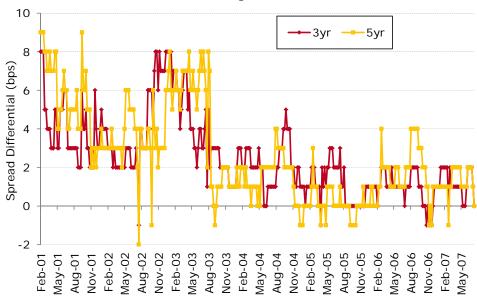
Spreads of rate-reduction bond ABS have remained relatively wide throughout the post-crisis period and have exhibited some wide swings over the past few years. Since hitting their post-crisis lows in September 2012, spreads have widened by about 30 bps through July 12, 2013 (Exhibit 4). We believe that this trend has been influenced by a general widening of spreads in the ABS market during 2012, and increased volatility brought on by the market's reaction to Federal Reserve policy communications. In our opinion, RRBs offer some of the best relative value in the consumer ABS market for the credit risk taken.

**Exhibit 4: RRB Spreads** 



Source: Wells Fargo Securities, LLC.

Exhibit 5: RRB / Credit Card ABS Spread Differential - 2001-2007



Source: Wells Fargo Securities, LLC.

Wells Fargo Securities has collected generic spreads on the RRB sector back to 2001. In our opinion, assessing relative value in rate-reduction bond ABS can be best accomplished by reviewing the spread differential between RRBs and benchmark credit card ABS. This relationship from 2001 to just before the market dislocation in July 2007 is charted in Exhibit 5. The average weekly difference was +4 bps to +6 bps, depending on the tenor of the bonds from 2001 to June 2003. However, the range of the spread differential was a wider +2 bps to +9 bps for three-year and five-year average life bonds.

After June 2003, the spread differential narrowed to an average weekly level of just about +1 bp, and this difference was stable across the benchmark tenors in RRBs (three-year, five-year and 10-year average lives). We believe that an increase in the amount of bonds outstanding and the number of issuers, as well as increasing investor acceptance, helped push the spread differential tighter. The week-to-week variability was relatively low, and this pattern was consistent with the benchmark auto and credit card ABS sectors. It indicated a meaningful increase in transparency and liquidity, in our view.

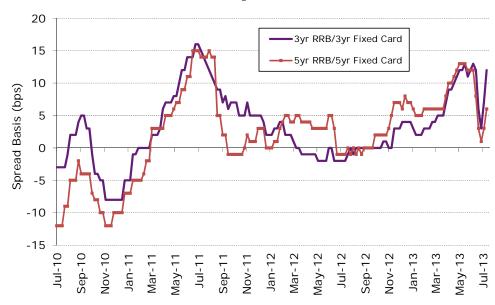


Exhibit 6: RRB / Credit Card ABS Spread Differential – 2010-2013

Source: Wells Fargo Securities, LLC.

RRBs traded well inside credit card ABS during the depths of the financial crisis in late 2008 and early 2009 (spreads 200 bps—300 bps inside) because investors placed a higher risk premium on large commercial banks and their credit card portfolios during this period. However, it took almost another two years for the spread relationship to normalize by early 2011.

The average weekly spread differential has returned to pre-crisis levels of +2 bps to +3 bps from July 2010 to July 2013. The average is closer to +4 bps, though, if all of 2010 is excluded. Nevertheless, secondary trading levels for RRBs have experienced large excursions away from this long-run average level, and these excursions have had a tendency to persist for a number of weeks.

We view RRB spreads trading at +4 bps or more to benchmark credit card ABS as representing better relative value. In general, RRBs involve less credit risk than credit card ABS, although the smaller size of the RRB sector, wider principal payment windows and somewhat less transparency due to the regulatory nature of the collateral require some spread concession, in our view.

#### **Structural Considerations**

Unlike most asset-backed securities, rate-reduction bond ABS are characterized primarily by their legal and regulatory framework. To a large extent, the credit analysis of the underlying obligors, which are the ratepayers in the utility's service area, is a secondary consideration, in our view. The securitization structure of most RRBs is relatively straightforward. The utility would transfer its ownership of the utility charges to a bankruptcy-remote special purpose vehicle (SPV) that would issue the ABS to investors.

The ABS may be issued as a single pass-through security, or there may be several tranches of bonds issued that pay in sequential order. Principal is repaid according to a scheduled amortization that would be consistent with the forecast for power usage and cash flows. Interest payments may be made quarterly or semiannually. The cash flows are stressed in the rating process to determine how much forecast error the deal can withstand and still make payments to investors in a timely manner.

Credit enhancement is provided, in most cases, by a small amount (generally 0.5%–1%) of overcollateralization, reserve fund, or some form of capital account to provide liquidity in the event of short-run cash flow shortfalls. However, the primary form of credit enhancement is a regulatory-mandated "true-up mechanism" that can adjust the amount of the utility tariff charged to the customer. The robust legal and regulatory nature of the true-up mechanism, along with the fundamental character of power usage, allows for the relatively low level of internal credit enhancement in RRBs.

## A Regulatory Future Flow Receivable

One of the key considerations in the RRB sector is that the asset securitized is a future flow rather than an existing loan or receivable. The utility tariff is established by a law passed by a state legislature and further put into practice by a financing order from the state's utility regulators. The charge added to the utility bill is established as a property right of the utility that can be transferred or sold and pledged as a security interest similar to other kinds of receivables securitized in the ABS market.

In the event that a utility is subject to a merger or files for bankruptcy, the order to collect the utility tariff remains in place with the successor utility. This provision helps avoid any disruption in billing and collections of the tariff and, therefore, for bondholders. Although the utility has a target amount to be raised from the utility tariff, the periodic amount of the cash flows can only be estimated at origination based on the expectations for usage. Actual utility usage and cash flows may deviate from the forecast amount.

#### **Irrevocability and State Pledge**

One of the key legal features of an RRB is that the utility tariff is *irrevocable*. As noted above, the receivables have been created by legal and regulatory actions and are collected over time based on electricity usage. The receivable does not already exist, unlike an auto loan or lease. There is a risk that a future legislature or regulator could act to alter or rescind the utility tariff. In order to mitigate this risk, there is irrevocability language inserted in the legislation to prevent the impairment of the value of the utility tariff without adequate compensation.

The RRBs are not obligations of the state, nor do they carry the full faith and credit of any government or agency. However, the legislation creating the utility tariffs will generally contain a *state pledge* not to limit, alter, or impair the property rights created. There may be challenges from other constituencies over time that oppose the creation of the utility tariff, either through new legislation or ballot initiatives. The state pledges not to make any changes to the law or regulatory environment until the bonds are paid in full to mitigate the potential political risks to an asset created through the political process.

#### Non-bypassability

The utility receivables generated would be collected based on a customer's usage and the fact that the customer is connected to the utility's deliver system. This delivery, or network, charge should not be avoided, or bypassed, just because a customer contracts with another generator of the power. The utility can collect the charges from existing customers as well as future customers from its service area.

In some states or markets, third-party energy providers may be allowed by regulators to bill customers directly. In these cases, the tariff is collected by the third-party provider and the charges are passed along to the utility. Customers can reduce their exposure to the charge by using less power, or by disconnecting from the service grid entirely. However, they should not be able to avoid paying the utility tariff as long as they are connected to the utility's network.

## **Bankruptcy Remoteness**

Like other types of securitized assets , the utility tariff is established as a property right that can be sold or transferred to another party. The right to the future receivables is sold by the utility to a bankruptcy-remote special purpose vehicle (SPV), which is the issuer of the ABS. This "true sale" of the receivables to the SPV should isolate the payments from being consolidated with the utility in the event that it files for bankruptcy.

The transfer of the utility tariff is a sale, not a pledge or a secured financing. Legal counsel would normally provide a nonconsolidation opinion that a bankruptcy court would not consolidate the SPV with the bankruptcy estate of the utility. This bankruptcy-remote nature of ABS is the standard in the market to provide a separation between the ABS and any potential bankruptcy of the seller/servicer.

#### **True-Up Mechanism**

The key credit enhancement feature of RRB deals is the true-up mechanism. This procedure allows the utility tariff to be adjusted, either up or down, in the event that tariff collections are significantly different than what would be needed to meet the scheduled amortization of the bonds, including any fees and replacement of credit-enhancement reserves. The true-up can occur at least annually, as needed, but some deals allow for more frequent changes in the charges, such as semiannually. Regulators cannot alter the true-up, nor do they need to approve its use.

The strength of the legal and structural safeguards, along with the robust nature of the protection provided by the true-up mechanism, affords substantial credit enhancement for ABS investors. Indeed, Fitch Ratings indicated in its "Outlook and Performance Review for U.S. Utility Tariff ABS" (Feb. 1, 2013) that several RRB transactions have successfully used their true-up mechanisms to offset revenue shortfalls.

Weather-related variations in collections have occurred due to system outages from hurricane damage and warmer-than-normal winter temperatures. In addition, six transactions suffered shortfalls from 2008–2010 due to the recession's effects on customers reducing their power usage. Some were residential customers trying to save on monthly expenses, wheras others were commercial and industrial customers cutting production or going out of business, according to the Fitch Ratings report.

## **Credit Analysis**

When rating a new RRB deal and determining the potential variability in cash flows, the rating agencies typically perform a credit analysis of the utility and the service area that is subject to the utility tariff. The major areas of inquiry include the energy usage level and trends of the customer base and its composition, the size of the tariff in relation to the entire utility bill, customer

delinquency and loss trends, national and local economic factors affecting energy usage, and seasonality due to weather conditions.

The rating agencies incorporate various stresses in their cash-flow models to take account of forecast errors or variations in usage based on changing credit conditions. Although the credit analysis of the utility, its customer base and servicer area are important, they tend to take a position of secondary importance, in our opinion, to the legal and regulatory structure of the utility tariffs and the ability to true-up the charges when collections vary from the forecast.

#### **Customer Base**

A utility's customer base typically can be divided into four segments: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, and Government. The most important segments tend to be Residential and Commercial/Industrial. Most service areas have a low concentration of government obligor exposure, although some areas may include state or federal government offices or military bases.

Residential customers offer the most diversification because each household is just a small portion of the overall pool of residential customers. They should also represent the most stable cash flows because households (and smaller commercial customers) tend to be less sensitive to economic cycles in their power usage. It could be assumed that new residents would replace those who move away, providing additional long-run stability. However, reduced demand for housing during recessions may present a potential risk to power usage and the generation of cash flows backing the RRBs.

Commercial and industrial customers are likely to be more concentrated as a group, and the size of individual firms could mean an increase in risk to cash flows in the event of reduced usage from less production, self-generation of power, or the possibility of ceasing business in that service area. For that reason, the rating agencies analyze the power-usage patterns of areas with cyclical industries and emphasize periods of recession in their analysis. This process provides an estimate of the potential variability of cash flows from the amortization schedule of the bonds.

#### **Usage Patterns and Seasonality**

Residential and smaller commercial customers normally show greater changes in power usage due to changes in weather patterns. An unusually hot summer or colder-than-normal winter would likely drive power demand higher, and these seasonal patterns tend to be more important for short-run variations in power usage. In the long run, conservation measures, increased use of energy-efficient appliances and technological advances are more likely to play a role in energy-usage patterns. Larger commercial and industrial customers would also be affected by these weather-related and technological advances, although in the near term, they tend to be affected more by fluctuations in economic activity.

### **Size of Utility Tariff**

The rating agencies also consider the size of the utility tariff relative to the overall customer bill. This relationship becomes more important if the true-up mechanism must be used to increase the charge due to variability in the receivables generated. An increase in the overall price of power could be large enough to reduce demand for power if the tariff is a relatively large portion of the bill. This incentive may become particularly intense for larger industrial customers who have more energy alternatives.

#### DISCLOSURE APPENDIX

Additional information is available on request.

This report was prepared by Wells Fargo Securities, LLC.

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## Fichera Exhibit 6 Docket Nos. E-2, Sub 1262 and E-7, Sub 1243

\*This Glossary serves as the final exhibit to the testimony of both Public Staff witness Joseph Fichera and Public Staff witness Paul Sutherland, and is the same Glossary as referenced in the testimony of Public Staff witnesses.

## Glossary

**Asset-Backed Security (ABS)** - A debt security issued by an SPE, the payment of which is backed by a physical asset (e.g., rail cars or airplanes) or a financial asset (e.g., a mortgage or the value of a portfolio of credit card receivables). At least for some purposes, Ratepayer-Backed Bonds are not technically Asset-Backed Securities but often have been treated as such to the detriment of ratepayers.

**Bankruptcy Remote -** An entity designed in such a way that (i) the likelihood of it going into bankruptcy is extremely small, and (ii) it would experience as little economic impact as possible in the event of a bankruptcy of other related legal entities.

**Basis Point (bp) -** One one-hundredth of a percentage point. Often referred to in writing as "bp" (or "bps" in the plural).

**Benchmark** – When pricing a bond, the Benchmark is a security with high price transparency that is agreed upon by all parties so that the Yield on the new issue can be set relative to the Yield on the Benchmark. In that way, if Yields in the market move after agreeing on the spread to Benchmark but before final pricing, the parties do not have to renegotiate the final price/Yield. A Benchmark can also be a similar security used to determine Relative Value when talking to investors.

**Callable/Non-Callable Bonds/Pre-Payment Risk -** In many cases bonds are offered for sale with a "call provision." For example, a company may want the right to retire a given bond in five years even though it carries a 25-year Maturity date. That bond would be said to carry a five-year call option. Investors who worry their bonds might be called away from them in a relatively short period of time will not pay a high price for those bonds because they can't rely on earning the bonds' stated interest rate through Maturity. Also known as Pre-Payment Risk. Non-callable bonds cannot be called away from the investor before the final Maturity date. Ratepayer-Backed Bonds typically are non-callable and have no Pre-Payment Risk.

**Final Legal Maturity Date** – The date by which, if the principal is not fully paid, the bonds will be considered to be in default. Usually, the Final Legal Maturity Date is one to two years after the Final Scheduled Maturity Date.

**Final Scheduled Maturity Date**— The date by which it is expected that the final principal payment on a bond or on a group of substantially identical bonds will be made.

**Financing Order -** An order issued by state regulators authorizing the issuance of Ratepayer-Backed Bonds, which order cannot be changed or revoked at a later date as long as the Ratepayer-Backed Bonds are outstanding, and which (i) segregates a specific component of the retail rate charge throughout the service territory, (ii) causes the right to receive this component to be treated as a present interest in property that can be bought, sold or pledged, (iii) authorizes the utility to sell such property to an SPE, (iv) authorizes the SPE to issue Ratepayer-Backed Bonds secured by such property, and (v) requires the utility which sold the property to use the proceeds of the sale for one or more specific purposes.

**Maturity -** The length of time until the issuer of a bond has to repay specified amounts to the lender / investor.

**Net Present Value (NPV)** - The amount of cash today that is equivalent in value to a payment, or to a stream of payments, to be received in the future. To determine the Net Present Value, each future cash flow is multiplied by a present value factor. For example, if the opportunity cost of funds is 10%, the Net Present Value of \$100 to be received in one year is  $100 \times [1/(1 + 0.10)] = 91$ . Opportunity cost means what a dollar today could earn over a specific period of time.

**Nominal Dollars** or **Nominal Savings -** This type of measure reflects the current situation, not adjusted for the opportunity cost of funds over time. Nominal dollars treat all dollars the same whether received today or 10 years from today. See "Net Present Value" for the way to look at dollars over time.

**Ratepayer-Backed Bond** – Bonds issued by an SPE for the benefit of one or more sponsoring utilities in a Securitization transaction.

**Regression Line** - Regression takes a group of data points and tries to find a mathematical relationship between them. This relationship is typically in the form of a straight line (linear regression) that best approximates all the individual data points. It is the most common type of "trendline" used in Excel.

**Relative Value -** The relationship between two securities. In pricing a new Ratepayer-Backed Bond issue, for example, it is useful to compare the Spread over Swaps of the proposed bond Yield to the Spread over Swaps or over a AAA-rated U.S. agency bond. If the two securities were judged equal in risk with identical terms (not callable, same WAL etc.) but one had a higher Spread, it would be said to have greater Relative Value.

**Road Show** - A formal presentation to potential purchasers of a security, typically organized by Underwriters with the involvement of the issuer and the financial advisor. A team sometimes travels around the U.S. to discuss the features of the security, resulting in the term "Road Show." Sometimes the team travels to foreign financial centers to make these presentations. In recent years, most Road Shows have been conducted using electronic media over the Internet, reducing or eliminating the need for travel.

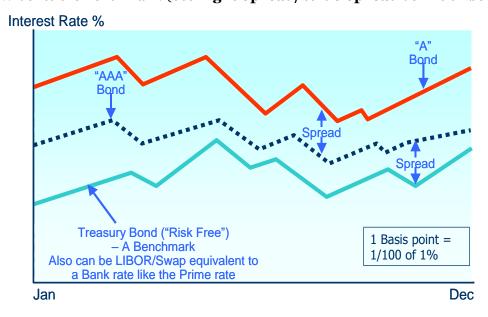
**Secondary Market** – The market in which stocks or bonds are traded after their initial issuance. When a publicly offered bond trades at a substantially higher price (lower Yield) in the Secondary Market immediately following its issuance, this is an indication that the bond was mispriced (priced too low) by the Underwriters in the original public offering.

**Securitization** - The process by which a pool of assets, such as loan receivables, is used as a basis for issuing highly rated (often AAA) bonds. The pool of assets is created and transferred to a trust or, in a utility Securitization, to a Bankruptcy Remote SPE. The entire right, title and interest in the assets are transferred at fair market value to the SPE. The SPE pledges the assets to secure the bonds and the cash flows from those assets are used to pay principal and interest on the bonds. Thus, the risk to the bondholder is just the risk associated with the cash flows from the assets in the SPE. The assets can be physical (such as plant and equipment) or intangible (such as a loan receivable or the right to some other revenue stream).

**Special Purpose Entity (SPE)** – A Bankruptcy Remote legal entity set up for the express purpose of owning the right, title and interest in the assets used to secure the bonds and provide the cash flows to pay interest and principal on the bonds.

**Spread** – The difference between the market Yields of different fixed-income securities of similar maturities, expressed in Basis Points. If a Treasury bond maturing in seven years is trading to Yield 3.87%, and a AAA-rated corporate bond is trading to Yield 4.25%, the corporate bond is said to trade at a 38 Basis Point Spread to the Treasury bond (4.25 - 3.87 = .38).

Spread is the easiest way to compare the cost of funds represented by different debt securities. Participants will refer to the spread "relative to Treasuries" or "relative to Swaps" as the most meaningful measure used to compare a given debt security to the most liquid, most secure, and most easily available benchmark for a given Maturity. Spreads are often referred to as either "Tight" or "Wide" to the Benchmark. (See **Tight Spread/Wide Spread** definition below.)



**Swaps, or Interest Rate Swap Agreements -** An interest rate Swap exchanges a floating rate for a fixed rate on bonds. Under certain market conditions, a combination of floating rate bonds and fixed rate Swaps could produce a lower overall "synthetic" fixed interest rate for ratepayers. Certain investors prefer a floating rate, while other investors prefer a fixed rate. For example, many European investors prefer a floating rate. There may be an opportunity to lower overall ratepayer costs and achieve the "lowest storm recovery charges" by issuing floating rate Ratepayer-Backed Bonds and swapping them to a synthetic fixed interest rate.

**Tranche** – A Tranche is a piece of a larger bond offering with its own cash flows, i.e., principal amount, Maturity and interest rate, but governed by the same documents as the larger bond offering, i.e. prospectus, trust agreement, servicing agreement, etc. While Tranche is common nomenclature for ABS type debt, corporate debt usually uses the term "series" for the same purpose.

**Tight Spread/Wide Spread -** If a Spread is considered "Tight," it is low and closer to the Benchmark rate. If it is "Wide," it is much higher than the Benchmark rate. Interest rates are composed of the Benchmark plus the Spread. Thus, a Tight Spread means a lower interest rate.

**True-up Mechanism** - **PSC-Guaranteed True-up Mechanism**" or "**True-up Mechanism**" means the mechanism irrevocably mandated by state law and the Financing Order whereby ratepayer charges to pay debt service and ongoing expenses on Ratepayer-Backed Bonds are reviewed and adjusted at least annually or semi-annually (true-up period), depending on the jurisdiction. The rates at which the charges are imposed on ratepayers, to be paid on a joint and several basis, will be adjusted to correct any over collections or under collections from prior periods and to guarantee payment of all principal and interest on a timely basis.

**Underwrite** – This refers to the actions of an investment bank when it initially purchases newly issued bonds with the intention of re-offering or re-selling them to the ultimate investors, thus assuming the market risk for a short period of time.

**Underwriters** - The investment banks that initially purchase the bonds and re-offer the bonds to ultimate investors. A lead Underwriter (sometimes called the "bookrunning" manager and most often called a lead manager) is responsible for assembling and leading a syndicate which generally includes additional investment banks in an effort to reach the widest audience of buyers. A co-lead Underwriter (or "co-manager") is another firm which also assumes responsibility to purchase bonds from the issuer. Nowadays, in practice, the Underwriters of a bond issue often have orders for 100% of a new issue before it is formally re-sold to anyone, and consequently the Underwriters do not hold the bonds or take any appreciable market risk.

**Weighted Average Life (WAL)** – The amount of time (in years), on average, that the principal amount will remain outstanding. It is calculated by weighting the time each component of the principal is outstanding by the principal amount. Thus, for a bond that pays back all its principal at final Maturity, the WAL is the same as the final Maturity. However, Ratepayer-Backed Bonds amortize principal over a number of years, so the WAL is always less than the Final Scheduled Maturity of each Ratepayer-Backed Bond.

**Yield, Current -** The annual coupon amount of interest on a bond, divided by the selling price (expressed as a percentage). A \$1,000 principal amount bond that sells for \$1,000 with a \$50 annual interest coupon has a 5% Yield. The lower the price, the higher the Yield; the higher the price, the lower the Yield.

**Yield to Maturity -** Yield to Maturity is the discount rate at which the sum of all future cash flows from the bond (interest and principal) is equal to the price of the bond. This measure of Yield takes into account the difference between the current price and the principal value at redemption. This is the Yield referred to when pricing a bond and comparing to the Yield on benchmark securities. It is more reflective of true value because it accounts for the time value of money.

#### Rule R1-19. INTERVENTION.

- (a) Contents of Petition. Any person having an interest in the subject matter of any hearing or investigation pending before the Commission may become a party thereto and have the right to call and examine witnesses, cross-examine opposing witnesses, and be heard on all matters relative to the issues involved, by filing a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and the following information in separately numbered paragraphs:
  - (1) The correct name, post-office address and electronic mailing address of the petitioner.
  - (2) The name, post office address and electronic mailing address of counsel representing the petitioner, if any.
  - (3) A clear, concise statement of the nature of the petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding.
  - (4) A statement of the exact relief desired.
- (b) When Filed. Petitions under this rule shall be filed with the Commission not less than ten (10) days prior to the time the proceeding is called for hearing, unless the notice of hearing fixes the time for filing such petitions, in which case such notice shall govern. A petition, which for good cause shown was not filed within the time herein limited, and which neither broadens the issues nor seeks affirmative relief, may be presented to and allowed or denied by the presiding official, in his discretion, at the time the cause is called for hearing.
- (c) Copies Required. See Rule R1-5, subsection (g).
- (d) Leave. Leave to intervene filed within the time herein provided, in compliance with this rule and showing a real interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, will be granted as a matter of course, but granting such leave does not constitute a finding by the Commission that such party will or may be affected by any order or rule made in the proceeding. Failure of any party to file answer or reply to such petition for leave to intervene does not constitute an admission of the facts stated in such petition, nor a waiver of the right to move to dismiss said petition at the time the cause is called for hearing for failure to comply with this rule.
- (e) Notices of Intervention by the Public Staff. Notices of Intervention by the Public Staff shall be deemed recognized without the issuance of any order. As a general rule, Notices of Intervention by the Public Staff need not be filed in advance of any hearing and appearances may be made and noted at the hearing. If the Public Staff elects to do so, Notices of Intervention may be filed in certain cases. The filing of testimony and exhibits and otherwise complying with all other Rules and Regulations of the Commission are not affected by this provision.

(NCUC Docket No. M-100, Sub 75, 10/27/77; NCUC Docket No. M-100, Sub 128, 11/03/99; NCUC Docket No. M-100, Sub 134, 3/11/10.)