REQUEST TO ESTABLISH DOCKET (Please Type)						
Date:	1/10/2006		Docket No.: El 👌	60027-EI		
1. Divisio	n Name/Staff Name:	Office Of The General Cou	nsel/Ralph Jaeger			
2. OPR:	Office of General Cou	unsel	$-\nu$	0		
3. OCR:	ECR/Kummer; Divisio	on of Regulatory Compliance	and Conumer Assist./Ples	scow Ct		
4. Sugge	re			Florida Power and Light Company rebilling for estimated usage of		
5. Sugg	gested Docket Mailing	J List (attach separate shee	if necessary)			
		ACRONYMS ONLY if a regu				
В.		NAME AND ADDRESS for a	l others. (Match represe	entatives to companies.)		
<u></u>		epresentatives (if any):				
		ant, 6101 SW 72d Ave.,	Florida Power And Light Company			
	· · · · · ·	/ Mr. Robert Behar, Esq.,	David Lee, Esq.			
	an a	mi Fl. 33155, Office 305-	Law Department, P.O. Box 14000, Juno Beach, Fl. 33408-			
	; Facsimile 305-264-79		0420; 700 Universe Blvd. (Street Address); 561-691-7135,			
e-mail	RBehar@RobertBeharl	Law.com	Ext. 7263; Or 561-691-7	107		
2. Interested persons and their representatives (if any):						
6. Check						
		tion is attached.	a a mm an da 41 a m	МЕНТ МГ 0206		
	6. Check one:       Image: Check one:         Image: Documentation is attached.       Image: Check one:         Image: Documentation will be provided with recommendation.       Image: Check one:         Image: Check one:       Image: Check one:         Image:					

FPSC-COMMISSION CLEFT

## Carmen Pena

From:	Roseanne_Lucas@fpl.com
Sent:	Wednesday, December 14, 2005 10:38 AM
To:	Carmen Pena; Ralph Jaeger
Cc:	John Plescow
Subject:	Mary Ann Valdez Vs. Florida Power & Light - Case 614984E

Attachments:

Valdes Mary Ann audit 5-11-04 - 1-07-05.xls; pic04954.gif



Valdes Mary pic04954.gif audit 5-11-0 (21 KB)

As requested.....

(See attached file: Valdes Mary Ann audit 5-11-04 - 1-07-05.xls)

Roseanne Lucas (roseanne\_lucas@fpl.com)

Regulatory Affairs Department (RAD)

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL)

9250 W. Flagler St. Room 5686D

Miami, FL 33174

305-552-4602 Telephone

305-552-3849 FAX

305-525-1644 Cell ----- Forwarded by Roseanne Lucas/RAD/FPL on 12/14/2005 10:29 AM -----

"Carmen Pena" <cpena@psc.stat FL.US&gt; <cpena@psc.state.fl.us>, "Ralph Jaege</cpena@psc.state.fl.us></cpena@psc.stat 	cc:	Roseanne_Lucas@fpl.com "Carmen Pena"
12/13/2005 01:3 PM		aeger@PSC.STATE.FL.US>

& Light - Case 614984E

Subject: Mary Ann Valdez Vs. Florida Power

#### Roseanne:

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Could you please forward us the billing and payment history of the consumer for the last seven months of the year 2004.

Our records only have until May 2004.

Our attorney Ralph Jaeger needs to have this information as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Carmencita (Embedded image moved to file: pic04954.gif)

12/14/02 18762-99054	# JooA		bleV anA yieN vA ST WS ford		Same: Address:					
	TOTAL DUE	освід Гревід		<b>TVBMYAG</b>		BILL AMOUNT	КМН	METER	∃TAΩ	O' AR
Regular bill	\$144.24				00.0\$	\$144.24	9671	21886	5/11/2004	
Payment	00.0\$		ļ	(\$144.24)	\$144.24				£/27/2004	┡
Billing canceled	(78.939.87)		(78.939.87)		00.0\$				6/1/2005	L
Revenue Protection back billing	\$6,243.01		(		(78.959,87)	\$18,182.88			<del>\$002/1/9</del>	L
Investigation Charges	07.807,6\$	69`997\$	<b>_</b>	<u> </u>	\$9,243.01				¢/1/2004	L
Payment	\$5,426.70			(\$2,282.00)					6/4/2004	
Reconnect Service Charge	\$5,444.36	99'21\$			\$2,426.70				6/4/2004	L
Regular bill	\$2,736.80		· .		\$2,444.36	\$292.44	3010	820	6/10/200 <del>4</del>	L
Payment			L	(08.957,2\$)	\$2,736.80				6/26/2004	
Regular bill	77.102\$				00.0\$	77.102\$	2083	2633	7/12/2004	
Payment				(77.102\$)	22.102\$				7/29/200 <del>4</del>	
Regular bill	91.1718				00.0\$	91.1718	0221	4703	8/10/2004	
Payment	00'0\$			(31.171\$)	91.1718				8/25/2004	
Regular bill	\$504.59				00.0\$	\$504.59	2118	1283	<b>7</b> 002/6/6	Γ
Payment	00'0\$			(\$204.59)	\$504.59				\$\30\200	Γ
Regular bill	07.081\$				00.0\$	\$180.40	0281	1698	10/8/2004	Γ
Payment	00'0\$			(01.0812)	04.0812			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	10/30/2004	T
Regular bill	\$126.28		1		00.0\$	\$126.28	1623	10314	11/8/2004	t
Payment	00.0\$	<u> </u>		(\$126.28)	\$126.28				11/27/2004	t
Regular bill	29.011\$	······	T		00.0\$	29.911\$	1247	19911	12/9/2004	T
Payment	00.0\$			(29.011\$)	29.011\$				500Z/L/L	┢

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FPL	Custom	er Inquiry Respor	nse	
Customer's First Na Last / Business Nan Alternate Name: Service Address:	ne: VALDES Robert Be	72ND AVE		
FPSC Log: Account #:	614984E 78752-99054	Received From: Response Type:	Joy Supplemental 2	

## **Response Comments:**

The following questions/concerns have been received from the FPSC and Mr. Behar, the customer's attorney.

 Mr. Behar indicated that the November 1999 bill used in the calculation may have been a true-up bill after previous estimated bills. It appears Mr. Behar is referring to the November 2000 bill. The September 2000 and October 2000 bills were originally estimated and the November 2000 bill was a true-up. The November 2000 kwh of 3164 was used in the original calculation.
 Svc Date KWH

KWH	
3164	true-up
1457	estimated
1830	estimated
	3164 1457

Can the back bill be recalculated on current usage?
 FPL would be willing to adjust the back billing using the original August 2003 data, since it is actual customer consumption and actual consumption used in June 2003.

Month	Year	KWH	Percent	Yearly	
August	2003	2719	10.01	32,595	projection
June	2003	723	9.49	32,655	projection

Adding the two data points and dividing by 2 provides an average of yearly total to multiply by the percent of usage for each month that is being recalculated. 32,595 + 32,655 / 2 = 32,625.

Valdes 614984E Page 2 of 2

Multiplying the average yearly total of 32,625 kwh by the percent of usage for each month being recalculated provides a rebill kwh amount of 174,743, which is an additional 74,203 kwh. The first rebilling was for an additional kwh of 103,379. This will provide approximately a \$2000.00 credit adjustment. The resulting balance may be more or less than \$2000.00.

- Can you please clarify why the months of November 2000 and August 2003 were chosen for recalculating the bills?
   November 2000 kwh usage appeared to be without benefit of tampering and August 2003 kwh usage was obtained from check meter readings by an investigator and is actual customer consumption. Only the most current 24 months of meter reading history provides information regarding estimated readings.
- Why did the back bill go all the way back to 1999? Per the final report, back billing began with January 1999 due to the investigator's check readings, projections and regressive reading. These factors contributed to a reasonable belief that tampering had been occurring a long time.
- Please explain the difference in the two figures for August 2003. FPL reported the usage for August 2003 as 1619; however, FPL's report states it calculated the rebill based on August 2003 usage of 2719.

The July 10, 2003 regular read date actual reading was 84450. A check read of 87169 was obtained by the investigator on August 4, 2003. The difference is 2,719 kwh in 25 days. The kwh of 2719 is divided by 25, multiplied by 30 and then divided by the percent of 10.01 to arrive at the yearly projected kwh consumption of 32,595.

The August 8, 2003 regular read date reading was estimated at 86063, originally billing 1613 kwh.

Approval Signature:	Linda Cochran
Approver's Title:	Revenue Protection Specialist
Date of Approval:	12/10/2004

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	FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DISPUTE RESOLUTION FORM FPSC Complaint Number: <u>614984E</u>	JUN 1 3 2005 Florida Russia Russia Contrated Division of KCA
COD WE THUS	Utility: Florida Power and Light Company	
	Consumer to provide the following information:	
Consumer's Name:	Mary Ann Valdes	_
Address/Apartment	: 6101 Southwest 72 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue	_
City/State/Zip: <u>Mia</u>	mi, Florida 33143-1864	_
Daytime Telephone	Number:     (305)     264-9700     Home:       FAX:     305     267.7900	_
E-mail address:	RBEHAR @ ROBERTBENARLAW. COM	_
	entative (if applicable): Attorney Robert Behar	
	Utility to provide the following information:	
Account Holder:		
Utility Contact Perso	on:	
Telephone Number:	FAX:	
E-mail address:		

Please address the following statements using additional pages if necessary.

Describe the facts that gave rise to the complaint and the reason why it appears to be a violation of applicable statutes, rules, company tariffs, and/or orders of the Commission. Statements should not raise any new issues not addressed in the initial complaint. Any new issues will be considered as a separate complaint.

PLEASE SEE ATTRINED	9 PALES
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entify the issue	e(s) to be res	olved.		<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>		 
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PSC/CAF 010 (New 01/04)

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Continuation of Dispute Resolution Form Public Service Commision Complaint No. <u>614984E</u>

Describe the facts that gave rise to the complaint and the reason why it appears to be violation of applicable statutes, rules, company tariffs, and/or orders fot he Commission. Statements should not raise any new issues not addressed in the initial complaint. Any new issues will be considered as a separate complaint.

FPL backbilled the above referenced consumer a total of \$9,708.70 for billing through January 9, 1999 through May 11, 2004 based on the allegations of meter tampering. Assuming, for argument's sake, that the tampering allegations are true, the back-billed amount is excessive, abusive, and indicative of FPL taking advantage of this opportunity to penalize the consumer and obtain a financial gain.

FPL alleges in their papers that the alleged tampering began in the year1999. FPL came to this conclusion on the basis that there was a regressive reading in 1999. That is that there was a decrease in consumption in 1999. As will be explained below, the decrease was insignificant; however, FPL chose this point in time, almost six years prior, in order to back bill for an excessive period. They also failed to mention or note that the consumers consumption actually increased significantly in subsequent years. According to the computations used for the back billing by FPL for the first year of tampering there was an over 120% increase from 1998-1999. This increase not only is excessive but nearly impossible.

The decrease in the actual consumption in 1999 from 1998 was approximately only 10%. In terms of dollars, the consumer saved \$210.00 over the course of year 1999, and FPL has commenced the back billing as far back as 1999 based on this decrease. It is not only convenient but very profitable for FPL to go back to 1999. As explained above, they actually found 1999, a year where less kwh were consumed than the in the previous year, 1998. They apparently failed

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to consider whether there were any changes in the household that would save on electricity consumption (ie. installation of a Gas dryer, light sensors added, energy efficient bulbs, more awareness of A/C temperature setting when not at home, etc. . .) The only regressive reading found, going back in the household history, as far as they could was in 1999 where there was an actual savings of only10% or approx. \$210.00 savings over the course of the entire year. Only 10% which is less than promised by the FPL Energy Savings Guide; yet they attribute this small 10% decrease to the alleged meter tampering and at the same time back bill an amount for the same year by an increase of over 120%.

- In 1998 the ACTUAL consumption was 16,814 kwh

- In 1999 the ACTUAL consumption was 14.239 kwh

a savings throughout the course of the year of approximately \$210.00)

- FPL back billed for 1999 <u>37,999</u> kwh (over 120% increase [more than double] from the previous year prior to the alleged tampering)

Here is a chart of what was consumed in 1998 (per month) prior to the alleged tampering (on the left) to what was back billed by FPL for the following year (on the right):

Actual	Estimated
Dec-Jan 1998 – 1113 kwh	Dec-Jan 1999 – 2854 kwh
Jan-Feb 1998 – 700 kwh	Jan-Feb 1999 – 2402 kwh
Feb-March 1998 – 682 kwh	Feb-March 1999- 2174 kwh
Mar-Apr 1998 – 1022 kwh	Mar-Apr 1999 – 2675 kwh
Apr-May 1998 – 1775 kwh	Apr-May 1999 – 3085 kwh
May-June 1999 – 1740 kwh	May-June 1999 – 3443 kwh

Page 2 of 7



 June-July 1998 – 1852 kwh
 June-July 1999– 3712 kwh

 July-Aug 1998 – 1733 kwh
 July-Aug. 1999 – 4267 kwh

 Aug-Sept. 1998 – 2137 kwh
 Aug-Sept. 1999 – 4108 kwh

 Sept-Oct. 1998 – 1720 kwh
 Sept-Oct. 1998 – 3686 kwh

 Oct-Nov 1998 – 1316 kwh
 Oct-Nov 1999 – 2956 kwh

 Nov-Dec 1998 – 1023 kwh
 Nov-Dec 1999 – 2637 kwh

Furthermore, if it is "reasonable to believe," as FPL states in their papers, that tempering started in 1999, then in the year 2000 there would not have been an 46% increase in kwh consumed by the consumer. If tempering had occurred, why would the consumer increase his/her electrical consumption by 46%.

FPL claims that it is "reasonable to believe" that the tampering began in 1999; however, when deciding when to begin the back billing, the investigators did not look for a decrease in consumption that would make it reasonable to believe that tampering had begun, instead the investigators searched and arbitrarily chose the first decrease in the entire history of the meter, and opted for that point as the "reasonable to believe" point in time the alleged tampering began. There is NO reason to believe that the alleged tampering began in 1999 when the following year consumption increased by 46%.

The best evidence that shows that FPL investigators are taking advantage of this situation is that the month they chose as a basis to calculate, what they believe/computed is the true back billed consumption is November, 2000. This is outrageous. November, 2000 was not a month were

Page 3 of 7



the consumption or bill for that period represented the actual consumption or for the month of November. FPL knows very well that the consumption for the 2 moths prior to November, 2000 were ESTIMATED months; therefore, no one actually cam into the yard and read the meter. The two months were grossly and obviously underestimated, based on the year before, and the November consumption documented by FPL for November was for November plus what had been underestimated for the prior two months. This resulted in an incredibly inflated November month's reading. Yet FPL conveniently and maliciously chose this month as one of the two months to insert in their formula to compute the back billing. This is outrageous and should not be permitted. Never in the consumers kwh consumption had her kwh consumption reached the 3000 kwh mark, yet based on this FPL chose to believe the highest reading ever in the history of the meter, knowing that it was unreliable and unrepresentative because the two prior months were underestimated making November 2000 consumption more than 2 times the next highest month that year. FPL knowingly used the month of November 2000 as a benchmark not only being the highest kwh reading in the history of the meter but also the most inaccurate.

Increase in kwh in the year 2000 compared to year 1999 actual meter reading

Jan 00-59 more kwh

Feb 00- 246 more kwh

Mar 00- 552 more kwh

Apr 00- 598 more kwh

May 00- 445 more kwh

June 00- 670 more kwh

July 00-891 more kwh

Aug 00-640 more kwh



Sept 00-same estimated

October 00-321 estimated more kwh

Nov 00- 1932 more kwh (this is the month they used to calculate the backbilling) Dec 00- 527 more kwh -Estimated by =\*

\* Sept 1999- 1830 kwh
\* Sept 2000- 1830 kwh
October 1999- 1136 kwh
\* October 2000- 1457 kwh
November 1999- 1232 kwh
November 2000-3164 kwh professional

More evidence that it is not reasonable to believe tampering began in 1999 is that 2001 also had an increase in kwh over year 1999. Consumption in 2001 had a **63%** increase over 1999. Every subsequent year after 1999 has had a significant increase in kwh consumption.

Another point to address that FPL is taking advantage of this situation is that they used November 2000 for deceptive reasons, with a yearly total of 43,402 kwh and they also used August 2003 (the hottest month of the year) with a yearly total of 32, 595 kwh. These are the only two months they used to calculate a "FAIR" ESTIMATED USAGE FOR EACH MONTH IN THE YEAR. We have shown that reliance on November 2000 is completely inappropriate, and August 2003 which is the hottest month of the year therefore the highest kwh. When you take the 2 largest months possible, add them, divide them by 2 then apply the largest number to an approved order (PSC-96-1216-FOF-E1) it would result in not only a largely over-inflated

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number, but a very inaccurate one.

Lastly we have attached the data of FPL's back billing computations, and the actual meter readings from the date the meter was replaced with a new meter by FPL in approximately May 2004. The pink, blue, brown, dark blue, light blue, yellow, and rust color lines depict the KWH consumption as per FPL's computation for the back billing. In other words they depict the basis for back billing the consumer \$9,708.70. The lonely black and red lines below the above mentioned colors depict the actual meter readings from the new, clearly untampered meter from approximately May 2004 (black) through May 2005 (red). If we take these as true and accurate (**as we must**, unless FPL claims the new meter has been tampered with) one sees the grossly excessive back billing which has taken place.

Identify the issue to be resolved.

Whether the back billing in this case by FPL was excessive. Specifically, whether FPL was correct in back billing since January 1999, and whether November 2000 and August 2003 should have been used as the basis for the back billing computations. Please see explanation above supporting inadequacy and unreliability of these dates.

Identify any specific dollar amount in dispute, if applicable.

\$9,708.70

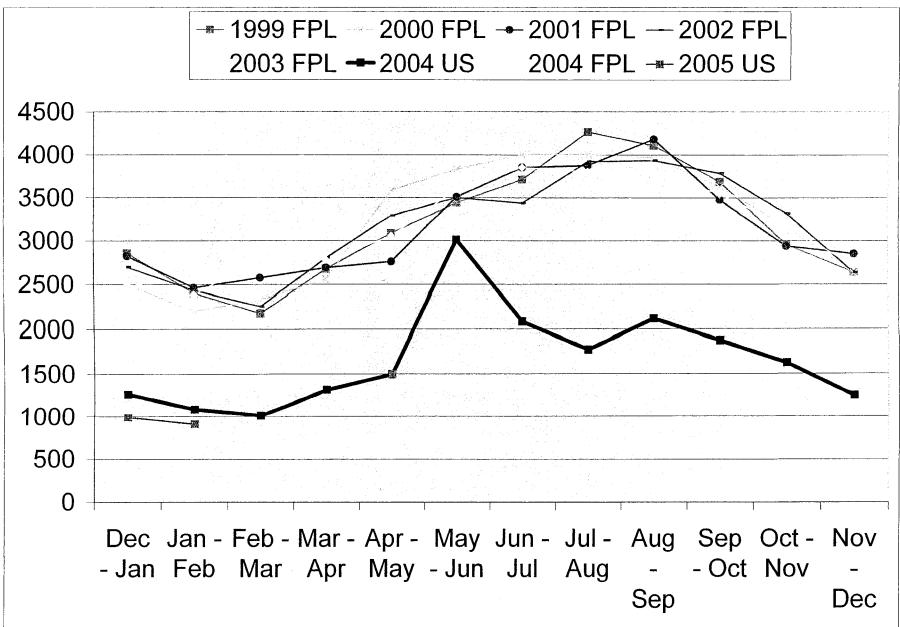
Provide a suggested resolution of the relief sought.

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As discussed and suggested by Joy Anderson of the Public Service Commission, a fair back billing should be computed and based on the consumption from the time the new meter was installed at the consumers residence.

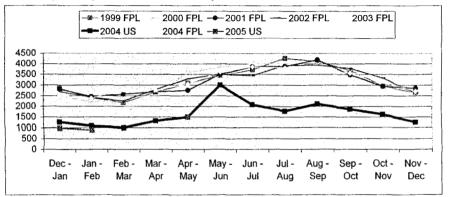
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	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Dec - Jan	985	1044	1691	1621	1061	1264
	2854	2497	2823	2698	2527	2527
Jan - Feb	759	1005	1216	1463	1022	1086
	2402	2200	2462	2432	2379	2379
Feb - Mar	632	1184	1455	1068	1430	1010
	2174	2329	2576	2253	2797	2797
Mar - Apr	884	1482	1601	1631	1572	1314
	2675	2557	2690	2797	2778	2778
Apr - May	1303	1748	1664	2254	1595	1495
	3085	3587	2759	3291	3051	3051
May - Jun	1322	1992	1994	1512	1588	3010
	3443	3834	3511	3500	3606	
Jun - Jul	1392	2283	2207	1412	1625	2083
	3712	4005	3853	3435	3853	
Jul - Aug	1856	2496	2428	1694	1613	1770
	4267	4005	3876	3921	3804	
Aug - Sep	1830	1830	2665	1579	1631	2118
	4108	3963	4184	3933	3785	
Sep - Oct	1136	1457	2054	1551	1560	
	3686	3625	3477	3785	3545	
Oct - Nov	1232	3164	1851	1401	1683	
	2956	3164	2937	3317	3169	
Nov - Dec	908	1425	1505	1414	1711	
	2637	2626	2850	2633	2709	
Totals	49,601	56,876	57,479	53,962	53,385	28,682
FPL Estimate	of KWH					
Service Date	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Dec - Jan	2854	2497	2823	2698	2527	2527
Jan - Feb	2402	2200	2462	2432	2379	2379
Feb - Mar	2174	2329	2576	2253	2797	2797
Mar - Apr	2675	2557	2690	2797	2778	2778
Apr - May	3085	3587	2759	3291	3051	3051
May - Jun	3443	3834	3511	3500	3606	
Jun - Jul	3712	4005	3853	3435	3853	
Jul - Aug	4267	4005	3876	3921	3804	
Aug - Sep	4108	3963	4184	3933	3785	
Sep - Oct	3686	3625	3477	3785	3545	
Oct - Nov	2956	3164	2937	3317	3169	
Nov - Dec	2637	2626	2850	2633	2709	
Totals	37,999	38,392	37,998	37,995	38,003	13,532

	Dec - Jan	Jan - Feb			- 1 -		Jun - Jul	Jul - Aug	-	Sep - Oct		Nov -
			Mar	Apr	May	Jun			Sep		Nov	Dec
1999 US	985	759	632	884	1303	1322	1392	1856	1830	_1136	1232	908
1999 FPL	2854	2402	2174	2675	3085	3443	3712	4267	4108	3686	2956	2637
2000 Us	1044	1005	1184	1482	1748	1992	2283	2496	1830	1457	3164	1425
2000 FPL	2497	2200	2329	2557	3587	3834	4005	4005	3963	3625	3164	2626
2001 US	1691	1216	1455	1601	1664	1994	2207	2428	2665	2054	1851	1505
2001 FPL	2823	2462	2576	2690	2759	3511	3853	3876	4184	3477	2937	2850
2002 US	1621	1463	1068	1631	2254	1512	1412	1694	1579	1551	1401	1414
2002 FPL	2698	2432	2253	2797	3291	3500	3435	3921	3933	3785	3317	2633
2003 US	1061	1022	1430	1572	1595	1588	1625	1613	1631	1560	1683	1711
2003 FPL	2527	2379	2797	2778	3051	3606	3853	3804	3785	3545	3169	2709
2004 US	1264	1086	1010	1314	1495	3010	2083	1770	2118	1870	1623	1247
2004 FPL	2527	2379	2797	2778	3051							
2005 US	989	908			1500					-		





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	Dec - Jan	Jan - Feb	Feb -	Mar -	Apr -	May -	Jun - Jul	Jul - Aug	Aug -	Sep - Oct	Oct -	Nov -
			Mar	Apr	May	Jun			Sep		Nov	Dec
3	985											

1999 US 1999 FPL

2854

Request No. 614984E	Name MARY ANN	*					
Consumer Inform	ation	Sent to Agenda:	Florida Public Service				
		Conf. Agenda Date: / /	Commission - Consumer Request				
Name: MARY ANN VALDES		Form X Date Sent:05/13/2005	2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard				
Business Name:		Form X Date Due: 06/06/2005	Tallahassee, Florida 32399				
Svc Address: 6101 SW 72ND AV	Ε.	Form X Received Late: N	850-413-6100				
Phone:							
Can Be Reached: (305)-264-9	Can Be Reached: (305)-264-9700		Review Settlement Deadline: 02/22/2005				
	1 22742	Review Analyst: KATE SMITH					
City/Zip: Miami	/ 33143-	Pre. Conf. Sett. Amount:	0.00				
Date Transferred to BCO:	12/01/2004	Pre. Conf. Settement:					
Date Received by BCO:	12/01/2004	Informal Conference Deadline:	/ /				
Suspense Date:	01/07/2005	Informal Conf. Sch.: Y Confer	cence Analyst: JOHN PLESCOW				
Utility Information		Date of Informal Conference: 08	3/24/2005				
Company Code: EI802		Informal Conf. Sett. Amount:	0.00 Informal Conf. Settement:				
		Informal Conf. Resolve:	Conf. Closed Date: / /				
Company: FLORIDA POWER & LIC	SHT COMPANY	Post Conf. Sett. Amount:	0.00				
Attn. Roseanne Lucas614984	Е	Post Conf. Settement:					

Preclose Type - Improper Bills

Other Comments:

Mr. Behar is the representative for the customer. The customer was disconnected in May for current diversion. Customer made payment to restore service. Customer is disputing the amount of the backbilling, as well as, the fact the meter was tampered with. Mr. Behar would like to be contacted regarding this matter.

Per Consumer Complaint Rule 25-22.032, please use the following procedures when responding to PSC complaints. 1. Complaint resolution should be provided to the customer via direct contact with the customer, either verbally or in writing within 15 working days after the complaint has been sent to the company.

2. A response to the PSC is due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, of the 15th working days after the complaint has been sent

Request No. 614984E Name MARY ANN VALDES Business Name

PAGE NO: 1

attorney B Con an

to the company.

3. The response should include the following:

- a) the cause of the problem
- b) actions taken to resolve the customer's complaint
- c) the company's proposed resolution to the complaint
- d) answers to any questions raised by staff in the complaint
- e) confirmation the company has made direct contact with the customer

4. Send your written response to the PSC, and copies of all correspondence with the customer to the following e-mail, fax, or physical addresses:

E-Mail - pscreply@psc.state.fl.us Fax - 850-413-7168

Mail - 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Case taken by Angela Calhoun

08/27/2004 Corrected customer name and address. Resent to FPL. ACalhoun

09/14/2004 Report received via e-mail. EEstelle

09-23-04 Customer states that the company hasn't called him to resolve the issue yet. Customer called on status. P. Walker

In addition, Customer is requesting a copy of the report from FPL. Customer is faxing additional info to Joy. P. Walker

10/01/04 - Attempted to Robert Behar, customer's attorney. Was advised that Mr. Behar was unavailable. Advised receptionist that I was attempting to provide some requested information to Mr. Behar. Receptionist provided a fax number of (305) 264-7900 for Mr. Behar. janderson

10/01/04 - Faxed copy of company's response to (305) 264-7900. janderson

10/14/04 - Reviewed report. According to the company's report, the customer's attorney was contacted. The company reports that as a result of an ongoing two-year investigation, the company, the State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Police Department began taking action on approximately 120 customers who have been under investigation for organized electricity theft. Timing associated with various activities including billing and account disconnection for accounts that were part of the large investigation of organized theft were determined by the State Attorney's Office. Accounts investigated as part of the large organized theft ring were kept separate and apart from individual investigations handled by the company on a routine basis and for this reason were not entered into the company's automated system until several months of activity had taken place. On 08/11/03, the electric meter serving the residence at 6101 SW 72 Avenue, Miami, revealed a current diversion condition of dial tampering. This condition allowed the full use of the electric service within the residence without complete kilowatt-hour registration on the

Request No	. 614984E	Name	MARY ANN VALDES	Business Name	

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meter. The company reports that it did not authorize this condition.

On 06/10/03, the regular read date, the meter reading was 82825, billing 1588 kwh, for an electric amount of \$144.49.

On 06/17/03, a Revenue Protection Investigator obtained a check reading of 83548, indicating 723 kwh had been used in 7 days, which projects to 3090 kwh in 30 days. A rigged gold seal #42499 was also reported.

On 06/26/03, the investigator obtained a check reading of 84361, indicating 819 kwh had been used in 9 days, which projects to 2700 kwh in 30 days.

On 07/10/03, the regular read date, the meter reading was 84450, billing 1625 kwh, for an electric amount of \$147.92. Since the investigator's check reading of 84361 on 06/26/03 the meter had only advanced 89 kwh in 14 days, which projects to only 191 kwh in 30 days.

On 08/04/03, the investigator obtained a check reading of 87169, indicating 2719 kwh had been used in 25 days, which projects to 3263 kwh in 30 days.

On 08/08/03, the regular read date, the meter reading was estimated at 82063, billing 1613 kwh, for an electric amount of \$155.37.

On 08/11/03 the investigator obtained a check reading of 86430, which is regressive from the 08/04/03 check reading of 87169.

As a result of meter tampering, billing from billing period ending 01/09/99 through 05/11/04, totaling \$8,939.87 was canceled and rebilled for \$18,182.88, a difference of \$9,243.01 plus investigation charges totaling \$465.69, for a total back billed amount of \$9,708.70. Actual kwh consumption from November 2000 and August 2003 were used along with Seasonal Average to calculate the rebilling. The company reports that back billing began with January 1999 due to the investigator's check readings, projections and regressive reading. It was reasonable to believe tampering had been occurring a long time.

On 06/03/04, electric service was disconnected without notice. The meter man noted the central air conditioning was on, multiple outside lights were on, and indicated a large house with a pool. The customer was informed a payment of \$9,708.70 was required in order to have the service restored.

On 06/04/04, after speaking with the Revenue Protection representative, it was agreed to reconnect the service for a payment of \$7,282.00 and to provide a payment arrangement on the difference of \$2,426.70. Payment was received the same day, service was restored and a reconnect charge of \$17.66 was billed. An arrangement was established for the customer to pay \$2,426.70 with the regular 06/10/04 electric bill. Payment was received on time.

Meter 5C32805 was tested and revealed a Weighted Average Registration of 100.37%. The tester noted a broken inner seal,

Request No. 614984E	Name	MARY ANN VALDES	Business Name	AMICINE

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off scale, dial tampering, broken base, smudges on register and bent canopy ring.

Linda Cochran, Revenue Protection Specialist, spoke with Robert Behar, customer's attorney, and informed him that a letter of representation would be required before the customer's case could be discussed with him. Minimal information was provided to Mr. Behar regarding the special investigation for organized electricity theft. At time of the company's response, no further contact had been received from Mr. Behar, no letter of representation had been received and no contact had been received from the customer. janderson

10/14/04 - Contacted company to get meter removal and test date information. Spoke with Debbie. Debbie to research the matter and return my call. janderson

10/14/04 - Debbie returned my call. Debbie advised that the customer's meter was removed on 06/03/04. A new meter was set on that same date. Debbie advised that the customer's old meter was tested on 06/08/04. janderson

10/14/04 - Contacted company to get clarification on the 06/17/03 and 06/26/03 check readings. Spoke with Iris Lutes. Ms. Lutes to research the matter and return my call. janderson

10/15/04 - Joni Beugnot returned my call. Ms. Beugnot advised that the readings were correct; however, the kwh consumption was reported incorrectly. Ms. Beugnot advised the kwh consumption was 813 for the 06/26/03 reading. Question Ms. Beugnot about the date of the customer's backbilling. Ms. Beugnot advised that the backbilling occurred on 06/01/04. janderson

10/18/04 - Resolution letter forwarded to customer requesting contact by 11/04/04. janderson

11/04/04 Customer correspondence received by fax. Forward to JAnderson. DHood

11/16/04 - Contacted Mr. Behar about the additional information that he advised would be forthcoming. Mr. Behar advised that he was in the process of compiling the information. Questioned Mr. Behar for an exact date when the compilation would be completed and the information provided to the Commission. Mr. Behar advised that he would provide the information on 11/24/04. janderson

11/29/04 (11/24/04 date on fax) Customer correspondence received by fax. Forward to JAnderson. DHood

12/01/04: Ref customer correspondence of 11/24/04, Mr. Behar is requesting additional time to provide additional information to the PSC. His previous correspondence of 11/04/04, Mr. Behar advised that the matter should not be considered resolved. Forwarding case file to Process Review. RRoland

12/01/04: Delivered case file to Process Review. RRoland

RIGINAL

Request No. 614984E

Name MARY ANN VALDES

December 1, 2004: We received an e-mail at approximately 2:41 p.m. indicating that this case had been assigned to the Process Review Team. The case is open. Copy of the e-mail has been placed in the case file. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

December 1, 2004: FAXED TO THE COMPANY: THE CUSTOMER'S CASE HAS BEEN REASSIGNED TO THE PROCESS REVIEW TEAM. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE COLLECTION ACTION ON THE CUSTOMER'S ACCOUNT FOR ANY DISPUTED AMOUNT, IF APPLICABLE, REGARDING THE CASE, PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCESS REVIEW. A member of the PSC's Process Review Group will be following up with the company regarding this case. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

The above message was faxed to the company at approximately 4:42 p.m. Copy of the fax log report has been placed in the case file.

The PRG staff in charge of reviewing this case is Kate Smith. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

December 1, 2004: This case was e-mailed from Margarita Valdez' computer to the company at approximately 4:48 p.m. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

December 6, 2004: A review of this file indicates that the customer is disputing the amount of the backbill. There is no dispute as to whether or not the meter was tampered with.

I called the customer's attorney, Mr. Robert Behar. We discussed the case at great length.

The customer is seeking a reduction in the backbilled amount. Mr. Behar alleged that the November 1999 bill used in the calculation may have been a true-up bill. The September and October 1999 bills were estimated very low. When the meter was actually read in November, the resulting bill was too high. Mr. Behar insisted that the customer's usage was consistent throughout the backbilled period. I looked at the company's chart and really didn't see anything usual. There were periods of low usage, but the usage in the period backbilled did not seem to show a sustained drop. KSmith

December 6, 2004: I sent the following email to FPL. KSmith

I spoke with her attorney Mr. Behar at length this morning. The customer is not disputing the tampering. However, they are seeking a reduction in the backbilled amount. It appears that the November 1999 bill used in the calculation may have been a true-up bill. The customer is alleging that both September and October 1999 were estimated very low. When the meter was actually read in November, the resulting bill was too high.

Can you verify this for me?

RIGINA

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Name MARY ANN VALDES

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Question: Can the backbill be recalculated on current usage? I know that the customer could be actively conserving, but it would be interesting to see the difference, if any.

Mr. Behar insisted that the customer's usage was consistent throughout the backbilled period. I looked at your chart and really didn't see anything usual. Can you please clarify for me why those two months used were chosen and why the backbill went all the way aback to 1999?

Can I please have a supplemental report by December 13, 2004. Thank you.

December 6, 2004: In my discussions with Mr. Behar, he advised me that the customer has paid the entire bill. KSmith

December 6, 2004: I reviewed the usage chart provided by FPL. The customer alleged that the September and October 1999 bills were estimate low. Therefore, the November 1999 bill was a true-up and would be higher than normal. The usage chart does not appear to support this. The kwh in September 1999 was 1830; in October it was 1135 and in November 1999, the usage was 1232 kwh.

The months used to backbill were November 2000 and August 2003. FPL reported the usage for November 2000 as 3164 kwh. For August 2003, FPL reported usage of 1619. However, in its report, FPL stated it calculated the rebill based on August 2003 usage of 2719.

NOTE TO COMPANY: Please explain the difference in these two figures for August 2003 (see note above). Please include this information in the supplemental report due on December 13, 2004. Thank you. December 10, 2004: Supplement report received. FPL used actual readings to calculate the backbill. The billing back to 1999 was based on meter checks and actual readings. FPL is willing to recalculate the bill based on current usage. I sent the following email to FPL. KSmith

Joni, do I read this report correctly. FPL is willing to recalculate the backbill which COULD result in a \$2.000 reduction/credit for the customer? Is so, please go ahead and let me know the figures so I can present them to the attorney. Perhaps that will help resolve the issue. Thank you. Kate

December 10, 2004: I received the following email from FPL. KSmith

We are making the offer to rebill, but will not rebill until after a Settlement Agreement is prepared and is signed by the customer. As indicated in the report, the credit will be approximately \$2000.00.

("This will provide approximately a \$2000.00 credit adjustment. The resulting balance may be more or less than \$2000.00") Please contact the attorney and ask him to discuss with his client. Joni S Beugnot

December 10, 2004: I called Mr. Behar, attorney for Ms. Valdes. He was not in the office. I left a message with his secretary that I had a settlement offer from FPL. I asked for a return call. KSmith

Request No. 614984E

Name MARY ANN VALDES

December 13, 2004: Having not heard back from Mr. Behar, I called his office to discuss the settlement offer from FPL. He was not available so I left another message asking for a return call. KSmith

December 13, 2004: I called Mr. Behar and was able to speak with him. We discussed the company's settlement offer. He indicated that he believed the backbill was abusive and punitive. We discussed the seasonal average formula and the customer's current usage. Mr. Behar indicated that he thought the backbill would still be too high. I explained that FPL chose the months of June and August of 2003 because those were months when they were reasonable sure no current diversion had taken place. These months were verified with meter reading checks.

The customer still does not have the paperwork they promised to send ready. Mr. Behar could not provide a date when the material would be ready for review by the Commission. Mr. Behar promised Ms. Anderson that he would be sending the documentation on September 23, 2004.

I explained to him that the customer had paid the entire bill. If the company recalculated the bill based on the months it chose, June and August of 2003, it would result in a credit of approximately \$2,000 to the customer. FPL would most likely send Ms. Valdes a check. Mr. Behar indicated that the amount of the credit was not sufficient and declined the offer. KSmith

January 31, 2005: This case will be addressed at the PRT meeting of February 22, 2005. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

February 25, 2005: I spoke with Ms. Lucas at FPL about the August 8, 2003 reading. I asked for information as to why it was estimated after the company just got an actual reading four days earlier on the 4th of August. Also, I asked why it was estimated so low - more than 5,000 kwh lower that the actual read taken on August 4th. Ms. Lucas will look into the case and send a e-mail answering these questions. KSmith

February 28, 2005: I received the following email from FPL. KSmith

There is a typographical error on the Final Report for Valdes. A check of the customer's account reflects the regular meter reading date of 8/08/03 as an estimated bill with a meter reading of 86063, as follows:

READ DATE	TIME	RDG	USAGE	DAYS	TYPE	STATUS	
08/08/03		10:26	86063	1613		29K	*FE

\*The reading was estimated due to a locked fence.

Please note the file that the following sentence in the Final Report should be corrected to read, as follows:

On the regular read date of 8/8/03 the meter reading was estimated at

Request No. 614984E

Name MARY ANN VALDES

RIGINA

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(strikethrough: 82063), 86063 billing 1613 kwh, for an electric amount of \$155.37.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Roseanne Lucas Regulatory Affairs 305-552-4602

February 28, 2005: I obtained two telephone numbers for Ms. Valdes. I called both numbers to speak with her or leave a message. On 305-661-5001, I left a message identifying myself and asking her to call me. I left my direct number as well as the 800#. It appears that whoever placed the recorded message on her machine speaks English quite well.

On 305-577-4775, I reached the Steel Hector and Davis Law Firm. I asked to speak with Ms. Valdes and was transferred to her line. When I asked to speak with her, the woman who answered said she didn't know any such person. The woman answering the phone appears to have been Hispanic.

I then called Mr. Behar's office. He has been out of town for some time, but is returning to the office tomorrow, March 1, 2005. I left a message with the secretary telling her that Mr. Behar needed to supply his promised documentation no later than close of business March 10, 2005. I left my name and telephone number. KSmith

February 28, 2005: I called Steel Hector & Davis at 305-577-7000. The secretary confirmed that the number provided to me by FPL belonged to them (305-577-4775). It appears that the owner of this number is Christy Valdes. I left a message on her voice mail explaining the reason for my call and that I was trying to help Ms. Mary Anne Valdes. I asked for a call back. KSmith

March 1, 2005: I received a voice message from Mr. Behar. He asked for a return call and mentioned that he knew I had called his client. KSmith

March 2, 2005: I returned Mr. Behar's call, but had to leave a message asking for a return call. KSmith

March 4, 2005: Mr. Behar returned my call. He advised me that he would send a letter indicating he was representing Ms. Valdes. Also, he said he sent in the documentation prepared by his client. He was willing to resend it if necessary. He indicated that the customer's usage now was significantly lower than those months used for the backbill. He is willing to go to informal conference if necessary. KSmith

March 7, 2005: After verifying that we had not received any documentation from Mr. Behar, I called his office and asked to have it resent. KSmith

March 7, 2005: Received faxed letter from Mr. Behar stating that his law firm represents Ms. Valdes. KSmith

Name MARY ANN VALDES

RIGINAL

May 13, 2005: A dispute resolution form with a cover letter have been forwarded to the customer's legal representative, attorney Robert Behar via certified and regular mail. The completed dispute resolution is to be postmarked no later than June 6, 2005. Copy of the form and letter were faxed to the company. The fax log report indicates that the aforementioned document was faxed to Florida Power & Light at 3:52 p.m. Copy of the letter and the dispute resolution have been placed in the case file. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

May 20, 2005: The green card belonging to the certified correspondence forwarded to the customer has been received. The post office delivered the letter on May 18, 2005. The card has been placed in the case file. Carmen Peña -Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

May 25, 2005: At approximately 4:24 p.m. on May 24, 2005, the office of attorney R. Behar forwarded an e-mail with a letter of acknowledgment attached. The letter acknowledges that the completed dispute resolution is to be postmarked by June 6, 2005. Copy of the e-mail and the cover sheet have been placed in the case file. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

June 13, 2005: We have not received the completed disputed resolution form from the legal representative of the consumer that was due June 6, 2005. At approximately 10:43 a.m. I contacted the company and spoke to Joni Beugnot. The attorney nor the consumer have contacted FP&L. The disputed amount was paid before the filing of the complaint. On June 4, 2005, Ms. Valdes paid \$7,282.00 and on June 26, 2004, she paid \$2,736.80. The total amount paid to FP&L was \$10,018.80. If we do not receive today the completed dispute resolution with the postmark of June 6, 2005 by tomorrow, this case will be closed. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

June 14, 2005: The completed dispute resolution form was stamped received at the PSC on June 13, 2005. The postmark date on the envelope with the completed dispute resolution form is dated June 6, 2005. The form has been submitted in a timely manner. A second completed dispute resolution form was mailed to the attention of Joy Anderson, the specialist handling the case in the call center.

The completed dispute resolution form has 9 pages of addendums. The first seven pages are in reply to the dispute resolution form. The eighth page is a graph comparing the consumer's electric consumption as presented by FP&L and the consumer's opinion of actual consumption. The ninth page is showing FP&L's actual billing from 1999 to 2004, FP&L's estimate of consumption (re-billing) from 1999 to 2004. A comparison table of what FP&L's re-billing is compared to the consumer's opinion of what the billing should be. A smaller version of the graph presented on page 8, is also on page nine. A scale summary of the final back-billing is shown to compare between FP&L's 2,854 additional kwh usage versus the consumer's opinion of 985 kwh. usage.

Copies of the documents have been placed in the case file. A copy of the case has been forwarded to John Plescow to begin pre-informal conference negotiations. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

07-05-2005 - Mr. Behar called. In his message, he requested to know the status of the complaint. He requested I return his call, and he provided (305)264-9700, as his call back number./JPlescow

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Name MARY ANN VALDES

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07-05-2005 - I spoke to Mr Behar. We discussed the complaint and related PSC rules.

MR. Behar believes the estimated backbill is higher than is reasonable. he has provided supporting documentation. He would like the company to use the customer's consumption, since the new meter was installed, to calculate the backbill. Mr. Behar is also willing to have an energy audit performed, which he believes would prove the estimated bill is more than would be reasonable for the customer's home. Note, he would still have to get his client's's approval, before the audit could be conducted.

Mr. Behar is also willing to provide receipts, for gas appliances, and gas bills, which he believes would show the customer's bill should be lower than FPL's estimated.

I told MR. Behar I would relay the above information to FPL, and I would follow-up with him./JPlescow

07-05-2005 - I called Ms. Lucas with FPL, but she will not be in the office until tomorrow. I requested she return my call./JPLescow

07-18-2005 - I left a message for the customer's lawyer, requesting he return my call.

I need to know if the customer will agree to the energy audit, and can FPL staff contact the customer, to schedule the visit?/JPlescow

August 4, 2005: An informal conference has been scheduled. A letter has been forwarded to the legal representative of the consumer (attorney Robert Behar) by certified and regular mail. The date of the informal conference will be Wednesday, August 24, 2005, beginning at 1:30 p.m., in Room 136 at the Betty Easley Building, via phone. The toll free number for the consumer and the company to call in is 1-800-416-4254. Copy of the letter has been faxed to the company. The fax log report and copy of the letter have been placed in the case file. RCCA will be represented by John Plescow (850) 461-8118.

An e-mail has been forwarded to Bureau Chief Rhonda Hicks in reference to the scheduled informal conference. We have requested that an attorney and technical staff be assigned to this informal conference. A copy of the e-mail has been placed in the case file. Copies of the case file will be forwarded to the assigned attorney and technical staff. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

August 5, 2005: The informal conference team will be attorney Ralph Jaeger, (850) 413-6234, representing the Office of General Counsel, Connie Kummer, (850) 413-6701, representing ECR, and John Plescow (850) 413-6115, representing RCCA. Carmen Peña - Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

August 9, 2005: The informal conference team members have been forwarded a copy of the case file. Carmen Peña -Supervisor Process Review Group (BCR/RCA)

Request No. 614984E

Name MARY ANN VALDES

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## Carmen Pena

From: Sent: To: Randy Roland Wednesday, December 01, 2004 2:41 PM Carmen Pena

COMPLAINT 614984E IS A INFORMAL CONF. CASE

Mary ann Naldes (Regal rep\_) NP. Gettorney JPL Gehert Behar

(She case is open)

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#### LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT BEHAR

### A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

#### 7171 CORAL WAY SUITE 303 MIAMI FLORIDA 33155 TELEPHONE (305) 264-9700 FACSIMILE (305) 264-7900

## FACS MILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

TO:	Public	Service Commission				
ATTN:	Ms. Joy	Ms. Joy L. Anderson				
FAX:	(800) 5	(800) 511-0809				
FROM:	Law O	Law Offices of Robert Behar				
DATE:	Novem	November 224, 2004				
RE:	1	FPSC: Inquiry No. 614984 E				
PAGES:	2	Including Cover sheet.				

## IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION PLEASE CALL (305) 254-9700 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENTS:

Please see attached correspondence.

#### NbvcxMESSAGE

This facsimile contains PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION intended only for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this facsimile, nor the agent or employee responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any copying of this facsimile or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify us by telephone, collect, if necessary, and return the original facsimile to us at the address above via the U.S. Postal Service. We will reimburse you for postage. Thank you.

303204/300

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LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT BEHAR A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

7171 CORAL WAY SUITE 303 MIAMI FLORIDA 33155 TELEPHONE (305) 254-9700 FACSIMILE (305) 264-7900

November 24, 2004

Via Facsimile: (800) 511-0809

Ms. Joy L. Anderson Public Service Commission Capital Circle Office Center 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-(1850

#### Re: FPSC Inquiry No. 614984 E

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Although we have attempted to complete our research in support of our complaint in this matter, this firm is not able to provide you with our package by today as I indicated to you in our last telephone conversation.

We are doing everything possible to provide you with our package by next week. I hope that this does not create or cause you any inconvenience. Thank you for your current and anticipated further cooperation in this regard.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT BEHAR, P.A.

Robert Behar

RB/ap

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Description: AutoPrint Document		*
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#### LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT BEHAR A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

#### 7171 CORAL WAY SUITE 303 Miami Florida 33155 Telephone (305) 264-9700

FACSIMILE (305) 264-7900

## FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

TO:	Public Service Commission	ана та на при	
ATTN:	Ms. Joy L. Anderson		ALL AND A
FAX:	(800) 511-0809		
FROM:	Law Offices of Robert Behar	REAL WIRDL	and a second s
DATE:	November 4, 2004	NOV 04 2004	( and the second s
RE:	FPSC Inquiry No. 614984 E	Teridal Patilla Barvice Centerbanc	
PAGES:	2 Including Cover sheet		

IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION PLEASE CALL (305) 264-9700 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENTS:

Please see attached correspondence.

### MESSAGE

This facsimile contains PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION intended only for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this facsimile, nor the agent or employee responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any copying of this facsimile or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please immediately notify us by telephone, collect, if necessary, and return the original facsimile to us at the address above via the U.S. Postal Service. We will reimburse you for postage. Thank you.

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#### LAW OFFICES OF **ROBERT BEHAR** A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

7171 CORAL WAY SUITE 303 MIAMI FLORIDA 33155 TELEPHONE (305) 264-9700 FACSIMILE (305) 264-7900

November 4, 2004

Via Facsimile: (800) 511-0809

Ms. Joy L. Anderson Public Service Commission Capital Circle Office Center 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

NOV 04 2004

Division of RCA

## Re: FPSC Inquiry No. 614984 E

Dear Ms. Anderson:

I am writing to inform you that the above referenced matter should not be considered resolved. We have very compelling evidence that we intend on sharing with you regarding this matter; however, we have had to compile a great deal of information and figures which has been a long and arduous task. This firm will be sending you the basis of our client's complaint, and support thereof, within a short period of time. I anticipate that you will be in receipt of our evidence and arguments against FPL's excessive and outrageous back: billing of our client.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICES OF, ROBERT BEHAR, P.A. By: Robert Behar

RB/ap

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## STATE OF FLORIDA



DIVISION OF REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND CONSUMER ASSISTANCE DANIEL M. HOPPE, DIRECTOR (850) 413-6480

# Hublic Serbice Commission

October 18, 2004

Mr. Robert Behar Suite 300 7171 Coral Way Miami, FL 33155

## Re: FPSC Inquiry No. 614984E

Dear Mi. Behar:

This is a follow-up to your inquiry on behalf of Ms. Mary Ann Valdes concerning backbilling J Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).

Documentation provided to the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) by the company shows the following sequence of events:

- On June 10, 2003, the meter reading at Ms. Valdes' residence of 6101 Southwest 72 Avenue, Miami, Florida was 82825, billing 1588 kwh.
- On June 17, 2003, a FPL Revenue Protection Investigator obtained a check reading of 83548, indicating 723 kwh had been used in 7 days. The investigator also reported that gold seal #42499 was rigged.
- On June 26, 2003, a Revenue Protection Investigator obtained a check reading of 84361, indicating 813 kwh had been used in 9 days.
- On July 10, 2003, the meter reading was 84450, billing 1625 kwh since the June 10, 2003 meter reading.
- On August 4, 2003, a Revenue Protection Investigator obtained a check reading of 87169, indicating 2719 kwh had been used in 25 days.
- On August 8, 2003, the meter reading was estimated at 86063, billing 1613 kwh since the July 10, 2003 meter reading.

Internet E-mail: contact@psc.state.fl.us

- On August 11, 2003, a Revenue Protection Investigator obtained a check reading of 86430, which was regressive from the August 4, 2003 check reading of 87169.
- On June 1, 2004, billing from billing period ending January 9, 1999 through May 11, 2004, totaling \$8,939.87 was canceled and rebilled for \$18,182.88, a difference of \$9,243.01 plus investigation charges totaling \$465.69, for a total back billed amount of \$9,708.70.
- On June 3, 2004, the electric service at 6101 Southwest 72 Avenue was disconnected without notice. Meter 5C32805 was removed and a new meter was set. The meter man noted that the central air conditioning was on and multiple outside lights were on. The meter man also noted that the service was being supplied to a large house with a pool.
- On June 4, 2004, a Revenue Protection Representative agreed to reconnect the customer's service for a payment of \$7,282.00. The service was restored that same day, upon receipt of the payment. A reconnect charge of \$17.66 was billed and an arrangement was established for the customer to pay \$2,426.70 with the regular June 10, 2004 electric bill.
- On June 8, 2004, meter 5C32805 was tested and revealed a Weighted Average Registration of 100.37%. The meter tester noted a broken inner seal, off scale, dial tampering, broken base, smudges on register, and bent canopy ring.
- On June 10, 2004, payment was received on time.

PSC rule 25-6.104 states:

## "Unauthorized Use of Energy. In the event of unauthorized or fraudulent use, or meter tampering, the utility may bill the customer on a reasonable estimate of the energy used."

This rule authorizes electric utilities to backbill the customer of record for a reasonable estimate of the electricity consumed but not metered due to meter tampering or fraudulent use. It is not necessary for the utility to demonstrate who tampered with the meter. The company only needs to demonstrate that the meter was tampered with, and that you, as the customer of record, benefited from that tampering by paying less for electricity than you would have with a properly working meter. The company may also recover the cost of its investigation.

Documents provided to the PSC by FPL indicate that the company backbilled Ms. Valdes' account from January 9, 1999 until May 11, 2004. The company calculated the backbilled amount of \$9,708.70, which includes investigative costs of \$465.69, by using actual kilowatt consumption from November 2000 and August 2003 and seasonal average.

Mr. Robert Behar Page 3 October 18, 2004

It appears that FPL has backbilled your account in compliance with the rules of the PSC and that no adjustment is appropriate. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me toll free at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809 prior to November 4, 2004; otherwise, I will consider the matter resolved.

Sincerely,

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 $\mathcal{N}$ 

Joy L. Anderson Regulatory Specialist II

cc: Florida Power & Light Company

### **Eyvonne Estelle**

From: Sent: To: Subject: Joni\_S\_Beugnot@fpl.com Tuesday, September 14, 2004 1:54 PM PSCREPLY Valdes - 614984E



VALDES - Attachments 84E Final Respddes - 614984E

(See attached file: VALDES - 614984E Final Response.pdf) (See attached file:

Attachments Valdes - 614984E (12 pgs).pdf)

FPL	Customer Inqui	ry Response	
Customer's First Na Last / Business Nam Alternate Name: Service Address:		/E	
FPSC Log: Account #:		ed From: Joy nse Type: Final	

### **Response Comments:**

Mrs. Cochran, Revenue Protection Specialist, spoke with Mr. Robert Behar, an attorney who contacted the FPSC on behalf of Mary Ann Valdes.

The customer was disconnected in May due to meter tampering and made payment to have the service restored. The customer feels the back billing amount is excessive and disputes the meter tampering.

### Background:

As a result of an ongoing two-year investigation, FPL, the State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Police Department began taking action on approximately 120 customers who have been under investigation for organized electricity theft.

Timing associated with various activities including billing and account disconnection for accounts that were part of the large investigation of organized theft were determined by the State Attorney's Office.

Accounts investigated as part of the large organized theft ring were kept separate and apart from individual investigations handled by FPL on a routine basis and for this reason were not entered into FPL's automated system until several months of activity had taken place.

On August 11, 2003, the electric meter serving the residence at 6101 SW 72 Avenue, Miami, revealed a current diversion condition of dial tampering. This condition allowed the full use of the electric service within the residence without complete kilowatt-hour registration on the meter. Florida Power & Light did not authorize this condition.

Valdes 614984E Page 2 of 3

#### Investigation:

On the regular read date of 6/10/03 the meter reading was 82825, billing 1588 kwh, for an electric amount of \$144.49

On 6/17/03 a Revenue Protection investigator obtained a check reading of 83548, indicating 723 kwh had been used in 7 days, which projects to 3090 kwh in 30 days. A rigged gold seal #42499 was also reported.

On 6/26/03 the investigator obtained a check reading of 84361, indicating 819 kwh had been used in 9 days, which projects to 2700 kwh in 30 days.

On the regular read date of 7/10/03 the meter reading was 84450, billing 1625 kwh, for an electric amount of \$147.92. Since the investigator's check reading of 84361 on 6/26/03 the meter had only advanced 89 kwh in 14 days, which projects to only 191 kwh in 30 days.

On 8/4/03 the investigator obtained a check reading of 87169, indicating 2719 kwh had been used in 25 days, which projects to 3263 kwh in 30 days.

On the regular read date of 8/8/03 the meter reading was estimated at 82063, billing 1613 kwh, for an electric amount of \$155.37.

## On 8/11/03 the investigator obtained a check reading of 86430, which is regressive from the 8/4/03 check reading of 87169.

As a result of meter tampering, billing from billing period ending 1/9/99 through 5/11/04, totaling \$8,939.87 was canceled and rebilled for \$18,182.88, a difference of \$9,243.01 plus investigation charges totaling \$465.69, for a total back billed amount of \$9,708.70. Actual kwh consumption from November 2000 and August 2003 were used along with Seasonal Average to calculate the rebilling.

Back billing began with January 1999 due to the investigator's check readings, projections and regressive reading. It was reasonable to believe tampering had been occurring a long time.

- November 2000 kwh of 3164 divided by the average percent of use of 7.29% provided an average yearly total of 43,402 kwh.
- August 2003 kwh of 2719 divided by 25 days, multiplied by 30 days and divided by the average percent of use of 10.01% provided an average yearly total of 32,595.
- Adding the two yearly totals and dividing by 2 provides a total average yearly consumption of 37,999 kwh.

FPL multiplies the average yearly total of kwh by the specific monthly percentage of usage to determine the estimated usage for each month in the year. The original billed kwh is subtracted from the estimated monthly kwh, leaving the additional billed kwh.

Valdes 614984E Page 3 of 3

FPL maintains records that track the monthly residential kilowatt-hour sales within geographic areas. From these records a chart is prepared by dividing the monthly sales into the annual sales to obtain the percentage of usage for each month of the year. Since the annual sales for the most current year on the chart is not known until the end of the year, the previous year's sales is duplicated.

This method of back billing was approved by Order No. PSC-96-1216-FOF-El, issued September 24, 1996, in Docket No. 960903-El (In Re: Complaint of Mrs. Blanca Rodriguez against Florida Power & Light Company regarding alleged current diversion/meter tampering rebilling for estimated usage of electricity).

On 6/3/04 electric service was disconnected without notice. The meter man noted the central air conditioning was on, multiple outside lights were on, and indicated a large house with a pool. The customer was informed a payment of \$9,708.70 was required in order to have the service restored.

On 6/4/04, after speaking with the Revenue Protection representative, it was agreed to reconnect the service for a payment of \$7,282.00 and to provide a payment arrangement on the difference of \$2,426.70. Payment was received the same day, service was restored and a reconnect charge of \$17.66 was billed.

An arrangement was established for the customer to pay \$2,426.70 with the regular June 10 electric bill. Payment was received on time.

Meter 5C32805 was tested and revealed a Weighted Average Registration of 100.37%. The tester noted a broken inner seal, off scale, dial tampering, broken base, smudges on register and bent canopy ring.

Mrs. Cochran spoke with Mr. Behar and informed him that a letter of representation would be required before the customer's case could be discussed with him. Minimal information was provided to Mr. Behar regarding the special investigation for organized electricity theft.

To date, no further contact has been received from Mr. Behar, no letter of representation has been received and no contact has been received from the customer. If either Mr. Behar or the customer contacts Mrs. Cochran in the future, their concerns will be addressed.

It appears FPL is in compliance with F.A.C. 25-6.104 and 25-6.105(5)(i)(j).

### FPSC RECEIVED: 08/27/04 - FINAL RESPONSE: 09/14/04

Approval Signature:	Linda Cochran
Approver's Title:	Revenue Protection Specialist
Date of Approval:	09/14/2004

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		Customer Informat	lon:		
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VALOES GMMM METER MAINTENANCE/SELECT 08/31/04 6149849 78752-99054 81 09 195 ELE ACT 08/23/96 1/044/ 5C68301 TRTO MARY ANN VALDES PH (305)661-5001 S FPSC SPEC CDBI 11 CCIN 6101 SW 72ND AVE S/T# MIAMI FL 33143 P ACTION CD MTR NUMBER KWH CONST KWD CONST MFG SERIAL# CHN SET DATE (X/C) 43 5C 68301 1 0000.0000 06/03/04 MTR TYP HOW LEFT NO DIAL PULSE LOCK DIGITAL METER # REMV DATE ELE ON 5 ACTION CD MTR NUMBER KWH CONST KWD CONST MFG SERIAL# CHN SET DATE (X/C) 81 5C 32805 1 0000.0000 G 01/01/79 MTR TYP HOW LEFT NO DIAL PULSE LOCK DIGITAL METER # REMV DATE ELE ON 5 06/03/04 -----SSDR RECORDER INFORMATION------TYPE: MANUFACTURER: SERIAL NUMBER: NEXT TYPE A FIND GWA 90 COMPLETE LIST

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Jan	1/10/02 0	30	57578	O	1621	0	7.10	2698	O	
Dec	12/7/01 0	30	55957	C	1505	0	7.50	2850	O	
Nov	11/6/01 0	30	54452	O	1851	O	7.73	2937	0	
Oct	10/8/01 00	30	52601	O	2054	C	9.15	3477	0	
Sep	9/7/01 00	30	50547	O	2665	Q	11.01	4184	0	
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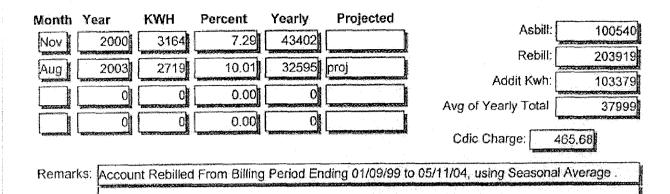
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Month: Svc To: Days: Kwh Read: Kwd Read: Kwh Asbill: Kwd Asbill: Pct Usage: Kwh Rebill: Kwd Rebill: Remarks:

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Aug	8/10/99 00	30	7410	0	1856	0	11.23	4267	0	
Jul	7/9/99 00	30	5554	0	1392	0	9.77	3712	0	
Jun	6/9/99 00	30	4162	0	1322	0	9.06	3443	0	
May	5/10/99 00	30	2840	0	1303	0	8.12	3085	0	
Apr	4/9/99 00	30	1537	0	884	0	7.04	2675	0	
Mar	3/10/99 00	30	653	0	632	0	5.72	2174	0	
Feb	2/9/99 00	30	21	0	759		6.32	2402	0	
Jan	1/9/99 00	30	99262	0	985	0	7.51	2854	0	

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A VALDES RPGC RPI GENERAL CASE INFO RPI GENERAL CASE INFO 08/31/04 78752-99054 81 09 195 ELE ACT 08/23/96 1/044/ 5C68301 TRTO MARY ANN VALDES PH (305)661-5001 S FPSC SPEC 6101 SW 72ND AVE CCIN S/T#ЭВІ MIAMI FL 33143 P RPI NUMBER 778040504 DATE CREATED 08/14/03 SOURCE OTH TYPE R4 STATUS BLLD INVESTIGATOR ASSIGNED TO CASE HJCOKYG HUMBERTO CUNILL ORIGINA DATE ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATOR 05/25/04 DATE INIT BONUS PAID 01/01/01 DATE EVIDENCE RECEIVED 05/25/04 DATE PCT BONUS PAID 01/01/01 DATE INV BILLED/REVIEWED CASE 05/25/04 RPI STATUS DATE 06/04/04 RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION (CD) 01 DIVERSION TYPE OF DIVERSION (CODE) 21 DIAL TAMPERING Y INHERITED (Y/N/U) N CASE BILLED (Y/N) METHOD OF BILLING (CODE) 01 SEASONAL AVERAGE NUMBER OF MONTHS OF BACKBILL 65 TOTAL CDIC BILLED 465.69 TOTAL ADDL KWH BACKBILLED 103,379 TOTAL ADDL DOLLARS BACKBILLED9,243.01METER LOCN IN EVIDENCE ROOMDATE METER PURGED01/01/01 REMARKS SPECIAL INVESTIGATION-C CASE FILE \$9708.70 75% 7282.00 GWA 90 NEXT TYPE A FIND COMPLETE LIST 13-RPI DETAIL 15-BILL HIST 17-RDG MAINT 18-RPI INSPECT 22-GN DTA MAIN NEWS

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Hann	\$0.00	3 Inv2 Hr 5135.18	
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• Commenter Per Your Request

FPSC Inquiry No. 614984

Robert Behar

(305) 264-7900

Phone: (305) 264 9700

# Fax

To:

Faxa

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Florida Public Service Commission

From Joy L. Anderson

10/1/2004

Date:

CC:

Pagest 16, including coversheet

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### Florida Public Service Commission



To:	Robert Behar	From:	Joy L. Anderson	
Fax:	(305) 264-7900		16, including coversheet	
Phone:	(305) 264-9700	Date:	10/1/2004	
Re:	FPSC Inquiry No. 614984	CC:		
🗌 Urge	ent 🛛 For Review	Please Comment	🗆 Please Reply	🗋 Please Recycle

• Comments: Per Your Request