

Ashley Quick

From: Office of Commissioner Brown
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:08 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Indian River Shores
Attachments: Ltr. to PSC.docx

Please place the following in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160049-EU.

Thank you.
Joann

From: allen jones [<mailto:anjaj63@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 5:19 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Brown
Subject: Indian River Shores

Dear Commissioner Brown

Attached is a letter I have written asking you to hear the facts and rule on them in the public interest in the matter of Indian River Shores electric service currently provided by Vero Beach Electric. Please read it and share it with the other commissioners.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this matter.

***Allen Jones
301 Indian Harbor Rd
Indian River Shores, FL 32963***

**ALLEN N. JONES
ELIZABETH ANN JONES
301 Indian Harbor Rd
Indian River Shores, FL 32963**

TO: Public Service Commission

It is my understanding that as a Commission you are trying to determine if our township, Indian River Shores, has “standing” to have the matter of its service dispute with Vero Beach Electric reviewed. My first question to you is: If not you, then who? You are the regulatory body whose role is to protect the public from abuse by utility service providers, particularly those that operate as a monopoly. As a resident of Indian River Shores for about 16 years, we feel we are being poorly served by a utility that is self-serving and obsolete, and we have no other regulator to whom to appeal. Please give us a chance to prove our case.

As you may recall, Indian River Shores agreed over 30 years ago to allow Vero Beach Electric to be our sole electric provider in exchange for Vero Beach Electric installing the electrical infrastructure needed to deliver the electricity. At the time, Vero Beach Electric rates were competitively priced and used contemporary sources of power whose environmental impact was normal. Over time, Vero Beach Electric was unable to adjust (and was not incented) to changing environmental standards and financial efficiencies that have evolved in the marketplace. As a consequence, its rates are now considerable higher

(over 30% in most cases) than that available to the residents of Indian River Shores from other providers, and the source of the power is primarily obsolete coal. The agreement has turned out not to be as much to Indian River Shores' benefit as anticipated, however the town signed a contract to accept service from Vero Beach Electric and has honored that commitment. The contractual obligation expires at the end of 2016, and the residents of Indian River Shores have asked to move their service provider to Florida Power and Light.

Vero Beach Electric has challenged the right of Indian River Shores right to select another utility to meet its needs on the basis that to do so would damage other residents in the existing service area, many of whom would also like to switch to Florida Power and Light as well. The real damage it appears would be to the town of Vero Beach which has profited from the exorbitant rates charged to Indian River Shores residents to subsidize their operating budget and effectively reduce the taxes of Vero Beach residents by doing so. In the end, Vero Beach Electric insists that this "taxation" continue in the form of excessive rates without the ability of the residents of Indian River Shores to vote on the representatives responsible for making such decisions. At the moment the residents of Indian River Shores are stuck with an inefficient utility that sources most of its power from an environmentally damaging source. Being exempt from competition, contributes to Vero Beach Electric's refusal to find a way to modernize its services.

As an American, I am offended that a business model that is obsolete and inefficient is being protected to serve the narrow interests of the people that created the failing business model for their own self-serving needs. It is time to bring the fresh air of modernity to ancient and inefficient utilities, but I'm getting ahead of myself. First, you must grant us the opportunity to present our evidence of abuse with the expectation of a fair hearing to determine what's best for the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration

Allen N. Jones

Elizabeth Ann L. Jones

April 11, 2016