Please place Bev’s response to this consumer in the correspondence side of the docket. Thanks.

---

Mr. Spirtas:

Thank you for contacting the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) about Florida Power & Light Company’s (FPL) rate petition. To give Commissioners and staff an opportunity to review your points, your correspondence is included in the file for Docket No.160021-EI.

PSC customer service hearings in June are scheduled in FPL's service territory for Commissioners to hear directly from customers about the utility’s rate request and service. All customer comments during the hearings and all correspondence will be reviewed and considered when PSC staff prepares its recommendation to the Commissioners on FPL's proposed rates.

The PSC’s evidentiary hearing on FPL's rate case will be in Tallahassee. Witnesses from the utility, intervenors, Commission staff, and the Public Counsel, who represents customers, will present testimony and exhibits and be cross-examined by the Commissioners and other parties. Commissioners will examine FPL's need for a rate increase, its existing and proposed rate structure, and its ability to provide safe and reliable service.

Commissioners are charged with making sure that Florida's utility companies fulfill their service obligation. The PSC will ensure that final customer rates reflect only those costs that are prudent and necessary for FPL to deliver quality electric service to your home or business. Any proposed rate adjustment is requested to begin in January 2017.

If you have additional questions or need further assistance, please call 1-800-342-3552. If you want updated case information, visit the PSC's website, www.floridapsc.com and click on the Clerk's Office tab, then hit Dockets and type in case number 160021.

Sincerely,

Bev DeMello
Assistant Director
Dear PSC Clerk,

It is my pleasure to correspond in support of a rate increase for FPL. I would attend the June 3rd public hearing in Sarasota except for a prior engagement.

Now why would I be recommending such a (on the surface) cost increase? Well ... five reasons come to mind, as follows;

(1). This is not an increase in cost (as I understand) from what the rates were in 2006 when our economy was heading into the doldrums of the housing bubble and Wall Street decline/ Great Recession. The rate increase is expected to go through 2020 and remain lower than what rates were in 2006.
(2). The current rates expire at the end of the year. After 10 years, what business hasn’t increased some fees to consumers in order to continue providing a quality service or product? In this case, a $16 billion investment into the future is planned in return.
(3). The increase will be implemented in over four years (2017-2020): Saving consumers the impact of an all-at-once increase on the many in Florida whom live on fixed incomes like myself.
(4). The EPA, according to data comprised in 2014, has deemed FPL - out of 13 Southeastern United States utilities - as being the cleanest based on CO 2 emissions.
(5). Lastly, and perhaps most importantly for me, when my neighbor (a dental office) had a tall palm tree falling gradually on a sparking wire near my garage, FPL responded to the call immediately ... last year. They resolved a potentially very dangerous situation and destructive damage from ever occurring! It was at night on a busy Friday when the incident happened.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Neil

Neil H. Spirtas
941-720-1945
neilspirtas@gmail.com