

Collin Roehner

From: Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2016 8:11 AM
To: 'allen jones'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: PUBLIC SERVICE

Good morning Mr. Jones,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 160049-EU and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Collin D. Roehner
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida, 32301
(850) 413-7123

From: allen jones [<mailto:anjaj63@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2016 10:37 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Patronis; Office of Commissioner Brisé; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office Of Commissioner Graham
Cc: Records Clerk; negron.joe@fla.senate.gov; Richard Gordon; rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com
Subject: PUBLIC SERVICE

Dear Officials

I am writing you in particular about the electric power situation in Indian River Shores, FL, with which I expect you have some familiarity, but chose the broader topic above of "public service" because this is the more important perspective.

Many of the residents of Indian River Shores (IRS) receive electrical power through Vero Electric whose operation is controlled by the government of the city of Vero Beach. This occurs because of a contractual arrangement IRS made with the city of Vero Beach 30 years ago. The contract expires November, 2016. The crux of the matter is the citizens of IRS wish to have the right to discontinue service from Vero Electric when the contract expires and to receive power from FPL as some residents of Indian River Shores already do. Apparently, despite the expiration of the contract, we as citizens need your permission to do so.

Relevant facts regarding IRS' plight are as follows:

1. Rates charged by Vero Electric to IRS customers are approximately 1/3 higher than FPL rates.

2. Vero Electric no longer provides power and is dismantling its outdated power plant. Rather it contracts with other power providers including FPL for the power to be delivered to IRS residents. In doing so, the rates are

"marked up" like a "middle man" with much of the excess transferred to the General Fund of the city of Vero Beach to subsidize the city's operating budget. Question: do you think such a practice is in the best interest of the general public? Would you consider this practice classic "taxation without representation" since IRS residents can't vote in Vero Beach elections?

3. The electric power contracted is not only more expensive for the residents of IRS, but largely comes from coal powered plants that harm Florida's precious environment.

4. My understanding is the FMPA has recommended IRS be allowed to extricate themselves from this arrangement when the contract expires.

5. Effectively Vero Electric is operating an unregulated monopoly and exploiting the captive citizens of IRS. The results of non-competitive prices and poor service are consistent with unregulated monopolies.

6. Wishing to resolve this circumstance amicably with our neighbor, Vero Beach, the town of Indian River Shores contributed to an

offer made by FPL to purchase freedom from this circumstance to compensate Vero for losing this business. Arguably, the town doesn't deserve such payment. The town Council rejected this offer of \$30 million by a vote of 3 to 2 ignoring the unanimous recommendation of its own Utility Commission to accept the offer.

It's my view that these facts demonstrate American values are not in place here. This arrangement exists because of a territorial agreement approved by the PSC 28 years ago. As a result, all of you are or will be complicit in this circumstance passed on to you by previous commissioners, but you can correct the situation.

In my strong opinion, the city of Vero Beach has grossly abused its privilege to serve residents outside its electoral borders, and exploited captive citizens for its own narrow purposes. I ask you to stand up and serve general public's interest by not allowing such

abuses to occur anywhere that you have the power to fix.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I trust you will do what's right.

***Allen Jones
301 Indian Harbor Rd
Indian River Shores, FL
772 713 6721***