

**James D. Matison  
4704 Genoa Drive  
Fernandina Beach Florida 32034**

**August 28, 2017**

**Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850**

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**Ref.: Docket No. 20170150EI**

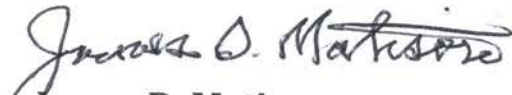
**The proposed rate increase by Florida Public Utilities is unwarranted, as their claims for improved service and reduced outages are suspect! I have lived here for 14 years and experienced power outages on a "somewhat" regular basis!**

**Additionally, I am VERY concerned about a long-term loss of power during a tropical storm that would ravage Amelia Island. This is because the "above ground" power supply lines run parallel to the Ocean for 3-5 miles and are not more than 300 feet from the ocean's edge along Fletcher Avenue! I am sure the utility would argue that their installation of Cement poles will expedite a return of service during a disaster of this type; however, a MUCH better solution would have been to move the power supply lines underground. Recently this utility has been installing underground natural gas lines to Amelia Island and certainly a prudent business decision would have been to install underground power supply lines simultaneously! I am sure the utility's management did not consider this, and whenever this subject is bought up, an "astronomical" cost is offered as the reason it can't be done! In 2016, we experienced a "NEAR" direct hit from Hurricane Matthew. Our power was restored in a couple of days, with a loss of much frozen food. Needless to say our insurance did not cover this loss, because of the high deductible during a Hurricane. I am sure the loss of power was because of down lines**

on Fletcher Avenue where the new cement poles have been "partially" installed! (NOTE: there is still at least 5-7 miles northbound on Fletcher that has wooden power poles!) As stated above, service would NOT have been lost had the power lines been installed underground. Our subdivision has underground power lines and there has NEVER been a loss of power caused by an event in the subdivision!

In summary, I am opposed to a rate increase for this utility, because their public service record is lacking, and their planning for future disasters is VERY questionable!

Sincerely,

  
James D. Matison



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ATTN: COMMISSION CLERK





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