

Review of Electric Utility Hurricane Preparedness and Restoration Actions

Docket No : 20170215-EU

Name : Mathew Balasis

Electric Utility Provider : EI801 - Duke Energy

Zip Code : 33710

Category : Other

Comments : I've resided at the same address in St. Petersburg, FL, since 1984 when electrical service was provided by Florida Power, Inc. Right-of-way power line maintenance was regular and for many years power outages were few and never caused by overgrown vegetation. Over the years and as the ownership transitioned from Florida Power eventually to Duke energy, I've witnessed that each subsequent company has paid less attention to right-of-way power line maintenance. It is my personal experience when I advised of a potential threat to the integrity of the neighborhood power lines from vegetation, my request was ignored, as was the case with the storms of 2004 and again now with the recent 5 day outage we experienced during Irma. The 5 day outage in my neighborhood could easily have been avoided by regular right-of-way maintenance. I do not support the Duke request to recover the storm damage costs unless they shows the PSC a plan to correct their inattention to right-of-way maintenance.