

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of: DOCKET NO. 20170179-GU
PETITION FOR RATE INCREASE
BY FLORIDA CITY GAS.

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PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING
COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN
COMMISSIONER DONALD J. POLMANN
DATE: Tuesday, January 23, 2018
TIME: Commenced: 6:00 p.m.
Concluded: 6:32 p.m.
PLACE: Coral Gable City Hall
Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gable, Florida 33134
REPORTED BY: ANDREA KOMARIDIS
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING
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5 Florida Public Florida City Gas.

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7 ESQUIRE, Office of Public Counsel, c/o the Florida
8 Legislature, 111 W. Madison Street, Room 812,
9 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400, appearing on behalf of
10 the Citizens of the State of Florida.

11 WALTER TRIERWEILER and STEPHANIE CUELLO,
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13 Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850,
14 appearing on behalf of the Florida Public Service
15 Commission Staff.

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EXHIBITS

NUMBER:	ID	ADMITTED
1 - Comprehensive exhibit list	9	
2 - Composite exhibit submitted by Florida City Gas including proof of publication, proof of mailing customer notice, and proof of mailing synopsis	9	

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Good afternoon, everyone.
3 My name is Art Graham. I am the current Chair of
4 the Public Service Commission. And this is a
5 service hearing for the Florida City Gas Docket
6 No. 20170179-GU.

7 I am here with two of my fellow Commissioners,
8 who will introduce themselves, starting here on the
9 right.

10 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you, Chairman
11 Graham.

12 Hello, everyone. My name is Julie Brown. And
13 I -- it is a pleasure to be here today in Coral
14 Gables. And we look forward to hearing your
15 comments today regarding this proposed rate case.
16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Good evening. My name
18 is Don Polmann. Thank you, Chairman Graham.

19 I'm pleased to be here and look forward to
20 comments from customers in Coral Gables. I'm
21 looking forward to all of your input. And going
22 forward, we'll take everything into account that we
23 hear this evening, as well as our subsequent
24 customer service hearings.

25 Thank you for your participation.

1 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. I show it is after
2 6:00. And it is Tuesday, January 23rd.

3 And staff, can I get you to read the notice.

4 MS. CUELLO: By notice issued on January 9,
5 2018, this time and place has been set for a
6 customer service hearing -- hearing in Docket
7 No. 20170179-GU, petition for rate increase by
8 Florida City Gas.

9 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. Let's take appearance
10 of -- of attorneys. Florida City Gas.

11 MS. KEATING: Good evening, Mr. Chair,
12 Commissioners. Beth Keating with the Gunster law
13 firm here today for Florida City Gas. I would like
14 to also enter an appearance for Greg Munson, also
15 with the Gunster law firm.

16 MR. KELLY: Good evening, Mr. Chair and
17 Commissioners. My name is J.R. Kelly. I'm here
18 with Virginia Ponder with the Office of Public
19 Counsel. We represent the customers of Florida
20 City Gas.

21 MR. TRIERWEILER: Good evening. Staff
22 counsel, Walt Trierweiler and Stephanie Cuello.

23 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. Is that all the
24 attorneys? Sounds good.

25 Okay. I want to thank those of you who came

1 to speak tonight for taking this time out of your
2 schedule to come before us. These service hearings
3 are always important to give us an understanding of
4 the service that you are receiving and some input
5 on -- on how you evaluate the utilities. And so,
6 we're looking forward to hearing from you when --
7 when we call you up here.

8 And later this March, we're going to have
9 what's called a technical hearing where we get down
10 into the weeds of the actual case and -- and make
11 better sense of all of this.

12 That all being said, let me introduce you to
13 our staff, the Public Service Commission. We
14 have -- accounting and finance department, we have
15 Cheryl Banks, in the back. We have -- in the
16 economics department, we have Elisabeth Draper and
17 Riley Doherty. And in engineering, we have Laura
18 King. There she is, hiding in the back as well.
19 Public Information Office is Cindy Muir, who is
20 probably out front taking names.

21 MS. THOMPSON: She's outside.

22 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: And we also have Kelly
23 Thompson.

24 Okay. This is an official hearing. And what
25 you say is going to be part of the official

1 transcript. When you come up here, I need for you
2 to give your name and address. And you'll have
3 five minutes to speak.

4 And if you would stay at the microphone
5 afterwards, you may have questions from either one
6 of the counsels or from one of the Commissioners,
7 sometimes just to get a better understanding of
8 what it is that you said or if there is something
9 we just don't understand.

10 There is a sign-up form that's outside, if you
11 have not signed your name up there. You will be
12 called up one at a time. The Public Counsel will
13 be the one that calls you forward.

14 If you heard something from the previous
15 speaker, it's not necessary to go through the
16 entire thing all over again. It's okay to use the
17 word "ditto." We understand what that means.

18 Are there any elected officials in the
19 audience that wish to speak? Okay. Seeing none,
20 we will not talk about the elected-official part of
21 it all.

22 All right. Let's go over to the attorney for
23 Public Counsel, Mr. J.R. Kelly.

24 MR. KELLY: (Inaudible.)

25 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: I'm sorry?

1 MR. KELLY: (Inaudible.)

2 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: No, I was going to let you
3 guys prepare to speak, and that's what (inaudible).
4 Florida City. Okay. Florida City.

5 MS. KEATING: Actually, Mr. Chair, with your
6 indulgence, if I could do -- take the privilege for
7 just one minute.

8 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Sure.

9 MS. KEATING: We had compiled a composite
10 exhibit that demonstrates our efforts to comply
11 with the noticing rule. And I think it would be
12 appropriate to go ahead and mark this as Hearing
13 Exhibit No. 2.

14 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay.

15 MS. KEATING: And we have copies for you, if
16 you would like for us to distribute that.

17 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. And you can just give
18 it to one of our attorneys.

19 (Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2 marked for
20 identification.)

21 MS. KEATING: And if it's all right, I would
22 like to introduce Ms. Carolyn Bermudez -- she is
23 vice president and general manager at Florida City
24 Gas -- for just a few opening comments.

25 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay.

1 MS. KEATING: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: You will actually have six
3 minutes to speak. And if you want to leave some of
4 it at the end to -- after other has spoken, you can
5 do that.

6 MS. BERMUDEZ: Hello. Good evening, Chairman
7 and Commissioners, Public Counsel, and others that
8 are here. I just want to thank everyone for coming
9 out with us. And we value everyone's comments and
10 we're really looking forward to hearing from the
11 customers here tonight.

12 I just wanted to introduce the Florida City
13 Gas team that is here with me. I'll have them
14 stand. So, if any customers have any questions
15 about their bills, service, or any -- or require
16 any additional information about this rate request,
17 you -- you can -- please, go up and talk to them.
18 So, thank you very much.

19 MR. KELLY: We don't have anything to say,
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. And for those who
22 don't know, J.R. Kelly is our Public Counsel. He's
23 actually here to represent the consumers. So, if
24 there is something further you want, feel free to
25 talk to Mr. Kelly afterwards. If there's something

1 more that you want to relay to the attorney, he's
2 here for that as well.

3 Okay. I think it's time to swear in the
4 speakers. So, if you're here to speak, if I could
5 get you to stand and raise your right hand, please.

6 (Persons providing public testimony were sworn
7 en masse.)

8 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you. Okay.
9 Mr. Kelly, your -- your clients.

10 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first
11 speaker -- and I apologize. I'm sure I'm not going
12 to get the last name correctly -- is Ms. Nivia
13 Lascaibar.

14 MS. LASCAIBAR: Yes. Thank you.
15 Good evening, everyone.

16 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Can you pull that microphone
17 down?

18 MS. LASCAIBAR: Oh.

19 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Name and address for the
20 record, and just relax. Take your time.

21 MS. LASCAIBAR: My name is Nivia Lascaibar. I
22 reside at 8551 Southwest 16th Terrace, Miami
23 Florida.

24 So, I received a notice of the hearing,
25 obviously, today. And this is the first time I've

1 ever done this. So, please excuse my nerves.

2 I oppose the 50-percent increase on the base
3 rate. And the reason I do oppose that is because
4 it is a large part of my monthly bill. During the
5 winter months, my gas bill is half of what I pay
6 for FPL. That's a lot, to me.

7 And I find it difficult that the customers get
8 the gas cost passed on to them. In addition, they
9 get energy charges, the usage, the actual usage
10 charged on top of that. They get a basic service
11 charge. They have to pay for SAFE program, utility
12 tax, gross receipt tax. So, it -- it -- it's --
13 it's building up.

14 And this -- from what I have seen, according
15 to this, the Florida City Gas rates were last
16 increased in 2003; however, the equipment is still
17 the same. It wasn't until this past weekend that
18 my meter was changed. And I was told by the
19 gentleman that changed the meter that, per the
20 public commissioner's office, the utility
21 commissioner's office, the meters are supposed to
22 be changed every ten years.

23 So, what is happening? You're going to be
24 increasing additional basic charge, which is just
25 pure profit, the way that I see it. And then, you

1 know, the equipment and everything remains the
2 same. So, what's the benefit to the clients, to
3 the customers?

4 And also I -- I don't see, like, the equipment
5 change really being needed or required. My meter
6 was in perfect working form. There was nothing
7 wrong with it. Just change it because, you know,
8 it's past the ten years?

9 And then, the way that I also see it is this
10 is, like, following the steps of FPL. Let's, you
11 know, ask for an increase to change the poles.
12 Well, the poles, you know, they -- they do get
13 deteriorated. And they charged I think it was like
14 400-and-something dollars to change the posts --
15 electrical posts. They came -- they installed the
16 posts. And a year and a half later, all the cables
17 were still in the old posts.

18 It wasn't until recently, after the hurricane,
19 that, you know, the main electrical -- I don't
20 know, the big thing that carries the electricity,
21 was actually changed to the new pole; yet,
22 everything else is still hanging halfway down in
23 the deteriorated posts.

24 So, there it is, my five cents. I hope you
25 take it into account. I'm just one person, but I

1 don't know how many thousands of, you know,
2 customers you have. And I don't think that they
3 would appreciate a 50-percent increase.

4 So, thank you so much.

5 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you. Hold on for a
6 second.

7 Commissioner Brown.

8 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you. And thank
9 you, Ms. -- Ms. Les-cobar -- Les-cobar?

10 MS. LASCAIBAR: La-sky-bar.

11 COMMISSIONER BROWN: La-sky-bar. Thank you
12 for presenting before us today. Appreciate your
13 testimony and taking the time to come out here.
14 Some of the comments you raised were very helpful.

15 One thing I just wanted to get a sense of is
16 the gauge of your bill. You represented that your
17 current bill is equivalent to half of what you pay
18 in --

19 MS. LASCAIBAR: To --

20 COMMISSIONER BROWN: -- to your electricity
21 provider. Could you give me an estimate of what --

22 MS. LASCAIBAR: Well, during the winter, I
23 don't really turn on, you know, my heater during
24 the winter. Sometimes it will be, like, 40-some
25 dollars, 50-some dollars. And then my bill is,

1 like, 20 -- 20 -- last month, I paid 22.25.

2 And like I said, what I am consuming -- I'm
3 cons- -- the energy charges -- the therms that I am
4 actually consuming is \$4.40 because I don't cook.
5 The only thing that, you know, I really use is the
6 dryer, in my house, that's gas operation -- and
7 that's every other week -- and then, the water
8 heater.

9 COMMISSIONER BROWN: So -- oh, so, does that
10 include maybe an additional charge for a tankless
11 water heater?

12 MS. LASCAIBAR: No. No. And I bought it
13 outright, the water heater. So, I'm not even
14 leasing it from them.

15 And then, another thing I would like to
16 mention -- a couple of years ago, I had an issue
17 with Florida City Gas because they had billed me
18 for actual reading; yet, I had two dogs in my
19 backyard and there was no way that I -- they could
20 actually get in to my backyard to read my meter.

21 So, they were charging me for something
22 that -- you know, it wasn't accurate, so --

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN: So, one thing I just want
24 to make sure you're aware of that this Commission,
25 when -- when it reviews a rate case, during a

1 technical hearing, it ultimately has to -- the
2 utility has to provide justification of its cost,
3 prudent and reasonable, before the Commission
4 awards a rate increase.

5 I know that you inferred that it's pure
6 profit. Well, that -- that is absolutely nothing
7 but the truth. So, I just wanted to assure you
8 that we'll make every effort to make sure that
9 those dollars are spent well.

10 MS. LASCAIBAR: Okay. Thank you so much.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Thank you.

13 Mr. Kelly?

14 MR. KELLY: The next speaker is Mr. Alberto
15 Manrara -- close enough?

16 MR. MANRARA: Correct.

17 Hello, Commission members. Ms. Brown, I was
18 happy to see on your resume that you're a fellow
19 Gator. And I think, Mr. Polmann, you have a
20 Master's degree from Florida. Mr. Graham, I think
21 you're from Georgia Institute of Technology.
22 Wonderful. And there's a fourth person, who is not
23 here. And I know there's an open, vacant position
24 in the Florida Public Service Commission.

25 Well, I'm sure you all take the name of your

1 Commission very seriously, which is Public Service.
2 And I'm sure Mr. Kelly, as the professed attorney
3 for the customers, would also take his role very
4 seriously.

5 And I come to speak to you -- this is my first
6 time ever addressing the Public Service Commission.

7 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Sir, can I get your name and
8 address for the record?

9 MR. MANRARA: I'm sorry. Alberto Manrara at
10 511 Sevilla Avenue in Coral Gables. In fact, I
11 live so close, I walked over here tonight.

12 And I also would like to say that I have no --
13 no complaints about Florida City Gas or its
14 predecessor -- I forgot what the name of the
15 company was before.

16 My wife likes to cook. If you like to cook
17 and you take cooking seriously, you normally will
18 not cook with an electric range. You typically
19 want an open flame. You get an open flame,
20 obviously, through the gas service.

21 A few years ago, I had the -- the wisdom, as
22 my friends tell me, to install a generator, which
23 is fed by the underground natural gas utility. And
24 of course, that was during Hurricane Irma, when we
25 were without electricity for two weeks. I was able

1 to enjoy electricity, air conditioning, et cetera.
2 So, I don't have any complaints about their
3 service.

4 I -- I am concerned, as the previous speaker
5 spoke, that 41 percent of my gas charge on my
6 normal utility bill for the Florida City Gas --
7 41 percent is the basic service charge, which is a
8 huge percentage. And they want to increase it by
9 50 percent per month, from eight to 12, for the
10 residential customers. I'm a GS1 residential.

11 31 percent of my bill is for the actual
12 consumption of gas. 15 percent -- and I know you
13 have nothing to do with this -- is the various
14 taxes that the City of Coral Gables, probably
15 Miami-Dade County, state of Florida, impose.
16 That's 15 percent.

17 Then there's another charge, SAFE, S-A-F-E,
18 which is an acronym for something that you have
19 authorized, and they charge us. So, you pass that
20 cost on to the consumers. I don't know how long
21 that's going to last, how long it's been on, but
22 you know, some of these things, once they get on
23 these bills, it seems like it's very difficult to
24 have them removed. So, I'm just very concerned
25 that the basic service charge ends up being 41

1 percent of my utility bill.

2 Now, there's not a whole lot going on with
3 Florida City Gas and their servicing me. There --
4 there's not a whole lot they need to do. I've
5 been -- in fact, if they were to examine my
6 account, probably going back 20 years, they'll find
7 that my account always has a credit balance because
8 I always pay so that it's -- so I'm never behind
9 with my payment. So, they don't have collection
10 issues with me. In fact, I've been lending money
11 for free. Obviously, it's a small amount, but I'm
12 giving them money for free.

13 And I'm hopeful that the Public Service
14 Commission can address the fact that, even though,
15 as -- as the previous speaker said, the amount for
16 any one of us is relatively small. My life is not
17 going to change if you approve the \$12. It's just
18 not going to change.

19 But I know that you're dealing with at least a
20 thousand, maybe hundreds of thousands of customers
21 throughout the state of Florida, where this might
22 have an impact. So, the number becomes very
23 serious and very significant for the public. And
24 I'm hoping Mr. Kelly will take that into account as
25 he speaks or -- or considers the request by Florida

1 City Gas.

2 I do have a couple of other observations about
3 Florida City Gas, which are little annoyances and
4 may or may not be something that you can do about
5 it, but perhaps you can, since you -- you have a
6 lot of say upon their future.

7 They're called Florida City Gas, but their
8 headquarters is in Atlanta, and their payments that
9 we make go to Carol Stream, Illinois. Now, I'm
10 sure Governor Scott, who has appointed all of you,
11 sir, and Governor Scott has been a governor who has
12 been focused on jobs, would be surprised to learn
13 that one of our utilities sends jobs out to
14 Illinois to process payments that the Florida
15 residents are using.

16 And I'm hopeful that, perhaps, at some point,
17 this can be brought to the attention of Florida
18 City Gas, and see if, in the interest of service of
19 Florida, that these jobs, instead of going to
20 Illinois, perhaps, could be retained within our
21 state.

22 Ms. Brown, Mr. Polmann, Mr. Graham -- I'm
23 sorry he had to step out, but I appreciate the fact
24 that you are willing to listen to us. I hope you
25 take into account our concerns with the 50-percent

1 increase in this rate. And hopefully, you can help
2 us in keeping these costs under control.

3 Thank you very much.

4 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you, Alberto.

5 Commissioner Polmann, any questions?

6 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Sir, I -- I appreciate
7 the detail in your comments. This is very helpful
8 to us. The fact that you've done your research is
9 the type of thing that we appreciate hearing when
10 we come out and have these customer services
11 hearings. The level of effort that -- that you've
12 put in is so appreciated.

13 We occasionally have customers that -- that
14 come forward and say, please don't raise my bill.
15 And we understand that. Many customers struggle
16 with paying their utility bills. And we always do
17 understand that it's difficult to have an increase
18 in your bill.

19 But the type of work that you've done is -- in
20 providing detail to us is truly very helpful and
21 I'm grateful for that. So, thank you, sir, for --

22 MR. MANRARA: Thank you. I appreciate the
23 comment.

24 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: -- for coming out and
25 spending time with us.

1 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you so much.

2 MR. MANRARA: Thank you, Ms. Brown.

3 COMMISSIONER BROWN: All right. J.R.

4 MR. KELLY: The next speaker is Ms. Alicia
5 Alonso.

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN: I just want to make sure
7 that anyone that is here that would like to speak
8 before us today has been sworn in. If you have
9 not, please raise your hand.

10 All right. Please proceed.

11 MS. ALONSO: Thank you for having me. Alicia
12 Alonso. I ditto a lot of what the first lady said.
13 This is my time -- first time speaking here, too.
14 I -- I've been paying my bill forever. And now, I
15 have two bills to pay. I pay my parents' and I pay
16 my own.

17 And I'm very happy with a dollar a day of gas.
18 I don't know too much about gas, but I know it's
19 the way to go. It's very healthy for you. And I
20 assume the pipes are underground. So, there really
21 was not much damage done when it came to the
22 hurricanes.

23 I live right on the grid of Variety Children's
24 Hospital. So, nothing went down at our house. And
25 I, too, assume that, with the SAFE program -- which

1 I once called and asked and I couldn't get anybody
2 to answer me and tell me what it was. And I really
3 didn't have time to stay on the phone, and I hung
4 up. This was, I think, about a year ago, I want to
5 say. I would assume that, if a lot of people are
6 paying that, isn't that enough to cover everything
7 that you want to increase now?

8 And that's basically all I really have to say.
9 And like the lady there said, all these other
10 things that are added, utility tax, franchise tax,
11 gross receipts tax -- tax, tax, tax -- how many
12 taxes can you add to a bill? Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank -- thank you.

14 MS. ALONSO: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you for your
16 testimony. And just to clarify, the SAFE program
17 is one on a time frame. Okay? I'm not sure -- we
18 have our technical staff here who could say what
19 Florida City Gas -- where they are in that time
20 frame, but it serves -- it's a federal program --
21 it's a federal mandate that utilities are obliged
22 to replace aged cast iron pipes and for
23 safekeeping. And so, it protects customers.

24 So, if we have a technical staff here, they
25 would be happy to tell you a little bit more about

1 it and where Florida City Gas is in the -- in the
2 stream of -- of that.

3 MS. ALONSO: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you for your
5 testimony.

6 MS. ALONSO: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER BROWN: J.R.?

8 MR. KELLY: The next speaker is Ms. Natalie
9 Santé.

10 MS. SANTÉ: I want to mention something
11 because I didn't take the oath.

12 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay.

13 MS. SANTÉ: My English is not very good. And
14 I know -- this is -- I am not offering to speak
15 anywhere because I don't have the ability to speak,
16 but this motivate me --

17 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Well, I -- I need to swear
18 you in before you -- before you give your -- I -- I
19 need to get you to swear in before we get your
20 testimony.

21 MS. SANTÉ: Yes.

22 (Ms. Santé was sworn in to provide public
23 testimony.)

24 MS. SANTÉ: This motivate me because we -- we
25 have so fitting now, the cons- -- the consequence

1 that everything goes up and our income is not going
2 the same way. And besides that, I did not like
3 that this company is a company that not has
4 competition; meaning, if they raise their rates, we
5 don't have any other way to go, just this way. And
6 besides these two, unfortunately, every time a
7 company raise, they go and make these -- the same
8 way because the taxes goes up, too.

9 So, I think that, to start with something like
10 this, an increase of more than 60 cent, when
11 everybody knows that our Social Security is not
12 raised for seven, eight years -- so, we -- we feel
13 that it's not fair, this increase. I don't -- I
14 don't have documentation because, when I tried to
15 get information, I was afraid of the internet. And
16 not everybody has the ability to find things via
17 internet; especially us, which are very old.

18 So, what I wanted is to -- just to point out
19 that I -- I disagree with this raise in the way
20 that was presented and the -- the -- the amount
21 that will be raised.

22 That's all I wanted to say. Thank you very
23 much.

24 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: I have a -- ma'am, excuse
25 me -- excuse me. Question. I have a question for

1 you. How -- what is your experience with Florida
2 City Gas? I'm sorry. How do they treat you? Do
3 they treat you okay?

4 MS. SANTÉ: There is anybody here that could
5 translate me?

6 (Unidentified male translates.)

7 MS. SANTÉ: He said that -- how I am treated
8 by Florida City Gas. For me, it's very difficult
9 to answer that question because I very seldom
10 call -- because what I get in -- when I get my
11 bill, I pay it, but I don't have relation with the
12 company.

13 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. Thank you.

14 MS. SANTÉ: Okay. Anything else?

15 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: No, that's it.

16 MS. SANTÉ: All right. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Is there anybody else in the
18 audience that's come in that would like to come
19 speak before us? Okay.

20 I want to thank you -- all of you for coming
21 in. Excuse my interruption in the middle, but
22 nature called.

23 (Laughter.)

24 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Like I said, we are going to
25 have our technical hearing, which is going to be in

1 March. That's when we get back and, as I say,
2 normally, we peel the layers of the onion back and
3 figure out the details of what it is that the
4 utility is asking us to -- to grant in this rate
5 increase. That's when most of that work happens.

6 If -- if you would like, you can -- you can
7 e-mail us if there's any more information that you
8 want to give us that you didn't give us today. Or
9 if you have any of your neighbors that want to send
10 us information, you can still be part of this case.
11 That's ongoing to the docket as well.

12 And when we actually have the technical
13 hearing, that's going to be live-streamed on the
14 internet. So, you can watch it and follow it as we
15 go through it or you're more than welcome to come
16 to Tallahassee and sit through that technical
17 hearing.

18 But this is just a first step. We have two
19 other cities that we have to get to and then we go
20 back to Tallahassee and start digging into this.
21 But I do want to thank you all for giving up your
22 af- -- your evening and your time to come out here
23 and speak to us.

24 Commissioner Polmann.

25 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 An additional opportunity for -- for input,
3 you all have received -- and if you didn't have a
4 chance to pick up -- a blue handout, which is an
5 overview of the case. And the last page, you will
6 find a mail-in. And it's a -- a simple form where
7 you can write in comments if you don't have access
8 to e-mail or you're more comfortable writing your
9 comments.

10 This is an item you can simply fold up after
11 you write your comments. It has our address. You
12 can put a stamp on that. Simply fold this with a
13 piece of tape on it, and you can mail it directly
14 to us. This is the same as an e-mail or making a
15 phone call.

16 For those in -- watching this on TV, who are
17 not able to join us here, you can find this --
18 information like this can be provided. Those here
19 today, you can share this with your neighbors.

20 So, thank you, again, for your input. And we
21 look forward to hearing from you.

22 MR. KELLY: Mr. --

23 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Mr. Kelly.

24 MR. KELLY: Mr. Chairman, can I -- I would
25 just like to get a clarification. I know there's

1 been some confusion over the past about what
2 Commissioner Polmann was referring to, if people
3 did not have a chance to come here and speak
4 tonight, or sometimes people do come and they don't
5 feel comfortable giving public testimony, but they
6 fill out the forms and send them in.

7 Can you tell -- tell us exactly how they will
8 be considered? Will they be admitted into the
9 record? Will they be -- because we've had some
10 confusion about that and I -- if you could -- I
11 would like clarification about how those will be
12 used so that, when customers do send them in, they
13 have an expectation -- in other words, they send in
14 an e-mail, they -- they know what -- will that
15 become a part of the record; will it be considered
16 by you and your fellow Commissioners, et cetera.

17 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Well, it just so happens I
18 brought my attorney with me.

19 MR. TRIERWEILER: That's an excellent
20 question. Yes, all correspondence that comes in
21 regarding the rate case will be added to the file
22 as correspondence. It becomes a permanent record
23 of the case. And so, those of you who can't attend
24 in-person are encouraged to correspond and -- and
25 let your thoughts be known concerning the rate case

1 and to mail it to the PSC.

2 It would help us if you've annotated -- we're
3 going to open all the correspondence, of course --
4 but if you indicated it was the Florida City Gas
5 rate case that you're interested in corresponding
6 about.

7 Does that answer your question, sir?

8 MR. KELLY: Yes, it does. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Florida City Gas, do you
10 have any closing comments?

11 If not, we'll -- once again, I thank everyone
12 for coming out here. We stand adjourned.

13 (Whereupon, proceedings concluded at 6:32
14 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, ANDREA KOMARIDIS, Court Reporter, do hereby
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
and that this transcript constitutes a true
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
financially interested in the action.

DATED THIS 2nd day of February, 2018.



ANDREA KOMARIDIS
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #GG060963
EXPIRES February 9, 2021