

Antonia Hover

From: Diana Vizcarrondo
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Cc: Diane Hood
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 20190015
Attachments: Judge to hear challenge to underground power-line rules - South Florida Sun-Sentinel.pdf

Correspondence for docket 20190015.

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2019 7:39 AM
To: Diana Vizcarrondo
Subject: To CLK Docket 20190015

From: Beatrice Balboa [<mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 8:17 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Fwd: FPL machinations

Thursday 19 December 2019

I was reading the latest news media regarding the ongoing lobbying issues and concerns surrounding Florida Power & Light (FPL) (attached documentation). Please continue to keep an extremely close eye regarding FPL machinations with these issues as FPL ratepayers should NOT be "footing the bill" on FPL and/or NextEra out-of-state investment strategies, solar power "monopolization", "tax accounting sleight of hands", safety violations, little to no storm hardening and "pollution" activities. FPL should be devoting all their energies in meeting and/or exceeding the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®) standards (which sets the ground rules and guidelines for practical safeguarding of utility workers and the public during the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply, communication lines and associated equipment) for storm hardening of the State of Florida electrical infrastructure that should have already been completed after Hurricane Andrew (1992), Hurricane Irma (2017) and now Hurricane Dorian (2019) with fee requests in the millions/billions of dollars. FPL should NOT be devoting all their energies requesting and lobbying for more storm hardening fees and rate increases as well as other "accounting shenanigans" activities. In addition, As one is aware, the document "Reliability Standards for the Bulk Electric. Systems of North. America." Updated November 25,

2019 (<https://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Reliability%20Standards%20Complete%20Set/RSCCompleteSet.pdf>) has been recently released and there is considerable mention of substation reliability standards.

I look forward to your offices taking the necessary actions to address hardworking taxpayers citizens' concerns from the City of Pompano Beach, Broward County, State of Florida.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,
Beatrice Balboa

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Our power lines will be buried for storm safety. Now a judge will weigh in on the plan.



By **MARCIA HEROUX POUNDS**
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL | DEC 19, 2019



A worker for FPL burys a power line in a neighborhood. (SSMG)

A court challenge to "storm protection" rules could help determine regulations over a project to bury power lines in Florida — and that could have an impact on your electric bill in the future.

Earlier this year, [lawmakers](#) gave the state's utilities a new vehicle to charge customers for burying power lines. Now, it's up to the Florida Public Service Commission to provide rules and protect consumers from being overcharged.

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The commission approved proposed rules last month, but the Florida Public Counsel, which represents [electric company customers](#), contends they don't adequately protect consumers. A hearing is scheduled Friday before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings in Tallahassee, where a judge will weigh in on the dispute.

Here are answers to some key issues:

Q. What are FPL and other utilities planning to do under the storm protection law?

The state's electric utilities will focus on burying neighborhood power lines, a move to better protect the electric grid from storms. [Florida Power & Light Co.](#) says it already has starting burying power lines in trouble spots, where power has historically gone out or where trees and other vegetation have brought down overhead lines.

Q: Why do the rules matter?

The storm protection law is expected to result in billions of dollars in utility costs being passed to customers. FPL's CEO Eric Silagy estimates the cost at **\$35 billion** for that utility alone. Those costs will eventually be passed on to customers over three decades as utilities pursue the undergrounding projects.

Q. What are the issues in the hearing?

The Office of Public Counsel says by law the rules must ensure costs are not also being recovered through base rates. The PSC approved more flexible rules in submitting project information, which were recommended in part by FPL, the largest electric utility in the state.



As a result, utilities could potentially overcharge customers, the Public Counsel's Office says, citing "vague and inadequate standards" in the proposed rules, according to its court filing.

Rules approved by the PSC also allow FPL and other utilities in the state to collect projected costs — instead of actual costs — for burying power lines, according to the Public Counsel's filing in the case.

[RELATED: FPL spends millions to sway lawmakers. »](#)

Q. What does the PSC say about the rules it approved?

In its response to the court, the commission denies the Public Counsel's allegations about its rules, including one claiming the PSC didn't allow Duke Energy customer Kelly Cisarik to directly participate in its rule-making session on Nov 5.

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Cisarik asked to participate by telephone. But she was told in an email that the commission has a "policy" against telephone participation. Instead, Cisarik's letter was read aloud at the meeting by Charles Rehwinkel, the state's associate public counsel.

Cisarik, who lives in Indian Rocks, said she is concerned about flooding from climate change affecting underground power lines, which could result in a longer time to restore power after a storm. "We need better solutions before we spend tens of billions of dollars [on storm protection]," she said in an interview.

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Q. What will happen at the Division of Administrative Hearings on Dec. 20?

The case is assigned to Administrative Law Judge James Peterson III, who will hear arguments in the case from lawyers and other representatives of the Public Counsel, FPL and other utilities, interested parties statewide, and the PSC. The judge is expected to make his decision about whether the rules should stand, within 30 days after the hearing, according to Florida law.

Marcia Heroux Pounds

South Florida Sun Sentinel



Marcia Heroux Pounds is a business writer for the Sun Sentinel. She writes about the job market, entrepreneurs, technology and the workplace. She's the author of *I Found a Job!*, a book about how some people found jobs during the worst years of the recession.

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Former Broward Sheriff's Deputy Scot Peterson, denounced for his failure to confront the Parkland school shooter during last year's mass murder, will have to face victims' parents in court, an appeals court ruled Wednesday.

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