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BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20210015-EI

Petition for rate increase
by Florida Power & Light
Company.

_____ /

PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

DATE: Wednesday, June 30, 2021

TIME: Commenced: 3:00 p.m.
Concluded: 4:26 p.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: ANDREA KOMARIDIS WRAY
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING
112 W. 5TH AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

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8 32520, appearing on behalf of Florida Power & Light
9 Company (FPL).

10 BRADLEY MARSHALL and JORDAN LUEBKEMANN,
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18 THOMAS JERNIGAN, MAJOR HOLLY BUCHANAN, CAPTAIN
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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

2 JON C. MOYLE, JR. and KAREN A. PUTNAL,
3 ESQUIRES, Moyle Law Firm, 118 North Gadsden Street,
4 Tallahassee, FL 32301, appearing on behalf of Florida
5 Industrial Users Group (FIPUG).

6 JAMES W. BREW and LAURA W. BAKER, Stone Law
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17 Energy (SACE).

18 KATIE CHILES OTTENWELLER, ESQUIRE, 838 Barton
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20 of Vote Solar.

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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

2 RICHARD GENTRY, PUBLIC COUNSEL; CHARLES
3 REHWINKEL, DEPUTY PUBLIC COUNSEL; PATRICIA A.
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13 the Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

14 KEITH HETRICK, GENERAL COUNSEL; MARY ANNE
15 HELTON, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, Florida Public Service
16 Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee,
17 Florida 32399-0850, Advisor to the Florida Public
18 Service Commission.

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

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Good afternoon. I'd like to
3 begin by welcoming everyone to this customer
4 service hearing in the Florida Power & Light/Gulf
5 Power Company rate case. This is an important part
6 of the rate-case process and it's dedicated to
7 hearing directly from you, the customers.

8 My name is Gary Clark and I have the privilege
9 of serving as the Chairman of the Florida Public
10 Service Commission. All of our Commissioners are
11 here with us today. And we're very interested in
12 hearing your comments before we get out of here
13 today.

14 So, at this time, I'd like to ask staff
15 counsel, if they would, to please read the notice
16 of the meeting.

17 MR. STILLER: By notices issued on June 3rd
18 and 4th, 2021, this time and place has been set for
19 a customer service hearing in Docket
20 No. 20210015-EI.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Stiller.

23 Florida Power & Light.

24 MR. BADDERS: Good afternoon. This is Russell
25 Badders on behalf of Florida Power & Light Company.

1 I'd also like to enter an appearance for Wade
2 Litchfield.

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Badders.
4 OPC.

5 MS. WESSLING: Good afternoon. This is Mary
6 Wessling with OPC, and I'd like to enter an
7 appearance on behalf of Richard Gentry, Charles
8 Rehwinkel, Patricia Christensen, and Anastacia
9 Pirrello. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much.
11 Florida Rising.

12 MR. MARSHALL: Good afternoon, Bradley
13 Marshall on behalf of Florida Rising, the League of
14 United Latin American Citizens of Florida, and the
15 Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida.
16 I'd also like to enter an appearance for Jordan
17 Luebkekmann. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Marshall.
19 Federal Executive Agencies.

20 FIPUG.

21 SACE.

22 FRF.

23 Vote Solar.

24 MS. OTTENWELLER: Good afternoon,
25 Mr. Chairman. Katie Chiles Ottenweller with Vote

1 Solar. And I'd also like to make an appearance on
2 behalf of Bill Garner with the CLEO Institute.

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Ottenweller.
4 Walmart.
5 Larsons.

6 FAIR.

7 MR. WRIGHT: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and
8 thank you. Robert Scheffel Wright appearing on
9 behalf of Floridians Against Increased Rates, Inc.
10 I'd also like to enter an appearance for my law
11 partner, John Thomas Lavia, III. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Wright.
13 Staff.

14 MR. STILLER: Shaw Stiller for staff. I'd
15 also like to enter an appearance for co-counsel
16 Suzanne Brownless and Bianca Lherisson.

17 MR. HETRICK: Mr. Chairman, Keith Hetrick,
18 General Counsel for the Commission. And I'd like
19 to enter an appearance for Mary Anne Helton, the
20 Deputy General Counsel.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very
22 much.

23 Did I miss any of the parties?

24 All right. Let me begin by, again, thanking
25 you for taking your time out of your schedules

1 today to call in to this hearing this afternoon.
2 We appreciate your interest in this petition. In
3 August, there will be a technical hearing where the
4 Commission will take up the substance and the
5 evidence.

6 I'd like to remind you, if you are a customer
7 on the line today and you have a technical issue or
8 a billing issue that you would like to discuss with
9 an FPL or a Gulf Power representative, they are on
10 the line, standing by today, and can be reached by
11 calling (833)407-2007.

12 We also have staff available from the Public
13 Service Commission that are on the line available
14 today as well. They can be reached by calling
15 (850)413-6427.

16 Just to remind the parties that this is an
17 official hearing that is going to be transcribed
18 and will become part of the official record. As
19 such, I will swear you in over the phone before you
20 share your comments, unless you have already agreed
21 to be sworn in via the internet.

22 It is -- please note that your comments are
23 also subject to cross-examination; that is, you may
24 be asked questions by the parties or by one of the
25 Commissioners.

1 I'd like to remind the customers that
2 customers are not allowed to ask each other
3 questions. That right is reserved strictly for the
4 parties involved or the Commissioners.

5 As a reminding, please -- reminder, please
6 keep your phone on mute at all times until you're
7 called upon to speak. If your phone is taken off
8 mute, it will record here and we will disconnect
9 you from the line and you will have to dial back
10 in.

11 I'd also like to remind you, when it is your
12 turn to speak, please do not use the speaker
13 function. Speak directly into your phone or
14 directly into a headset, as we have some issues
15 being able to hear customers that are on
16 speakerphone.

17 In addition to sharing your comments, you may
18 also share them with us on any additional -- or any
19 additional materials that you would like via the
20 Commission's website. You can find there a
21 pre-addressed comment card for download. You can
22 also e-mail the Commission directly at
23 commissionclerk@psc.state.fl.us -- .us. Reference
24 Docket 20210015-EI.

25 I'd also like to remind the customers that if,

1 during the course of the hearing, you hear comments
2 that basically cover the same area that you would
3 like to address, please free to just say "ditto" or
4 that you agree with the comments of the previous
5 speaker. That will allow us to get through the
6 list in a little more expeditious manner. We have
7 about 30 or 40 customers on the line today and we
8 want to give the same courtesy to the last speaker
9 that we do the first.

10 As a reminder, each person that is testifying
11 today will have three minutes to speak. At the end
12 of three minutes, you will hear a bell. At three
13 minutes and 15 seconds, you will hear another bell.
14 Five seconds after that, you will hear a dial
15 tone -- I'm kidding. I'm going to interrupt you at
16 the 3:15 mark and just remind you to please wrap up
17 your comments. Again, we want to make certain that
18 everyone gets an equal opportunity to speak today.

19 Now, I'm going to invite FPL to do a brief
20 opening statement, followed by OPC. Then we're
21 going to allow just a brief moment for the rest of
22 the intervenors to address you, the customers.

23 Mr. Badders, you're recognized.

24 MR. BADDERS: Thank you. Christopher Chapel
25 will be providing FP&L's opening remarks today.

1 MR. CHAPEL: Thank you, Russell. And thank
2 you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. And thank you
3 to all of our customers who have taken the time to
4 be here with us today.

5 Before I begin, I would like to extend our
6 thoughts and prayers to the families affected by
7 the horrible tragedy in Surfside, Miami. At times
8 like this, we are reminded that our customers are
9 our friends, our neighbors, and our families. Our
10 hearts are literal- -- literally broken. We have a
11 team on-site and will continue to provide whatever
12 support we can to help.

13 As Russell said, my name is Christopher Chapel
14 and I'm the vice president of customer service for
15 Florida Power & Light Company. As you know, Gulf
16 Power and FPL have merged into a single company
17 serving more than 5.6 million customer accounts
18 across more than half of Florida from Pensacola to
19 Miami.

20 I am proud to be part of the team that now has
21 the privilege and the mission of providing you with
22 electricity that is cleaner and more reliable and
23 increasingly affordable.

24 We are a regulated energy company. This means
25 the Public Service Commission oversees our rates

1 and operations to ensure we deliver safe and
2 reliable service at a fair price. To that end, we
3 are requesting new base rates phased in over four
4 years, beginning in 2022.

5 If approved, our four-year rate plan would
6 begin to transition Gulf Power customers' rates
7 into alignment with FPL's customers' rates, which
8 today, in most instances, are considerably lower.

9 To account -- to accommodate the initial
10 difference in the cost of serving the existing FPL
11 and Gulf Power service areas, we are proposing a
12 surcharge for Gulf Power customers that would
13 decrease each year and ultimately decline to zero
14 in five years.

15 Importantly, under our proposal, Gulf Power's
16 typical residential customer bill would be lower at
17 the end of the four-year plan than it is today and,
18 like FPL's, well-below the national average.

19 In addition to lowering costs, our proposal
20 supports investments in clean generation,
21 infrastructure, and innovative technologies that
22 will further improve your service.

23 For example, we converted Gulf Power's former
24 coal plant to run on 100-percent cleaner natural
25 gas, drastically reducing the carbon dioxide

1 emission rates. And we just built a state-of-the-
2 art solar energy center in Northwest Florida, with
3 two more in development. All tolled, the new solar
4 plants will power more than 45,000 homes with
5 emissions-free electricity.

6 Gulf Power is also more reliable than ever
7 before. By investing in the energy grid to make it
8 stronger, smarter, and more storm-resilient, we've
9 improved reliability 50 percent since 2018. This
10 means our customers are experiencing fewer outages
11 and shorter outages when they do occur.

12 We've been able to deliver this to you -- this
13 value to you by adopting FPL's proven practices and
14 track record. And this is at the heart of our rate
15 plan. We're standing by FPL's proven track record
16 and promising an even better tomorrow, a more
17 resilient and sustainable energy future that all of
18 us can depend on.

19 While we are working hard to lower your bill,
20 we also recognize that some of our customers face
21 challenges and are struggling to pay their bill
22 today. During the COVID pandemic, we helped
23 customers secure financial assistance by connecting
24 them with third-party programs, providing funding
25 to small businesses, and the United Way and through

1 Project Share.

2 As Chairman Clark said, we are here to help
3 customers and have employees available right now to
4 assist. The phone number to call is (833)407-2007.

5 In closing, we are committed to serving you
6 today while always looking over the horizon so
7 we're ready to meet your energy needs tomorrow. We
8 look forward to hearing from you. This is your
9 opportunity. We want to hear what we do well. To
10 that end, we've asked customers who've said they
11 value our service to share their thoughts today,
12 but more importantly, we want to know where we can
13 improve.

14 So, thank you for your participation today.
15 We truly appreciate that you've taken the time to
16 join us and offer feedback. And thank you for the
17 opportunity to serve you.

18 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. -- thank you
19 Mr. Chapel.

20 OPC, Ms. Wessling.

21 MS. WESSLING: Thank you and good afternoon.
22 My name is Mary Wessling and I'm with the Office of
23 Public Counsel. We are an office within the
24 Legislature set up to represent you, the ratepayers
25 of Florida Power & Light and Gulf.

1 We are investigating the Florida Power & Light
2 and Gulf rate request in this matter. To help us,
3 we have hired experts in accounting, depreciation,
4 cost of capital, and other regulatory matters. We
5 will try to get the best rate for you, the
6 customers, that we can.

7 Today we are here to hear from the customers
8 about your experiences with Florida Power & Light
9 and Gulf, be they good or bad. We thank you you
10 for taking the time to attend this hearing and give
11 your input.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,
14 Ms. Wessling.

15 Other parties will begin. Florida Rising,
16 Mr. Marshall.

17 MR. MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Good afternoon. My name is Bradley and I
19 represent Florida Rising, the League of United
20 Latin American Citizens of Florida and the
21 Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida in
22 this proceeding.

23 We oppose this combined FPL 20-percent rate
24 hike because, simply put, it isn't needed. We have
25 been listening during these service hearings and

1 know that many of you are very pleased with Gulf's
2 and FPL's customer service and reliability, but the
3 extra \$6.5 billion FPL plans to collect over the
4 next four years isn't needed for that.

5 They want to use it instead to increase their
6 profits and to continue building out more stuff
7 they don't need, such as new gas power plants;
8 power plants they don't need and that aren't good
9 for the environment.

10 We understand that FPL has been spending a lot
11 in Gulf's service area. We know this because, if
12 separate rates for Gulf's service area are
13 maintained, FPL is asking that those Gulf Power
14 Rates be increased by over 40 percent over the next
15 two years. It's also important to know that FPL
16 can continue to build out solar without raising
17 rates.

18 We oppose this rate increase because too many
19 are already unable to afford their electric bill.
20 FPL has cut off electricity from over half a
21 million customers during the pandemic for failing
22 to keep up with their FPL payments. Reliability
23 doesn't help those FPL customers when they can't
24 afford their electric bills.

25 A 20-percent increase for current FPL

1 customers, or even 40-percent increase if rates
2 remain separate, will push even more over the
3 brink.

4 Thank you and thank you for being here today.

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much
6 Mr. Marshall.

7 Ms. Ottenweller.

8 MS. OTTENWELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Good afternoon, Commissioners, staff, parties,
10 and customers. I'm here on behalf of the CLEO
11 Institute and Vote Solar, two non-profit
12 organizations working towards an affordable, clean,
13 equitable, and resilient energy system that works
14 for all Floridians, especially those who are most
15 vulnerable.

16 In the past year, Floridians faced a global
17 pandemic, economic recession, and record-breaking
18 hurricanes worsened by climate change. We know you
19 have a lot going on, and so, to the customers
20 calling in, we want to say thank you for taking the
21 time and we look forward to hearing your thoughts.

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you Ms. Ottenweller.
23 Mr. Wright.

24 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good
25 afternoon to you. Good afternoon, Commissioners.

1 Good afternoon to all in attendance.

2 I want to add my prayers to those of
3 Mr. Chapel and everyone else for the people in
4 Surfside and their families.

5 My name is Robert Scheffel Wright. I go by
6 Schef. I was born in Miami. And I've worked on
7 energy matters here in Florida for more than 40
8 years, including service in Governor Bob Graham's
9 energy office, and seven years on the Public
10 Service Commission staff before I became an
11 attorney.

12 This afternoon, I have the privilege of
13 representing Floridians Against Increased Rates,
14 Inc. -- we call it FAIR -- which is a Florida non-
15 profit corporation and our more-than-500 FPL
16 customers who are among our members. On behalf of
17 FAIR, I thank everyone for being here today.

18 I want to be clear about this from the outset.
19 From the viewpoint of customers, FAIR wants a
20 healthy FPL, but our position is simply that FPL
21 should have enough money, not too much. It is
22 FPL's duty and responsibility, it is FPL's job to
23 provide safe and reliable service at the lowest
24 possible cost.

25 FPL has thousands of hard-working, good people

1 out there keeping the lights on and we salute them;
2 however, the evidence in this case will show that
3 FPL's request -- which, by the way, is by far the
4 largest in Florida history -- would give them way
5 more money than it needs to do its job.

6 FPL's request is unreasonable and unfair. The
7 unfairness of FPL's request is simply this: FPL
8 does not need another \$1.1 billion of customer
9 money next year to do its job. They don't need
10 what they've asked for in 2023, '24, or '25 either.

11 Even if FPL got no increase at all next year,
12 paid their employees every penny that's in their
13 projected labor costs for next year, paid for every
14 foot of conductor, every pole, every investment in
15 their power plant, and all their interests, they
16 would still have well over \$2 billion in profits
17 left over next year.

18 And it's even worse than that. FPL also wants
19 to use surplus value that your, the customers',
20 payments will create using what they call a
21 depreciation surplus reserve to pad their profits
22 even more, up to potentially another billion-and-a-
23 half dollars over the next four years.

24 FAIR and our witnesses have filed and we will
25 present in the hearing detailed evidence, and we

1 will work hard to present -- prevent FPL from
2 getting any of your money that they don't need and
3 to prevent them from using up value that you create
4 to pad their profits even more.

5 Tell the Commissioners when you think. Thank
6 you for being here and thank you for your
7 attention.

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,
9 Mr. Wright.

10 Any of the other parties?

11 All right. We will move into our customer-
12 testimony portion of this hearing. Just a reminder
13 to all of our customers that are on the line,
14 please keep your comments to the three-minute mark.
15 Listen closely for the bell at the three-minute
16 mark and then wrap your comments up as quickly as
17 possible.

18 I'm going to call out three -- also, one other
19 reminder, if you are skipped, you do not answer
20 when we call your name, if you will hang on the
21 line until we come to the end, we'll give an
22 opportunity for anyone that we may have missed that
23 would like to speak. We'll give them an
24 opportunity at the very end. If we skip over you,
25 miss you for some reason, we can catch you up at

1 the very end.

2 I'm going to try to call out customer names in
3 groups of three. Then I'll come back and pick you
4 up, one, two, three, just so that you will know
5 that you're in the queue and be prepared to take
6 your phone off mute to speak.

7 The first three speakers will be Tony Davis,
8 Michael Sparks, and Holger Lutz.

9 Mr. Davis, are you on the line?

10 MR. DAVIS: I'm here.

11 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized, sir.

12 Three minutes.

13 MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
14 Commissioners, all the parties. My name is Tony
15 Davis. I am a local resident and also a pastor,
16 Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, in the Chipley
17 community.

18 I first want to thank you for the opportunity
19 to speak on behalf of and in support of Gulf Power.
20 I'm supporting Gulf Power and the rate-increase
21 case for several reasons; just a few I'd like to
22 share with you.

23 It is my belief, from my experience as a
24 customer of Gulf Power, that this company has
25 always placed the needs of the customers first.

1 Their level of service and commitment to the
2 community has been phenomenal.

3 Of course, we are experiencing a change in
4 times, but Gulf Power has consistently gone above
5 and beyond to meet the needs of the -- the
6 customers in my community by eliminating or
7 maintaining the hardships that -- or minimizing the
8 hardships that -- that might have come along with
9 any rate increases.

10 Whenever their services are needed, whether
11 it's trimming trees or power -- away from power
12 lines or power outages or just giving some wise and
13 professional guidance on what rate plan is best for
14 needs of any family or individuals, Gulf Power has
15 exceeded those expectations.

16 At the church where I pastor, which is an
17 older constructed building, Gulf Power has sent out
18 customer service reps on several occasions to
19 evaluate the lighting and how we can reduce energy
20 costs during different types of seasons as well as
21 how to save during the peak hours.

22 They've also extended a helping hand to many
23 customers throughout our community that might need
24 assistance or extended time in making or meeting
25 their financial obligation for the month. They've

1 also been very sympathetic and considerate and been
2 gracious to -- to those that need compassion during
3 the times of difficulty or struggle.

4 With that being said, I am in full support of
5 the effort and the mission of Gulf Power. And I
6 say thank you to the Gulf Power community, Gulf
7 Power family.

8 And thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioner,
9 for your time. God bless you.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you for your testimony
11 today, Mr. Davis.

12 Also --

13 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: -- as a reminder to the
15 parties, if anyone has a question for any of the
16 witnesses today, please speak up immediately after
17 they end their testimony. I'm not going to call
18 for questions for each one. If any Commissioner
19 has a question, just flag me down, get my
20 attention, and we will hold this individual for
21 questioning.

22 All right. Next up is Michael Sparks.

23 MR. SPARKS: Yes, I am here.

24 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized,
25 Mr. Sparks.

1 MR. SPARKS: Thank you. Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, for letting me come
3 and testify on behalf of Gulf Power today.

4 I am new to the community, have been here a
5 little bit over two years, retired military, and
6 have been in five different states and four
7 different countries in the last 22 years. So, my
8 experience is more of comparing to what I've had
9 before to what we have now with Gulf Power.

10 I will say that Gulf Power has been great with
11 us customer-service-wise. Any time I've called,
12 they've been able to send somebody out to help us.
13 Especially with lighting, street lights and stuff,
14 they've been able to come out and help us.

15 Comparable price-wise -- I am a father of two
16 with a stay-at-home mom and a swimming pool now.
17 And trust me when I say I use a lot of power. And
18 my bills here are definitely a lot lower than
19 they've been in all the other places I've been.

20 When I did realize that I had some high power
21 bills, Gulf Power was able to send somebody out
22 there for me to run tests on my house, and we did
23 find out that we had some leaks in windows. And
24 they gave us, you know, what the results were and
25 allowed us to fix it, which, then, made my power

1 bills go down.

2 So, I am all for whatever Gulf Power needs to
3 do. I -- I think they are a very great company and
4 I'm proud to be one of their customers.

5 That's all I have. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, very much
7 Mr. Sparks.

8 Next up, Holger Lutz. Holger Lutz.

9 The next three speakers will be Martin
10 Stanovich, Dave Hoxeng, David Fowler.

11 Beginning with Mr. Stanovich.

12 MR. STANOVICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
13 name is Martin Stanovich, 2020 Bayou Grande
14 Boulevard, Pensacola, Florida, in Escambia County.
15 I go by Marty. Thank you to you and the
16 Commissioners for the time today and giving me the
17 opportunity to speak on behalf of Gulf Power
18 Company.

19 I am both a residential and a commercial
20 customer. I'm CEO of a six-county non-profit
21 called First Tee Gulf Coast that -- we have a
22 central facility also in the Warrington area of
23 Pensacola where we are a Gulf Power Com- --
24 customer as well.

25 I'm asking to speak as a residential customer

1 today to applaud the good people of Gulf Power
2 Company, especially following Hurricane Sally. My
3 wife and I have a waterfront residence that took a
4 very big hit in Hurricane Ivan and we were out of
5 power for 17 days. We experienced similar damage
6 and similar results from Hurricane Sally, and FPL
7 and Gulf Power Company had power back on in six
8 days. So, it was a very impressive response.

9 Their efforts for communication within the
10 community have been absolutely incredible. I'm
11 very pleased with the transitions that they are
12 making to renewable energy, taking Plant Crist off
13 of coal and to natural gas so incredibly quickly,
14 also the transition to solar power and other
15 renewable-energy projects, and the fact that
16 they've done an incredible job of communicating
17 this to the citizens of the county.

18 So, I wanted to call and speak to the quality
19 of the service. I've had to call for service on
20 two different items; one, having a surge-suppression
21 system restored that was disconnected by the cable
22 company, and also transition the -- Earth --
23 EarthCents program -- I'm sorry -- it's called
24 Energy Select these days. And their teams have
25 been very responsive and done wonderful work on our

1 behalf.

2 And -- so, those are my comments as a
3 residential customer of Gulf Power Company.

4 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your
5 comments today, Mr. Stanovich.

6 Next up, Dave Hoxeng. Dave Hoxeng.

7 MR. HOXENG: I'm here. Hello.

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized, sir.

9 MR. HOXENG: This is Dave Hoxeng. I'm a
10 residential customer as well as a commercial
11 customer, spending thousands of dollars a month
12 with Gulf Power.

13 First, let me echo Mr. Stanovich's comments by
14 saying, ditto. I think that the recovery after the
15 last storm was really pretty good.

16 We -- we had a lot of concerns in Pensacola
17 about the -- the takeover of Gulf Power by another
18 huge company because Gulf Power had always done a
19 lot of things here in our community that were very
20 important to us. The truth is is that the current
21 leadership at FP&L has encouraged the Gulf people
22 to continue in the community service, which, to me,
23 is very important.

24 In particular, we have a concern about
25 developing jobs and developing new business and new

1 industries. And Gulf has continued to be a big
2 team player within the community for that.

3 There's one other thing I'd like to mention,
4 and that is the service. Ms. Wessling from the
5 OPC, who I don't know, talked about getting us the
6 best rate. And yeah, that's great, but for a
7 utility like Gulf Power, there's a lot more to it
8 than just the best rate, and that is having good,
9 quality service, which they have performed well in.

10 And one example of this, a small example, is
11 the street lighting outage reporting system. Used
12 to be we had to call and then try to navigate a
13 system on the telephone to explain which pole had
14 the light out.

15 And now, you can go online at the Gulf Power
16 website and bring up your address and just click
17 the light, because the map shows all the lights in
18 the neighborhood, and report whether it's out or
19 flickering or whatever the problem may be. And
20 it's a great advance.

21 And as somebody who's also a customer of the
22 outdoor lighting program from Gulf Power, I have
23 noticed that my own lights on my own property are
24 part of that system and that's how I reported the
25 outage last time. So, I thought it was pretty

1 good.

2 Thanks for giving us the time.

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much today for
4 your comments.

5 Next customer is Mr. David Fowler. David
6 Fowler.

7 All right. The next three customers will be
8 Devin Stephenson, Robert Kamm, and David Melvin.

9 Mr. Kamm, when we come to you, you will need
10 to be sworn in.

11 First up, Devin Stephenson.

12 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you very much,
13 Mr. Chair. I'm Devin Stephenson, 100 College
14 Boulevard in Niceville, Florida, Okaloosa County,
15 and I'm the president and CEO of Northwest Florida
16 State College. I'm a customer and advocate for
17 Gulf Power/Florida Power & Light and their work in
18 Northwest Florida.

19 I want to speak to the impact that Gulf Power
20 is having in transforming Northwest Florida. Much
21 like our college, which spans across five campuses
22 throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Gulf Power
23 and Florida Power & Light continues to be
24 instrumental in facilitating the combined efforts
25 of many agencies and entities focused on improving

1 economic, community education, and workforce
2 development.

3 Officials, namely our area representative,
4 Bernard Johnson -- they're always at the table as
5 we work together with city, county, and regional
6 officials in a very collaborative manner to
7 strategize the most efficient steps forward to
8 build capacity that will both strengthen, advance,
9 and future-proof our region.

10 We find that Gulf Power is attune to the
11 aspects and facets of both the extrinsic and
12 intrinsic factors that drive change and
13 improvement, and they provide their expertise at
14 every corner of this important development work.

15 In addition, Gulf Power has been a strong and
16 effective partner with our college in the important
17 work of storm response, restoration, and recovery.
18 Our institution serves as a staging area in the
19 aftermath of a storm or a hurricane, and we can
20 always count on our Gulf Power partner to be
21 alongside us as we chart the course and undertake
22 the journey toward normalcy.

23 We have a long-term relationship of trust and
24 mutual respect. Gulf Power is responsive, helpful,
25 and always proactive in assisting our college

1 rebound from any natural disaster or incident that
2 negatively impacts our operation to serving
3 students.

4 When it is all said and done, we believe our
5 missions are very similar. Our students and their
6 customers are at the center of everything we both
7 do. In other words, our work is driven by our
8 mission-centric desire to provide great service,
9 and do it reliably and affordably.

10 We've found Gulf Power to be a go-to
11 organization when it comes to the ground-level work
12 that is happening in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.
13 Improving lives and improving the quality of place
14 is the driving force behind our work. And the
15 human capital that is provided by Gulf Power on
16 committees and task forces and work groups is
17 invaluable with our efforts in making a difference.

18 We all know that the cost of doing business is
19 increasing and the cost of delivering a quality,
20 higher education is also increasing. We also know
21 that reliability and reliable electricity at
22 affordable rates contributes to economic
23 development and it incentivizes businesses that
24 might want to relocate or to expand in our region.

25 My research clearly shows that the U.S.

1 electricity grid is aging. It's inefficient. It's
2 congested and incapable of meeting the future
3 energy needs of what we call this "information
4 economy" without significant operational changes
5 and substantial capital investment over the next
6 several decades.

7 It is certainly --

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. --

9 MR. STEPHENSON: -- not lost on me --

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Stephenson.

11 MR. STEPHENSON: -- that we need

12 significant -- yes.

13 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Can -- can you wrap up your
14 comments real quick, Mr. Stephenson?

15 MR. STEPHENSON: I'm wrapping up -- to
16 increase resiliency, reliability, to connect
17 additional distributed resources such as wind and
18 solar and to modernize the current grid.

19 I do believe Gulf Power is in tune with the
20 needs of its customers and is strongly committed to
21 their central mission of delivering reliable and
22 affordable services to their constituents.

23 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Stephenson.

25 Next up is Robert Kamm. Mr. Kamm, are you on

1 the line? Robert Kamm.

2 Next up, Mr. David Melvin. David Melvin.

3 Mr. Richard Williams.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm here.

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized,
6 Mr. Williams.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. I want to
8 thank everybody for giving me this opportunity to
9 speak today. I'm the executive director of the
10 Career Source Chipola and Opportunity Florida. One
11 of our locations is served by Gulf Power. And I
12 have to say, right off the bat, that I wish my home
13 was served by them.

14 You know, we've -- we've worked with the old
15 Gulf Power for a long time and -- and they were a
16 positive asset to our region, but under the new
17 ownership, we've seen a lot of improvements
18 underway that are really beneficial to our rural
19 county.

20 The commitment to bring renewable energy
21 through solar power into our region gives us the
22 ability to market our region as a green-energy
23 provider and it allows us to be more competitive as
24 we work to improve the local economy and provide
25 better jobs to our residents.

1 You know, we've already had companies that
2 have contacted us because of the solar coming in
3 and wanting to -- to talk about that because they
4 want to use that green energy. And so, it's going
5 to help our region as we try to create more jobs in
6 the future.

7 In addition, something that doesn't get talked
8 about is these solar farms give our youth a better
9 understanding of things that are possible. One of
10 the problems that we have in rural Florida is that
11 our youth don't get exposed to a lot of different
12 types of technology and careers.

13 And it's really my hope that because of what
14 Gulf Power and Florida Power & Light is bringing
15 here that we can get our youth exposed to that kind
16 of technology. And maybe one day, one of those
17 kids is riding by one of those the solar farms
18 will -- will think about that as a possible career
19 and maybe go into engineering or in some other
20 scientific field because of seeing that and getting
21 that opportunity.

22 FPL and Gulf has reached out to our workforce
23 board, seeking assistance in the ways that -- ways
24 to develop, you know -- getting people qualified to
25 work in both the solar and other electrical fields.

1 They've reached out, not trying to direct us on
2 what to do, but instead, as a partner, seeking
3 input and assistance to help their industry develop
4 the workforce needed to keep the region powered and
5 powerful.

6 We've had such outreach in the past, but
7 never, never at the level that we're now
8 experiencing. In a -- you know, this day and age
9 of virtual means, they drove hours to meet with us
10 face-to-face. We were, of course, following
11 protocol, but they did that because it was very
12 important that we had a chance to interact with
13 each other and work together in a way that you just
14 can't do virtually.

15 It's clear that the new Gulf Power understands
16 the importance of thinking ahead and developing a
17 labor force for tomorrow. I've attended a lot of
18 public meetings where the company has been present
19 and I've learned about improvements they're
20 continuing to make so that our electrical backbone
21 will be stronger and that our region will have an
22 opportunity to stand even taller in the future.

23 And I also want to say, you know, I've never
24 attended one of these hearings before. And, to be
25 honest, I've never really felt like I had a reason.

1 I am one of those people that I -- I will fight for
2 our rural counties, and I will be quick to tell you
3 when I think we've been wronged, but that also
4 means that I need to take an opportunity when it's
5 given to talk about when things are done right.

6 And, frankly, I am -- just been really
7 impressed with -- with Gulf Power, with FPL, and
8 what they've done in our region. In the short time
9 that I've had to work with them, since FPL has come
10 in here, they clearly show they care about us, they
11 clearly show they want to work with us, and they've
12 been really a great community partner. And we look
13 forward to -- to working with them in the future.
14 And I really do support them and hope you will rule
15 in their favor.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank -- thank you very much
18 for your comments today, Mr. Williams.

19 MR. MELVIN: Chairman Clark, this is David
20 Melvin.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, Mr. Melvin, you're
22 recognized.

23 MR. MELVIN: Okay. Sorry about that. I had
24 trouble unmuting. I'm David Melvin. I'm a Gulf
25 Power customer and have an engineering firm, Melvin

1 Engineering, with offices in Tallahassee, Marianna,
2 and Bonifay. And I'd just like to echo my support
3 and I -- my understanding of the need for the rate
4 increase to improve the infrastructure for Gulf
5 Power.

6 I had the opportunity, not only as a customer
7 of Gulf Power, but working with commercial and
8 industrial clients in the area of economic
9 development as they seek to locate in Northwest
10 Florida, and Gulf Power has always been a great
11 partner in assisting with the economic development
12 needs and the electrical power needs of those
13 customers.

14 Kind of a -- really want to appreciate Sandy
15 Sims and Tracy Andrews with Gulf Power of being
16 team players as we seek to try to do economic
17 development, especially in our rural and --
18 communities.

19 And appreciate the investment in my own county
20 of Jackson County and the -- the solar development
21 here of helping our economy, paying taxes, and the
22 increase for the school board and the -- and the
23 county to help us improve other infrastructure
24 areas with that.

25 So, just really appreciate Gulf Power and all

1 they've done and the opportunity to work with them
2 over the past 30 years.

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your
4 comments today, Mr. Melvin.

5 Next up is Beth Marshall. Beth Marshall.

6 Next is Deb Watts. Deb Watts.

7 MS. WATTS: Good afternoon. My name is Deb
8 Watts, and I'm a retired mortgage loan officer for
9 Navy Federal Credit Union. I've been total
10 electric with Gulf Power for 65 years in Pensacola,
11 Florida.

12 As a business owner, we, at one time, had 14
13 grocery stores in the area. When we'd lose power
14 at our stores, one meat case, alone, could cost us
15 \$10,000. Gulf Power has always helped us in our
16 business in crucial times with quality service.
17 And we can say, as business owners, we have never
18 had a problem with Gulf Power.

19 After the recent storms along the Gulf Coast,
20 the sight of the Gulf Power and F- -- FPL trucks
21 entering the surrounding areas and communities was
22 a true blessing. These men and women leave their
23 families to come and help strangers restore power
24 and lives. And it's something that I feel I can
25 never repay. They are true heroes.

1 I am retired and on a fixed income. An
2 increase in rates does affect me directly, but Gulf
3 Power is not only a luxury to me, it is a
4 necessity. And I will support Gulf Power's
5 decision to continue and develop energy-efficient
6 and quality service.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the
8 community, and to the committee. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your
10 testimony today --

11 MS. MARSHALL: Hello --

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: -- Ms. Watts.

13 Next three speakers will --

14 MS. MARSHALL: Hello, this is Beth Marshall.
15 Are we able to go back?

16 CHAIRMAN CLARK: I'm sorry, ma'am. Who is
17 this?

18 MS. MARSHALL: Beth Marshall.

19 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, Ms. Marshall. You're
20 recognized. I'm sorry.

21 MS. MARSHALL: No, don't be. I'm in -- out of
22 the country. Thank you for the chance to speak,
23 and I appreciate you going back to me.

24 I don't know if I am as informed and
25 knowledgeable as some of what I'm hearing today,

1 but I do want to speak especially in support of the
2 efforts that FPL is making with the merger and on
3 the continuation of increasing service, improving
4 service.

5 We have been lifetime Florida residents,
6 lifetime FPL customers, and certainly have nothing
7 but positive to say about that. And we know that
8 that has come from, over time, the improvements
9 that they have made and that, you know,
10 improvements and changes and forward-moving does
11 take money. And so, there are rate increases
12 involved with that.

13 I think a piece I'd like to speak to is, as an
14 educator -- my husband and I are both elementary
15 school administrators. And knowing the
16 education -- how important it is -- and what I mean
17 by that, in the sense of educating customers and
18 educating the public. And I know what I've heard
19 today informs me and allows me to share with other
20 people what this means.

21 I think of someone like my dad who might hear
22 of an FPL rate increase and say, oh, no, why do
23 they need more money. So, really just encouraging
24 opportunities for FPL to educate the public and,
25 you know, put it out there, what really is

1 involved; that it is about more than just rising
2 costs and rate increases.

3 So, that is -- that is what I wanted to share
4 today.

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your
6 testimony today, Ms. Marshall.

7 Next three speakers will be Pam Mitchell, Jim
8 Sanger, and Morgan Gianola.

9 Begin with Pam Mitchell.

10 MS. MITCHELL: Good afternoon. I'm Pam
11 Mitchell. I'm a long-time resident and customer
12 with Gulf Power. My husband's business, Mitchell
13 Motors, was a satisfied customer of Gulf Power's
14 until his retirement.

15 Gulf Power has been there for Northwest
16 Florida, working days and nights over the years
17 when our community has had several storms and
18 hurricanes that caused power outages for days.
19 Those men and women were our heroes.

20 As a satisfied customer, I hope you continue
21 to invest in services for Northwest Florida. Thank
22 you.

23 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,
24 Ms. Mitchell.

25 Next up, Jim Sanger. Jim Sanger.

1 Next is Morgan Gianola.

2 MR. GIANOLA: Hello. Can you hear me?

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes.

4 MR. GIANOLA: Hi, my name is Morgan Gianola.

5 I'm an FPL customer. I'm actually here
6 representing four people in my household, speaking
7 strongly against the rate increase. I would like
8 to echo all of the sentiments made by Florida
9 Rising and the FAIR group.

10 Specifically, every single positive comment
11 about FPL or Gulf Power is a testament to the fact
12 that they don't need to be charging us higher
13 rates; that they're already doing everything that
14 these people are in support of.

15 What the higher rates are doing is just giving
16 them an opportunity to extort more money from the
17 public. If they really want to invest more in
18 infrastructure, if they really want to make
19 themselves a clean-energy provider, they can take
20 those billions of dollars in profits and invest in
21 that infrastructure.

22 Investing in natural gas is not a clean energy
23 source. It produces more methane, which is a
24 56-times-more-potent greenhouse gas than CO2 and
25 then they greenwash it by saying, we're producing

1 less CO2.

2 A tiny fraction of our energy in the state is
3 coming from solar power. And they're not placing
4 the investments in that that they could be. Again,
5 they have the money already to invest in these.
6 They do not need to be charging people more.

7 They do not need to be cutting off power to
8 half a million people during the middle of the
9 pandemic. What do you say to the people who aren't
10 here today, the people who can't take time out of
11 the middle of a workday to make a comment saying
12 that they can't afford this?

13 What do you say to the people who have to
14 choose between providing food for their family and
15 making sure that they have AC in the summer? This
16 is a very real factor for millions of people in
17 this state.

18 This is affecting a lot of people and it's
19 going -- the brunt of the detrimental effects of
20 this are going to be felt by the poor and the
21 barely-middle class, the people who are just barely
22 getting by. Those people are not being represented
23 here today.

24 I've heard from business owners and mortgage
25 adjusters, and people are saying, I'm happy with

1 the service that FPL provides. The service does
2 not -- is not affected by the fact that they're
3 trying to squeeze another 20 percent out of
4 providing the same service that they're already
5 providing. That's not necessary. Again, all of
6 the facts, all of the statistics laid out by
7 Florida Rising and laid out by the FAIR group are
8 entirely relevant.

9 And I really just need to ask the FPL
10 people: Are you -- is your goal -- is your
11 intention to actually provide clean energy for the
12 people of the state that need it or is it just to
13 maximize your profits? Because I see you spending
14 millions of dollars on lobbying and -- and pushes
15 in Congress to avoid regulations, to avoid actually
16 having to actually invest in clean-energy
17 infrastructure. So, please show us what you're
18 actually fighting for.

19 I -- I hear the bell, so I'll stop, but
20 please, this affects millions of people. A lot of
21 us cannot afford this.

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you for your comments
23 today, Mr. Gianola.

24 All right. Next, we --

25 MR. SANGER: Mr. Chairman, this is Jim Sanger.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Sang- --

2 MR. SANGER: Can I squeeze back in?

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir, I'll recognize you.

4 MR. SANGER: Thank you. And thank you for the
5 opportunity to address the Commission. My name is
6 Jim Sanger and I am representing the Heights Center
7 at 15570 Hagie Drive, Fort Myers, Florida. I'm the
8 chief operations officer for the Heights Center.
9 We're a non-profit center, a childcare center -- a
10 non-profit community center, a childcare center,
11 and a charter school, and we have been a customer
12 of FPL's for over 20 years. And I am speaking in
13 support of the proposed FP&L rate -- rate increase.

14 Over the years, we have found FP&L to be an
15 extremely reliable and dependable energy partner in
16 our community. If and when we have an energy
17 issue, they have always communicated well and
18 solved the issue quickly.

19 Being a non-profit business, FP&L has provided
20 expertise through energy audits several times over
21 the last few years that have resulted in more-
22 efficient systems for us and lower costs for our
23 business.

24 When we entered into a new construct- --
25 construction process, FP&L again was there to help

1 us design the most cost-effective way to get power
2 to our site and help guide us through the most
3 energy-efficient HVAC, electrical panels, and
4 fixtures for our facility.

5 Beyond all the great money savings and
6 customer service FP&L has provided us, continuing
7 to maintain and upgrade the power grid in Florida
8 is extremely important to us due to the numerous
9 storms and hurricanes that affect our area.

10 For these reasons, we think it's imperative
11 FP&L is able to continue this level of service in
12 the future; therefore, we support the proposed rate
13 increase. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Sanger.

15 We'll remind our customers, if we miss you, we
16 call your name and you don't answer us, please hold
17 'til the end of all of the speakers, and we will
18 take you at the end. I'm not going to go back and
19 pick any up until we get through with all the list
20 of speakers from this point on. Okay?

21 Next up, three speakers, Debora Carter,
22 Frederick Donovan, Cortes Maria Lewis. And I will
23 need to swear all three of you in before we begin.

24 Ms. Carter, are you on the line? Debora
25 Carter.

1 Next speaker is Frederick Donovan.

2 MR. DONOVAN: I'm on the line.

3 (Whereupon, Frederick Donovan was sworn by
4 Chairman Clark.)

5 MR. DONOVAN: I do.

6 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. You're
7 recognized, sir.

8 MR. DONOVAN: Well, thank you, Chairman,
9 Commissioners. My name is Fred Donovan, Jr., here
10 at Baskerville-Donovan in Pensacola, Florida. I am
11 a satisfied Gulf Power customer.

12 We -- we run a 94-year-old engineering firm
13 headquartered here in Pensacola. We've got branch
14 offices around the region -- Tallahassee, Panama
15 City Beach, Mobile, Alabama -- but basically, been
16 working with Gulf Power for my entire career.

17 So, in our business, we maintain all of our
18 work product at some -- in some cases, millions of
19 dollars of plans, designs, engineering
20 specifications, data, on our servers. So, it is
21 very important that power outages are brief so that
22 the company can stay in production mode.

23 Over the years, we have had a very favorable
24 service relationship with Gulf Power. Power
25 outages are rare, and the ones we do experience are

1 brief. So, we've been very happy with the Gulf
2 Power service over the years.

3 But I think the real test of service in this
4 area comes from when hurricanes and tropical
5 cyclones make landfall, as some others have noted.
6 We've had very few down days due to power outages
7 resulting from hurricanes making landfall in
8 Pensacola. I think, like a lot of companies in
9 Northwest Florida, Gulf Power seems to specialize
10 in recovery and repair during tropical weather
11 events like these.

12 During -- during Hurricane Sally last year,
13 the total time required to restore power to our
14 Pensacola office was 2.5 business days. Now, we
15 had a weekend in there, but that was remarkable
16 considering the level of complete destruction and
17 flooding in downtown Pensacola.

18 I think, more importantly and most
19 importantly, many of our engineers and technicians
20 were able to return to work quickly, due in part
21 to, I think, Gulf Power's emergency response
22 efforts throughout the entire community. Until
23 things are -- are going well at home, you can't go
24 back to work.

25 So, I guess, in closing, our experience here

1 at Baskerville-Donovan with Gulf Power service has
2 been very good. We look forward to continuing that
3 relationship in -- in the future.

4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you for your testimony,
6 Mr. Donovan.

7 Next up, Cortes Maria Lewis.

8 MS. LEWIS: Good afternoon.

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Ms. Lewis, I need to swear
10 you in, please.

11 (Whereupon, Cortes Maria Lewis was sworn by
12 Chairman Clark.

13 MS. LEWIS: Yes, it is.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized.

15 MS. LEWIS: Thank you so very much for
16 recognizing me. To everyone here, I just want to
17 speak from the standpoint of a resident in Miami-
18 Dade County. My address is 13800 Northeast 12th
19 Avenue, North Miami, and that is zip code 33161.

20 I am not in agreement with this price hike
21 that is being asked for. While this will impact
22 all of FPL's customers, it will disproportionately
23 impact low-to-moderate-income customers.

24 In addition to profiting off of unsustainable
25 fossil fuels that harms our communities, FP&L was

1 one of several power companies that resumed
2 customer disconnection during the second wave of
3 the pandemic.

4 For me, being an implant to Miami and just
5 seeing the ripple effect that occurred during the
6 most tragic time and how, for some reason, the
7 minority communities always end up with their
8 electric off for the longest -- and I don't
9 understand that. It doesn't make sense. It --
10 it's like the power goes out first and then it's
11 left off until the end.

12 And so, for me, my mindset, the picture that I
13 see is a switchboard. And, literally, someone is
14 actually -- we're going to turn this off and we're
15 going to leave this on and we're going to turn this
16 back on, but we're going to leave this off. And
17 it's unfair.

18 And so, now, to turn around and ask for a 20-
19 percent hike because of a merger that -- that has
20 been made to bring Gulf up to FP&L -- it's just
21 unfair.

22 And so, I just hope that Florida Public
23 Service Commission will require FP&L to maintain
24 fair rates for their customers and prioritize the
25 communities that they serve.

1 Thank you so very much for allowing me to
2 share.

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you so much for your
4 testimony, Ms. Lewis.

5 Next three customers will be Maria Jose
6 Orejuela, Romina Montenegro, Haley Anderson.

7 Begin with Maria Jose Orejuela. I'll give you
8 an extra second in case I'm mispronouncing the last
9 name. Last name is spelled O-r-e-j-u-e-l-a,
10 Or-well-o.

11 Next customer, Romina Montenegro.

12 MS. MONTENEGRO: Good afternoon. Can you hear
13 me?

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, we can hear you. You're
15 recognized.

16 MS. MONTENEGRO: Great. Thank you. Good
17 afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Commission. My name is
18 Romina, and I live in Miami, Florida. I am calling
19 because I am against this highering of the bills
20 20 percent.

21 As you all may know, Miami saw its highest --
22 highest temperature week ever recorded in 2020, so,
23 last year. Miami also, at the same time, went
24 through a life-altering pandemic, as did, you know,
25 the whole world; something we continue to deal with

1 as we transition back to reality.

2 Floridians across the entire state continue to
3 struggle to recover from this devastating pandemic
4 that left people in a health and economic crisis.
5 Now is not the time for this Commission to allow
6 FPL to increase electricity bills by 20 percent.

7 I live in Little Havana, a community that is
8 primarily housing immigrants and lower-income
9 families. I have personally seen families struggle
10 to make ends meet, needing to prioritize their FPL
11 bills and rent to assure they have a safe place
12 from the heavy Miami sun.

13 These rate hikes un- -- unfairly affect low-
14 income families, and companies like FPL plan to
15 increase base rates for vulnerable communities on
16 the basis of improving already-reliable systems and
17 making it more reliable, an excuse and lie that we
18 know hides their desire to make already-rich
19 shareholders more money.

20 We already have a reliable system and, quite
21 frankly, families who are struggling to make ends
22 meet won't significantly notice this difference.
23 Nearly 55 percent of Floridians, four million
24 children, are either living or near poverty or in
25 households that are one missed paycheck or lost job

1 away from not being able to meet basic needs.

2 With 20 percent of Floridians actually living
3 in poverty, Florida ranks in the bottom 15 states,
4 35 in the nation. At the end of the day, the
5 amount of money that a 20-percent increase accounts
6 to is more significant in the customer's pocket
7 than in fixing a system that already works.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today,
9 and I hope you will side with Floridians, those who
10 cannot afford to take time off to speak today,
11 rather than FPL shareholders who are looking to
12 make more money.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your
15 testimony today.

16 Next person is Haley Anderson.

17 MS. ANDERSON: Hi, good afternoon. Can you
18 hear me?

19 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes. You're recognized,
20 Ms. Anderson.

21 MS. ANDERSON: Hi. Thank you.

22 My name is Haley Anderson and I live at 255
23 Southwest 11th Street in Miami-Dade County. I'm
24 here as an associate of Catalyst Miami and I would
25 like to echo the voices that we've heard previously

1 that are in opposition to the increase -- the rate-
2 increase proposal.

3 I think we've heard a lot today that FPL is
4 doing a great job. I applaud them for the work
5 that they are doing, but again, we are in the wake
6 of a pandemic, and it is not the time to be
7 increasing prices.

8 I think there are certain things that need to
9 be addressed like the -- the phrasing that they are
10 switching to a clean natural gas as opposed to
11 coal. That, to me, is not progress that is all
12 that applaudable. Natural gas is not a very green
13 alternative. It is maybe just the first step.

14 I think that there is a lot that Florida
15 Power & Light can do, before increasing prices,
16 that can be beneficial to them. And I think that
17 the focus should be on leaving less profits by the
18 end of the year for share- -- shareholders and
19 spending less time lobbying for the moratoriums
20 that helped the lower-income communities avoid
21 shutoffs for not paying their bills during a
22 pandemic.

23 I am very much in opposition of the increase.
24 I think Florida Power & Light does good work; I
25 just think now is not the time.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,
3 Ms. Anderson.

4 Next three speakers will be Travis Gardner,
5 Luis Gonzalez-Mendez, and Federico Perdomo.

6 First, Mr. Gardner, you on the line?

7 MR. GARDNER: Yes, I'm on the line and I
8 appreciate it.

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized.

10 MR. GARDNER: Hello, my name is -- thank you.
11 My name is Travis Gardner and I'm calling in in
12 opposition of the rate increase. I want to
13 know that -- I do know that this 20 percent is the
14 highest in history and, honestly, just straight
15 connected to greed and unfair. What makes it
16 unfair is that there's a lot of elderly people who
17 are sick and cannot keep up with today's increase
18 in prices.

19 And I'm hearing there's a lot of business
20 partners and people who work with them, such as
21 non-profits and -- who are praising them. Well,
22 that's fine, but you don't represent the everyday
23 people. There's different streams of income that
24 get you by and other people -- most people are just
25 not entrepreneurs, such as you guys.

1 So, and I -- I also know there's a lot of non-
2 profits who are calling in about their community
3 and how they do well for them, and also that
4 they're not FP&L customers; they're -- most are
5 Gulf customers.

6 Those Gulf customers, I'm -- I have not been
7 serviced by those providers, but Florida Power &
8 Light is -- is a different animal. And as you will
9 get connected with them with this merger, you
10 definitely will see.

11 I understand that 40 percent would be
12 increased in the next two years. So, again --
13 like, again, I'll say before, I don't know about --
14 I'm pretty sure that a lot of residents are not
15 going to handle that. I'm pretty sure a lot of
16 businesses' partners will be okay with that.

17 Another point is -- I want to clear up is that
18 there is no such thing as clean gas. Because it
19 says natural gas does not mean it's clean. This
20 methane is very dangerous as a byproduct of gas
21 once you burn it. So, there is nothing clean about
22 it. It's not -- it's naturally bad. That's -- you
23 can -- you can leave that with that.

24 I understand that new gas plants will be made.
25 And there should be no more gas plants be made.

1 There should only be solar and so forth.

2 Half a million people have been disconnected
3 during the pandemic from FP&L because they were not
4 able to be make it. FPL -- the whole economy was
5 on pause. The whole world economy was on pause,
6 but they disconnected these people, not caring if
7 they were sick or elderly. They really need this
8 electricity. I'm pretty sure it was a necessity
9 that every house have electricity. And I really
10 just want to say, again, that I'm in disagreement
11 of the 20-percent increase.

12 And thank you you for your time. Goodbye.

13 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Gardner, for
14 your testimony today.

15 Next is Luis Gonzalez-Mendez. Luis Gonzalez-
16 Mendez.

17 Next is Federico Perdomo. Federico Perdomo.

18 The next three customers will be Linda Fowler,
19 Edna Gordon, and Wanda Beniquez -- Beniquez.

20 First is Linda Fowler. Linda Fowler.

21 (Background noise.)

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Cut that line.

23 Next is Edna Gordon. Edna Gordon.

24 Wanda Beniquez. Wanda Beniquez.

25 All right. Our next three speakers will be

1 Esteban Roncancio, Eduardo Yi, Nerissa Cannon.

2 Begin with Esteban Roncancio.

3 MR. RONCANCIO: Yes, I'm here.

4 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Mr. Ron- --
5 Roncancio, you are recognized, sir.

6 MR. RONCANCIO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
7 thank you, everybody, who is here. My name is
8 Esteban Roncancio. I live in 21561 Southwest 94th
9 Avenue in Cutler Bay, Florida. I am an FPL
10 residential customer.

11 I am calling to speak against the proposed
12 rate increase for the following reasons. First, I
13 would like to ditto the statements from
14 Mr. Marshall and from the FAIR organization.

15 Also, I would like to say that there has- --
16 there hasn't been enough information about this
17 proposal. I spoke with several of my neighbors
18 here in Cutler Bay and none of them have heard
19 about this proposal.

20 I also check all my e-mails, all my letters
21 from FPL. I think FPL has not made a good-faith
22 effort to get feedback from their customers on this
23 proposal. It feels as if they're handpicking who's
24 going to speak in this Commission in their favor.

25 And I'd also like to ask the Commission about

1 who is this rate really benefiting; remind the
2 Commission that we have a duty to do what's best
3 for the citizens.

4 And I'll re-share those statements that this
5 feels like this is an opportunity for FPL to make
6 more money for their shareholders without really
7 thinking about how it will benefit their customers.

8 And like others have said, while FPL's service
9 can be good customer service, I don't think this
10 warrants a six-billion rate increase.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, sir.

13 Next speaker will be Edward -- Eduardo Yi.

14 MR. YI: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized, sir -- let
16 me swear you in. I'm sorry.

17 (Whereupon, Eduardo Yi was sworn by Chairman
18 Clark.)

19 MR. YI: Yes, I do.

20 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. You're
21 recognized.

22 MR. YI: Hold on. Let me -- let me take that
23 off of speaker, just in case.

24 Mr. Chairman, my name is Eduardo Yi. I'm a
25 long-time resident of South Florida. I've lived

1 here since 1960, recently retired. And I am
2 calling as a resident in support of the FP&L rate
3 increase.

4 Over the last few years, especially since
5 after Hurricane Andrew, I have seen efforts by both
6 FP&L and all the other utilities in the South
7 Florida area in West -- West Florida, make an
8 effort to increase the reliability of their service
9 to their customers.

10 More recently, probably in the last ten years,
11 I've seen -- not myself, but some of my neighbors,
12 with very challenging power-distribution systems
13 converted to underground, which, to me, makes --
14 shows that FP&L is making a concerted effort to
15 make power distribution and -- and delivery more
16 reliable during storm times.

17 As a recent retiree, my whole career has been
18 in the construction industry. I've worked fairly
19 closely with FP&L on different projects, and they
20 have been very conducive to growth in the industry.

21 I've worked closely with increasing loads
22 and -- and reliability at various installations in
23 South Florida, also Southwest Florida. And for
24 that, the folks at FP&L have been very
25 understanding of -- of our needs. And in -- in

1 that respect, I am in support for the increases
2 that they've asked for.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your
5 testimony today, Mr. Yi.

6 MR. YI: Bye.

7 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Nerissa Cannon. Nerissa
8 Cannon.

9 All right. The next three speakers will be
10 Terry Fero, Vicki Pelletier, Arnold Welber.

11 Beginning with Terry Fero. Terry Fero, if
12 you're on the line, I will need to swear you in
13 before you begin.

14 Next is Vicki Pelletier. Vicki Pelletier.
15 Arnold Welber. Arnold Welber.

16 Next speaker will be Mr. Terry Ellis.

17 MR. ELLIS: I'm here.

18 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Ellis, you're recognized.

19 MR. WELBER: Sorry. Sorry, I was cut off.
20 This is Arnold Welber.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: We'll come back to you in one
22 moment, Mr. Welber.

23 MR. WELBER: Thank you, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Ellis, you're recognized.

25 MR. WELBER: Thank you, sir. Kind of you.

1 MR. ELLIS: Okay. Yes, I appreciate it,
2 Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to speak on behalf of
3 Florida Power & Light in favor of the rate
4 increase. I'd like to speak to the terrific
5 support that we've received.

6 And it's hard for me to use Florida Power &
7 Light because I've been used to saying Gulf Power
8 for -- for many years now, but we -- I work for --
9 am vice president of business development for West
10 Point Homes. We're a manufacturer located in
11 Chipley, Florida. And we have enjoyed and -- a
12 great relationship, have received tremendous
13 support.

14 One of the things that we've -- we've in- --
15 we work in an industry where we have so much
16 competition globally, and one of the things that is
17 imperative that we have is -- is, basically, power
18 service that is reliable, dependable, but also
19 affordable and allows us to be as competitive as
20 possible. And, throughout the years, we have
21 always had that through Gulf Power and now Florida
22 Power & Light.

23 And -- but we know that there's no way to have
24 excellent service unless you maintain things
25 properly. And so, having been in an industry in

1 which we've had to just scrape to -- to get by --
2 and when you do that for many years, you -- you
3 don't support your systems, your equipment, all
4 those things in the way that they need to, then
5 service and -- and reliability suffers.

6 And so, especially with our power grid and
7 power supply, we want to make sure that we maintain
8 it properly and service it like it should be. And
9 so, we need a well-maintained system.

10 And we've seen some of the issues that have
11 happened in Texas and other places. And we need a
12 power grid that will be there and be sufficient to
13 support our businesses. And so, that's one of the
14 reasons in which I'm -- I'm supporting that rate
15 increase.

16 Another reason is their support during the
17 hurricane, before and after, was fantastic. And we
18 also know that one of the things that needs to
19 be -- to happen is continuing to harden our system
20 so that there's less and less issues with future
21 storms.

22 And, again, that doesn't happen without a lot
23 of investment. And so, I want to make sure that
24 those things continue to happen so that we can
25 eliminate and reduce issues going forward with

1 future storms.

2 And then the other thing that has always been
3 a part of having -- living in a rural county -- I'm
4 Chairman of the EDC for Washington County. And
5 Gulf Power/Florida Power & Light, have always been
6 great partners in supporting our local efforts for
7 economic development.

8 And, in rural counties, where we do not have
9 as many -- do not have the dollars to chase and --
10 and to work on economic development, it is -- it is
11 imperative that we have partners like Gulf Power/
12 Florida Power & Light to help us through these
13 circumstances that support us, that help us with
14 our initiatives.

15 And whether it be certification of industrial
16 sites and just support of our ongoing economic-
17 development efforts, Gulf Power has always been
18 just a -- a great partner in that and I would want
19 that to continue, and again, understand that that
20 doesn't happen for free.

21 And so, I'm in favor of it because I want to
22 continue to see the excellent service that we see
23 now and the reliability that we -- that we enjoy,
24 but also continue to prepare to -- toward the
25 future, and have always found them to be a great

1 partner in that effort.

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you. Thank you for
3 your testimony today, Mr. Ellis.

4 MR. ELLIS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Next up, Deborah Dunlap.
6 Deborah Dunlap.

7 MS. DUNLAP: Good morning -- or good
8 afternoon.

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You're recognized.

10 MS. DUNLAP: Thank you, Chairman and
11 Commissioners. My name is Deborah Dunlap. I'm a
12 major property owner in historic downtown
13 Pensacola.

14 For the past 30 years, I have reinvested the
15 majority of my earnings back into three century-old
16 buildings in the Palafox block between Romana and
17 Intendencia Street. And the majority of my
18 commercial tenants are mom-and-pop retailers,
19 mostly minority-owned. And, together, they make up
20 the largest concentration of retail in all of
21 downtown.

22 I'm calling today to thank Gulf Power and the
23 parent company, Florida Power & Light, for having
24 the foresight to upgrade our electrical
25 infrastructure. This five-year multi-million

1 project will ensure that the power grid of
2 Pensacola's historic urban core will meet the
3 demands of the extraordinary growth that we're
4 currently seeing and will continue to see in the
5 coming years.

6 When this project began, the street closures
7 and the construction noise took its toll on
8 retailers up and down Palafox. The infrastructure
9 work was down on the side streets and was well away
10 from Palafox, but the negative impact on retail was
11 felt on businesses in all directions.

12 Now, approximately 18 months into this five-
13 year project, the construction was at our front
14 door. And the original work was scheduled Monday
15 through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., which
16 is a death knell for the retailers who are already
17 seeing a 30-percent decline in sales. And this
18 daytime schedule put the construction on our block
19 at the very worst time possible, the Christmas
20 shopping season.

21 My tenants, led by Katie Rhodes Abosco
22 (phonetic), a successful clothing retailer,
23 implored me to try to get the schedule changed. We
24 met with the Gulf Power project manager, the
25 downtown improvement board, and the city

1 engineering department, and implored them that, if
2 we change the schedule from Sunday to Wednesday
3 from 10:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m., that it would
4 reduce the negative impact on the retailers and the
5 bars and restaurants to a very minimum, but this
6 was a difficult hurdle because it would add
7 considerable cost to the Gulf Power and the Florida
8 Power & Light project.

9 But, thankfully, they understood the plight of
10 the retailers, and they made the change for us, and
11 not a moment too soon because, in the spring of
12 2020 -- of course, we were shut down amidst the
13 pandemic.

14 Now, I'm in favor of the proposed rate
15 increase because, as the owner of three buildings
16 that are all in excess of 135 years old, I realize
17 the need to upgrade infrastructure whenever
18 possible and, because of the pandemic, we've seen a
19 phenomenal human migration to Florida. And that's
20 leading to additional commercial and residential
21 buildings. We need to be leading the nation in
22 infrastructure upgrades now.

23 There are a few people I want to mention that
24 made the historic downtown project upgrade of the
25 power grids run so very smoothly. First and

1 foremost, I want to recognize Eddie Dixon, the
2 project manager for Gulf Power.

3 Mr. Dixon was always available and ready to
4 work with the businesses and the property owners.
5 He encouraged the meetings between the retailers,
6 the subcontractors, and the city, and he fostered a
7 clear communication stream to make sure that
8 everyone understood the challenges faced by the
9 Palafox business owners as well as the contractors
10 for Florida Power & Light.

11 But once we got the nighttime schedule --

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Ms. Dunlap, can you
13 conclude -- can you conclude real quick?

14 MS. DUNLAP: Yes, I can. Yes, I can. I just
15 want to say that Mr. Dixon is the kind of project
16 manager that every company should hope to have and,
17 in closing, I'm in favor of this rate increase
18 because we need to stay ahead of our energy needs.

19 Thank you so much.

20 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you ver- -- thank you
21 so much for your testimony today.

22 All right. We'll go back and pick up those
23 customers that may not have been on the line when
24 we called their name.

25 Mr. Welber, I understand you're on the line.

1 MR. WELBER: Yes, I'm here.

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: I need to swear you in, sir.

3 (Whereupon, Arnold Welber was sworn by
4 Chairman Clark.)

5 MR. WELBER: I affirm truth is the only way.

6 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir, you're recognized.

7 MR. WELBER: Thank you for giving me an
8 opportunity.

9 FPL is one of the few companies that have not
10 signed on to the pledge to decarbonize. They may
11 say they want to decarbonize, but if they were
12 really serious about protecting our children and
13 grandchildren's survival on planet earth, they
14 would have signed on to the pledge.

15 FPL has spent a lot of money on new or
16 upgraded gas plants without showing it was needed
17 by the Public Service Commission. Methane is what
18 comes from gas plants. And even though maybe it's
19 not taken from Florida ground, wherever it comes
20 from, it's -- continues to pollute, which keeps the
21 greenhouse effect and -- and the warming of the
22 planet and -- more and more.

23 And what happens is we're going to keep
24 getting more hurricanes and then we're going to
25 need more money to do repairs. And if FPL, you

1 know -- it's an investor-owned utility. And,
2 basically, they've got a rating of 7th highest
3 rate, IOU rate, investor utility rate, in -- by the
4 American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

5 The council also says FPL ranks 51 out of 52
6 major utility companies when it comes to energy
7 efficiency, saving energy and costs. And that's
8 what it's about.

9 And, you know, I would echo what Florida
10 Rising, FAIR group, Mr. Gianola, Ms. Lewis said,
11 but when I look out my window and I see a line --
12 I've been a resident since 1983 in Florida. And
13 I've been paying my cust- -- paying my bill always.
14 When I see a line of people waiting to pick up food
15 at food banks in a -- in a low-to-middle-income
16 neighborhood -- I've never witnessed that, since
17 1983.

18 This is not the time for the increase. FPL
19 needs to start being serious and sign on to zero
20 emissions. They've got to move forward. They need
21 to be a leader. They're not a leader by just
22 building more gas plants, and when they feel that
23 gas plant isn't good enough, close that one and
24 build another one. There's no -- there's no
25 hydrowater -- there's maybe one hydrowater to back

1 up solar.

2 FP&L -- it doesn't deserve a rate increase at
3 this point in time, and the public doesn't deserve
4 it because we're in a pandemic. This is the worst
5 time to ever do something like this.

6 And, still, FP&L needs to be serious and sign
7 on to the decarbonizing pledge. If they don't,
8 they don't deserve anything.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,
11 Mr. Welber.

12 Are there any other parties on the line that
13 were -- that are signed up and registered to
14 participate that did not get a chance to speak?

15 MR. KAMM: This is Robert Kamm.

16 CHAIRMAN CLARK: One second -- your name,
17 again, sir?

18 MR. KAMM: Robert Kamm, K-a-m-m.

19 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Mr. Kamm, you are
20 recognized. Let me -- I've got to find your name.
21 One second, make sure you've been sworn in.

22 (Whereupon, Robert Kamm was sworn by Chairman
23 Clark.)

24 MR. KAMM: I do.

25 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. You're

1 recognized.

2 MR. KAMM: All right. I'm Robert Kamm and I'm
3 the CEO of the Hilton San Destin located in Miramar
4 Beach here. And I've been here since the hotel was
5 built some 36, 37 years ago.

6 We are a very, very large customer of Gulf
7 Power. And I consider it more of a partnership
8 than I do being a -- just a customer. Example was,
9 back in 2012, we were using about 13 million
10 kilowatt-hours a year. That's a lot of power
11 coming through here.

12 But working with Gulf Power and coming up with
13 cost-savings items that have helped us, we have
14 lowered our usage to just a little over 10 million
15 kilowatt hours and, at the same time, lowering our
16 energy costs by about a quarter of a million
17 dollars. So, that is why I consider it a
18 partnership. They have always been there when we
19 needed them.

20 Back at the very end of June of 2011, our main
21 transformer went out. And that's the busiest time
22 of the year for us. Fourth of July is our busiest
23 day of the year. And within 24 hours, they had a
24 new transformer on the site, installed, and we had
25 power. And at that time of the year, we would have

1 about 3,000 guests running around this hotel. And
2 it's not pleasant in July and June in the
3 Panhandle.

4 Also, after Hurricane Michael, we had power at
5 our hotel down for evacuation. And when we tried
6 to power it back up, the main switch gear in our
7 Emerald tower would not reengage. And Gulf Power
8 was out here in a matter of hours assisting us and
9 they came up with a temporary solution for us to be
10 able to reengage the switch gear, which we
11 eventually had to change out in 2019, in the off-
12 season.

13 There are several other instances throughout
14 the years that I won't go through, but they have
15 been a very, very good partner with us working with
16 us in our times of need, working with us on saving
17 energy, and doing everything possible to help us be
18 a good neighbor to the community.

19 I am for the rate increase. And I very much
20 appreciate what they've done for us. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Kamm.

23 Any other speakers that we may have
24 overlooked?

25 All right. Well, that will conclude our

1 hearing for this evening. Just as a reminder, we
2 will be back at 6:00 this evening for an additional
3 hearing.

4 Several individuals have asked or made
5 comments regarding the times these hearings are set
6 throughout different times of the day. Several of
7 the hearings are held at night so customers that
8 are at work during the daytime will have an
9 opportunity to call in.

10 But we do want to thank everyone for taking
11 time out of their schedules to be a part of this
12 hearing today. It is a very important part of the
13 process, and I assure you that this Commission
14 takes into consideration all of the input that is
15 provided.

16 Before we adjourn, Mr. Hetrick.

17 MR. HETRICK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I just want
18 to be clear on the record, 7:00 Eastern Time,
19 6:00 Central Time.

20 CHAIRMAN CLARK: That is correct, 7:00 Eastern
21 Time, 6:00 Central for the next hearing.

22 Any other comments? Commissioner, anything
23 before we adjourn? We stand adjourned. Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at 4:26
25 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, ANDREA KOMARIDIS WRAY, 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 19th day of July, 2021.



ANDREA KOMARIDIS WRAY
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH 089181
EXPIRES February 9, 2025