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BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20220069-GU

Petition for rate increase  
by Florida City Gas.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN ANDREW GILES FAY  
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA  
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

DATE: Wednesday, September 14, 2022

TIME: Commenced: 2:00 p.m.  
Concluded: 2:31 p.m.

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

REPORTED BY: DANA W. REEVES  
Court Reporter

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

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4 Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida 33408; BETH KEATING,  
5 ESQUIRE, Gunster Law Firm, 215 South Monroe Street,  
6 Suite 601, Tallahassee, Florida 32301; appearing on  
7 behalf of Florida City Gas (FCG).

8 RICHARD GENTRY, PUBLIC COUNSEL; CHARLES  
9 REHWINKEL, DEPUTY PUBLIC COUNSEL; MARY ALI WESSLING,  
10 ESQUIRE, OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida  
11 Legislature, 111 West Madison Street, Room 812,  
12 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400, appearing on behalf of  
13 the Citizens of the State of Florida (OPC.).

14 WALTER TRIERWEILER and MATTHEW JONES,  
15 ESQUIRES, FPSC General Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard  
16 Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850,  
17 appearing on behalf of the Florida Public Service  
18 Commission (Staff).

19 KEITH HETRICK, GENERAL COUNSEL; MARY ANNE  
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22 Florida 32399-0850, Advisor to the Florida Public  
23 Service Commission.

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23  
24  
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I N D E X

WITNESS:	PAGE
NOEL OROZCO	16
CHRIS BAYNE	18
DONALD ROSSELLINI	19
GIL RODRIGUEZ	20
RAMON PEREZ	21
JAN WASSI	23
ALICIA ALONSO	24
RON ROSE	26
NICK DARLEY	27
JORGE DE GUZMAN	29

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: All right. Good afternoon,  
3 everyone. I've got two o'clock, so we are going to  
4 get started with this customer service hearing.

5 I think Michael and everybody is -- are setup,  
6 but if not, feel free to stop me and we'll get in  
7 the proper posture.

8 So, with that, just want to welcome you to the  
9 virtual customer service hearing for the Florida  
10 City Gas rate case. These service hearings are an  
11 important part of the Commission's process of  
12 learning about customer's needs and opinions as it  
13 relates to these rate cases. I am Chairman of the  
14 Public Service Commission. My name is Andrew Fay,  
15 and I've got two commissioners with me here today,  
16 Commissioner Mike La Rosa and Commissioner  
17 Gabriella Passidomo. And just real quick, if  
18 they'd like to say anything or welcome our callers,  
19 I'd like give both you the opportunity to do so.  
20 So, Commissioner La Rosa, you're recognized.

21 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Awesome. Thank you,  
22 Chairman. And I know you outlined in your opening  
23 comments, certainly an important part of the rate  
24 case process allowing customers to get involved.  
25 So all of those that are participating, thank you

1           for doing so. We hopefully hope that this is  
2           helpful for you. So look forward to everyone's  
3           comments.

4                   CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you. And  
5           Commissioner Passidomo, you're recognized.

6                   COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO: Thank you, Chairman.  
7           I'd just like to make a quick note to thank the  
8           customers that have signed up this afternoon, and  
9           as well as this evening, and for those who have  
10          also submitted written comments to us, just to make  
11          sure that all of the customers know that we  
12          evaluate each of those comments individually, and  
13          those are all into the record. And so we  
14          appreciate you taking the time to submit those  
15          comments. Thank you.

16                   CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Commissioner  
17          Passidomo. And I know we've got a decent list here  
18          today. So we're going to go through some of our  
19          legal process, and then we'll get to the callers to  
20          provide their comments on the line here.

21                   So, with that, staff, will you please read the  
22          notice?

23                   MR. TRIERWEILER: Good afternoon. By notice  
24          issued August 24, 2022, this time and place has  
25          been set for a customer service hearing in Docket

1 No. 20220069-GU. The purpose of the hearing has  
2 been more fully laid out in the notice itself.

3 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Mr.  
4 Trierweiler.

5 Next we will move to appearances. First I  
6 will recognize Florida City Gas.

7 MR. BAKER: Good afternoon, Chairman Fay,  
8 Commissioners. My name is Joel Baker, appearing on  
9 behalf of Florida City Gas. And I'd like to also  
10 enter an appearance for Christopher Wright and Beth  
11 Keating of the Gunster Law Firm. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN FAY: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
13 Baker. Next, Office of Public Counsel, Ms.  
14 Wessling.

15 MS. WESSLING: Thank you. This is Ali  
16 Wessling with the Office of Public Counsel, and I'd  
17 also like to enter an appearance for Richard Gentry  
18 and Charles Rehwinkel. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN FAY: Thank you. Staff.

20 MR. TRIERWEILER: Walt Trierweiler and Matt  
21 Jones for Commission staff.

22 CHAIRMAN FAY: And where's -- okay.  
23 Nevermind. We will move -- we'll just show that we  
24 have our legal counsel available if needed.

25 With that, let me give a quick overview of the

1 process for today. As I mentioned, we'll have the  
2 comments from each caller presented, and this is  
3 designed -- this hearing is designed specifically  
4 for that customer feedback. In December, we will  
5 have a technical hearing where the Commission will  
6 take up the substance and evidence of the filing in  
7 this docket. We're going to give you some contact  
8 information for the callers, if needed. So if  
9 you'd like to reach Florida City Gas customer  
10 service representative, they can be reached at  
11 (305) 835-3645, and that would be normal business  
12 hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in addition to those  
13 times tonight we'll have a representative available  
14 for that time slot. With that, we also have Emily  
15 Knoblaue who's in our engineering division. She  
16 will be the PSC representative for this docket.  
17 She can be reached through email  
18 [eknoblaue@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:eknoblaue@psc.state.fl.us). We also have a contact  
19 number for her which is (850) 413-6632. In  
20 addition to that, we do have technical and legal  
21 staff available here today in our hearing room.

22 Just a reminder, as an official hearing, this  
23 will be transcribed and become part of the record.  
24 As such, we'll make sure that everybody is sworn in  
25 for their over-the-phone comments. Please note

1           that any comments presented today are subject to  
2           cross-examination which essentially means that the  
3           parties may ask you follow-up questions based on  
4           your testimony.

5           Just a few quick things that I want to run  
6           through for our callers to make sure we respect  
7           everybody's time and when -- their time when  
8           speaking. So if you could, of course, make sure  
9           that you've got -- you don't put your phone on  
10          mute, that you essentially respect when someone  
11          else is speaking. Do not place your phone on hold  
12          either. We also ask if you have a mobile device  
13          that you make sure you've got enough power as we go  
14          through this hearing. And when using your phone,  
15          just don't use the speaker function. That  
16          sometimes gives us some feedback and we have  
17          trouble hearing you clearly on our end. In  
18          addition to that, if you have the hearing itself up  
19          on a virtual platform, we want to make sure that  
20          that also doesn't give us feedback, so turn down  
21          that volume when you're speaking so we don't have  
22          that feedback come through. And, finally, just if  
23          you get disconnected, please just dial back in.  
24          And when we get to the end of the list, we'll make  
25          sure that we don't miss you for your opportunity to



1 speak. And just, finally, as I mentioned before,  
2 make sure you respect other callers and the parties  
3 and the Commission that are participating today.

4 With that, we also want to provide customers  
5 with the opportunity to submit information to the  
6 Commission in writing for this docket, if they  
7 choose to do so or if they want to file something  
8 in addition to the comments that are presented  
9 today. Our website does have a comment card  
10 available for download to submit, and we also allow  
11 for comments to be emailed to our Commission  
12 Clerk's office, and I'll give you that email at  
13 this time, it is [clerk@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:clerk@psc.state.fl.us). And just  
14 make sure when you submit your information that you  
15 reference Docket 20220069.

16 If during the course of the hearing another  
17 customer has said something that you would like to  
18 say, feel free to recognize those comments already,  
19 just for efficiency of the process.

20 And, with that, let me make sure we've covered  
21 everything on our end. Just a reminder, if your  
22 comments are given verbally or presented in writing  
23 to the Commission, they will be taken up and  
24 reviewed by this Commission for this specific  
25 docket before a decision is made.

1           With that, we will move to opening statements  
2           before we move on to the customer testimony. At  
3           this time, I will recognize Florida City Gas to  
4           present their opening statement.

5           MR. BAKER: For introductory remarks, I'll  
6           hand it over to General Manager of Florida City  
7           Gas, Curt Howard.

8           CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Mr. Howard, you are  
9           recognized.

10          MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
11          Commissioners. Good afternoon. And thank you to  
12          the customers who have taken the time out of their  
13          day to join us.

14          My name is Curt Howard, and as the General  
15          Manager of Florida City Gas, I want to express my  
16          gratitude for the opportunity to serve you.  
17          Florida City Gas, or FCG, is a regulated utility,  
18          which means the Public Service Commission oversees  
19          our rates and operations to ensure we deliver safe  
20          and reliable service at fair prices. FCG has  
21          requested Commission approval for new base rates.  
22          The need of this proceeding is driven primarily by  
23          the investments the company has made to support new  
24          growth and maintain exceptional system reliability.

25          It's been about five years since FCG's last

1 rate proceeding. So, of course, inflation is also  
2 a factor. Everyone has been facing increased costs  
3 lately, and we know no one likes to pay higher  
4 prices. At FCG, we work hard to keep our  
5 operations efficient, while making sure to deliver  
6 you safe and reliable service. We are proposing a  
7 four-year plan that is designed to provide  
8 stability and certainty for our customers. After a  
9 single necessary increase in February of 2023, the  
10 plan would keep base rates flat until at least  
11 January of 2027. You can find out more about our  
12 plan online, but today is about hearing from you.

13 Some customers have told us the value of the  
14 service we provide, and we are grateful for their  
15 support. We also want to hear about ways we can  
16 improve and better serve you. And, as always, we  
17 are here to support our customers, and if you need  
18 assistance with your service, as Chairman Fay  
19 mentioned, please do not hesitate to call us at  
20 (306)835-3645. We have a staff standing by to  
21 assist you with any concerns.

22 And on behalf of everyone at FCG, I want to  
23 thank you for your participation today, and we look  
24 forward to hearing from you.

25 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you. With that,

1 next we will move to the Office of Public Counsel.  
2 Ms. Wessling, you're recognized.

3 MS. WESSLING: Thank you and good afternoon.  
4 My name is Ali Wessling and I'm with the Office of  
5 Public Counsel. For those of you who are not  
6 familiar with our office, the Office of Public  
7 Counsel was created by the legislature and we  
8 represent all the customers of Florida City Gas.  
9 We're here today because Florida City Gas has filed  
10 a request for a variety of changes to their current  
11 rates, including an increase in base rates and  
12 charges sufficient to generate a total base rate  
13 revenue increase of \$29 million and incremental  
14 base rate revenue increase of \$22 million, a 10.75  
15 return on equity or profit, an equity ratio of 59.6  
16 percent, the implementation of something called a  
17 reserve surplus amortization mechanism, or RSAM,  
18 Approval of artificially derived RSAM facilitating  
19 depreciation rates, permission for a mechanism to  
20 adjust base rates in the event that tax laws change  
21 during or after the conclusion of this proceeding,  
22 as well as several other requests.

23 We have intervened for you in this case. We  
24 have two expert witnesses who are going to testify  
25 on your behalf, and we're going to contest those

1 areas of their requests that we do not feel are  
2 reasonable or prudent. We will challenge the  
3 overall level of the rate increase. It is our  
4 expert's opinion that the company is asking for  
5 four-and-a-half times what they need in order to  
6 provide good service. Our expert has calculated  
7 that FCG needs no more than \$4.8 million, instead  
8 of the \$22 million they have requested.

9 One of the largest areas we will focus on is  
10 the RSAM. We and our experts believe this is not  
11 warranted or reasonable. We also believe that the  
12 requested profit is far too high, and our experts  
13 will be recommending a much more well-reasoned and  
14 appropriate profit range of 9.5 percent for the  
15 Commission's consideration. We also believe that  
16 the equity ratio, which is the basis upon which the  
17 profits are determined, is far too high. And our  
18 experts will provide testimony to support a more  
19 suitable equity ratio that is close to what they've  
20 operated just fine with for the past 20 years.

21 There are several other aspects of Florida  
22 City Gas' request that we will be taking issue with  
23 and providing testimony about. Also, keep in mind  
24 that the law requires that Florida City Gas prove  
25 that what they're asking for is reasonable and

1 prudent, and we're going to challenge all of those  
2 areas that we do not believe are reasonable and  
3 prudent.

4 Now today is your hearing. This is not the  
5 Public Service Commission's hearing, it's not my  
6 hearing, it's not Florida City Gas' hearing. This  
7 is your customer hearing. Please take advantage of  
8 the opportunity and speak up and tell the  
9 Commissioners how you feel about Florida City Gas,  
10 whether that's good or bad. You can take the  
11 opportunity to discuss the quality of FCG's  
12 service, how you feel about the rate increase, et  
13 cetera. Please use your voice to participate. I  
14 look forward to hearing from you, and thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Ms.  
16 Wessling.

17 Next we will move into the customer testimony  
18 portion of the hearing. Each customer will be  
19 allocated three minutes to present their public  
20 testimony. I will call each name specifically when  
21 it's your time to speak. If you are signed up  
22 online, you have already checked the box on our  
23 website to accept the affirmation and the oath for  
24 presenting and so you will not need to be sworn in.  
25 And for those who do need to be sworn in, I will

1 recognize you before speaking and swear you in at  
2 that time.

3 As always, of course, be respectful of others  
4 and the time for all the presenters that we have --  
5 all the customers that we have today. If you do  
6 run a little bit over, we will just ask you to  
7 conclude and wrap up your comments in a timely  
8 manner. And, just as a final reminder, these  
9 comments, of course, are transcribed and placed in  
10 the record.

11 With that, when I recognize you, please state  
12 your name, address and county you live in as a  
13 customer of Florida City Gas. And, with that, we  
14 will move on to our list of speakers.

15 The first speaker that I have is Noel Orozco,  
16 and I believe -- let's see, Mr. and Mrs. Orozco,  
17 are you on the line?

18 MR. OROZCO: Yes, I am.

19 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Mr. Orozco, I've got you  
20 in our system more than once here, but you are the  
21 first speaker that we have, so I'll go ahead and  
22 check those off, and you are recognized for your  
23 three minutes to present to the Commission.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT

25 MR. OROZCO: Great. Well, thank you very

1           much, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on  
2           behalf of Florida City Gas, and particularly the  
3           two people that I work the closest with, Peter  
4           Feralls and Elda Moyer. I work for a company  
5           called Statewide Laundry Equipment. We are  
6           developers of coin-operated laundry facilities  
7           throughout the state of Florida. We also work with  
8           existing store owners, myself specifically, those  
9           existing store owners in South Florida.

10                   Up front, both Peter and Elda are extremely  
11           helpful in assisting me in conducting all my due  
12           diligence with regards to new locations that we are  
13           looking to develop. They are very, very helpful  
14           upfront, as well as during the construction phase.  
15           It seems like I never have to wait for gas.

16                   I also want to speak on -- you know, I also  
17           want to speak on the commercial rebates offered by  
18           Florida City Gas. I can assure you that those  
19           rebates are instrumental in assisting small  
20           business owners in my market in purchasing newer  
21           and more energy-efficient equipment. That's pretty  
22           much all I have to say.

23                   CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Great. Thank you for  
24           your comments, Mr. Orozco. Appreciate your time  
25           today.



1 MR. OROZCO: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: Next I will move to Omar  
3 Romero. Mr. Romero, are you on the line? Omar  
4 Romero.

5 Okay. Next we'll move to Chris Bayne. Mr.  
6 Bayne, are you on the line?

7 MR. BAYNE: I am, yes.

8 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Great. Mr. Bayne, you  
9 are recognized.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT

11 MR. BAYNE: Thank you. My name is Chris  
12 Bayne. I'm the corporate energy manager for Titan  
13 America. We operate a cement plant located in  
14 Medley, Florida. And just -- I think this goes  
15 without saying. Just to be clear, I'm only here to  
16 speak to the customer service of Florida City Gas.  
17 I'm not informed on the specifics of the case, and  
18 I'm not providing an opinion one way or the other.  
19 I recognize that this could be a difficult topic  
20 during very extraordinary economic times. So I'd  
21 like to stay away from that piece of it.

22 Titan America has extensive CO2 reduction  
23 targets, and we value the relationship we have with  
24 Florida City Gas in helping us to achieve those  
25 targets. I, in my role, I work with utilities from

1 the northern -- we operate on the east coast. So I  
2 work with utilities from Boston to South Florida.  
3 We are very pleased with the openness, the  
4 transparency that we receive in our communications  
5 with Florida City Gas, and I think that's really a  
6 key part to our relationship with the utility is  
7 that as a customer we feel well informed, we feel  
8 that information that's needed for us to make  
9 decisions is being shared with us, and just want to  
10 just make clear that we really value the  
11 relationship that we have with Florida City Gas.  
12 That's all I have today.

13 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Thank you for your  
14 comments, Mr. Bayne.

15 Next we will move to Donald Rossellini. Mr.  
16 Rossellini, are you on the line?

17 MR. ROSSELLINI: Yes, I'm here.

18 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Great. Mr. Rossellini,  
19 you are recognized.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT

21 MR. ROSSELLINI: Thank you. Yeah, I'm also  
22 calling on the behalf of customer service. I  
23 recently ran a gas line to a new home. Nellie  
24 Rodriguez was my representative. I just want to  
25 say the experience was fantastic. She was very

1           informative when she met with me at the house,  
2           related to the rebates and the whole process of  
3           running a new line was a pleasure, and we were very  
4           happy to put everything in in a timely manner. And  
5           so happy with her service, we recommend it to any  
6           neighbors that live along the street. And that's  
7           all I have as well.

8           CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Great. Thank you for  
9           your time today, Mr. Rossellini.

10          MR. ROSSELLINI: No problem. Thank you.

11          CHAIRMAN FAY: Thank you.

12          Next we will move to Jorge Guzman. Mr.  
13          Guzman, are you on the line?

14          Next, we'll move to Gil Rodriguez. Mr.  
15          Rodriguez, are you on the line?

16                                  PUBLIC COMMENT

17          MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I am here. I'm here to  
18          speak about two representatives from the City Gas,  
19          and one of them is Nellie Rodriguez, and the other  
20          one is Wanda Rodriguez. For the last -- I'm  
21          constructing a new home in Coral Gables, Florida,  
22          and for the last three years they've been very  
23          supportive in guiding me in what is needed to get  
24          the gas to my home. Their service has been  
25          outstanding. Again, three years that they've been

1 following up, making sure that all the questions  
2 have been answered, making sure that whatever my  
3 contractor needed, they were willing to advise him  
4 in what to get. Without a doubt, I have never  
5 received such an excellent service from any vendor  
6 that I've dealt with, and can you imagine building  
7 a new home in Coral Gables, anywhere in Florida, in  
8 these times is not easy. So I've dealt with many,  
9 many vendors and without a doubt Florida City  
10 National -- Florida City Gas is outstanding. And,  
11 by the way, I deal with Florida City Bank -- or  
12 Florida City National Bank, so that's why the  
13 tongue-tied. These two ladies are excellent, and I  
14 couldn't ask for any better service from a  
15 particular company. That's all I have to say.

16 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Great. Thank you for  
17 your time today, Mr. Rodriguez.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, bye-bye.

19 CHAIRMAN FAY: Bye.

20 Next we will move to Ramon Perez. Mr. Perez.

21 MR. PEREZ: Yes. Hi, how are you?

22 CHAIRMAN FAY: Good. Mr. Perez, you are  
23 recognized.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT

25 MR. PEREZ: Okay. Yes. Hi. Good afternoon.

1           Yeah, similar to what the other caller was saying,  
2           the representative I've been working with is Wanda  
3           Rodriguez. I'm doing a renovation in my backyard  
4           where I built a pool, and I needed to run gas  
5           services. And from the very beginning, Wanda was  
6           very receptive, very informative, as far as the  
7           rebates are concerned, explaining what the process  
8           is going to be and was very patient to work around  
9           the timing of my project. The reason why I came to  
10          Florida City Gas is because I saw what an  
11          instrumental value it played in my neighbor after  
12          Hurricane Irma, how they were able to use some of  
13          these services. Similar to another caller, I  
14          cannot comment on the rate because I'm not a paying  
15          customer as of yet, and I don't think it's fair to  
16          those that have been with the company longer, but  
17          as far as the service is concerned, it's essential.  
18          I think it's important, and the job that Wanda and  
19          her team have done to help accommodate my  
20          construction, I strongly recommend it to anybody  
21          else. That's all I have to say.

22                   CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Thank you for calling in  
23                   today, Mr. Perez. We appreciate your time.

24                   Next is Jan Wassi. Ms. Wassi.

25                   MS. WASSI: Yes.

1                   CHAIRMAN FAY:  You're recognized.

2                                   PUBLIC COMMENT

3                   MS. WASSI:  How are you?

4                   CHAIRMAN FAY:  Good.  You are recognized.

5                   MS. WASSI:  Yes.  I'm not quite sure what's  
6                   expected of me, but I did want to say that we went  
7                   through a lot, we moved into a new neighborhood  
8                   back in January.  We bought a house where there was  
9                   no natural gas.  I didn't know it at the time.  We  
10                  bought a lot of appliances, and they were kind of  
11                  rude to us and told us we couldn't have natural  
12                  gas, that it would blow up the neighborhood, and  
13                  they didn't want us to have it.  And I got in touch  
14                  with Forrest Smalley, who actually is a customer of  
15                  mine as well, he shops in my store.  We own a meat  
16                  market.  And I started the process of petitioning,  
17                  trying to get natural gas in our neighborhood.  And  
18                  with Florida Gas' help, their attorneys actually  
19                  helped me as well go through the process of going  
20                  back to our HOA and fighting the battle.  It took  
21                  me several months, but I did win.  So now I am the  
22                  only one in my neighborhood right now that has  
23                  natural gas.  I got it piped in.  And they were  
24                  great.  They helped me through the whole process,  
25                  all the way.  Everybody was more than polite, more

1 than helpful, and I think very highly of everybody  
2 that I dealt with.

3 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you for calling  
4 in today, Ms. Wassi. We appreciate your comments.

5 MS. WASSI: Uh-huh. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN FAY: Next we will move to Jo-Ann  
7 Derrico. Ms. Derrico, are you on the line? Jo-Ann  
8 Derrico.

9 Next we will move to Tom Dutton. Mr. Dutton.  
10 Tom Dutton.

11 Next we have Alicia Alonso.

12 MS. ALONSO: I'm here. Good afternoon.

13 CHAIRMAN FAY: Good afternoon, Ms. Alonso, you  
14 are recognized.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT

16 MS. ALONSO: Thank you. First of all, I want  
17 to say Florida City -- Florida City Gas is one of  
18 the best things I've ever had here at home. I've  
19 been through two hurricanes, Andrew and Irma.  
20 Everything's run, I guess, underneath the ground.  
21 Great service. I just don't understand why  
22 anything has to go up in times like this after  
23 COVID. Weren't everybody home for two years  
24 cooking and using? Wasn't there enough money made?  
25 I know I didn't go -- I haven't gone out to eat

1           only twice since then. I cooked every day here. I  
2           don't know about everybody -- all the other  
3           customers, but I just think it's so unfair for  
4           everything to be going up so much nowadays. And  
5           that's really basically what I have to say about  
6           Florida City Gas. Besides that it's been great  
7           service and my water heater, my stove -- what else  
8           do I have here that's gas? Just those two things,  
9           which are basically what I use every day. And  
10          thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

11                   CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. No, thank you, Ms.  
12          Alonso. We appreciate you taking the time to call  
13          in for this hearing. Thank you, again.

14                   MS. ALONSO: Thank you. Goodbye.

15                   CHAIRMAN FAY: All right. With that,  
16          Commissioners, that's the list I have. I want to  
17          make sure we don't have anybody else on the line  
18          who either signed up to speak or is a customer and  
19          would like to speak at this time.

20                   MR. ROSE: I think you went over me, you  
21          skipped over me.

22                   CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Let's see. I have -- is  
23          it is Ron Rose the proper name? That's what we  
24          have on video.

25                   MR. ROSE: Right.



1           CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. I apologize. Mr. Rose,  
2           at this time you are recognized to present to the  
3           Commission.

4                           PUBLIC COMMENT

5           MR. ROSE: Well, what happened is we had an  
6           FPL power outage here. All the electricity went  
7           off and so it knocked me off the computer. But,  
8           anyway, thank you Commissioners for allowing me to  
9           speak. My name is Ron Rose. I'm the president and  
10          CEO of the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce, which  
11          is located at 1912 Northeast Jensen Beach Boulevard  
12          in Jensen Beach, Florida. We are an organization  
13          that has a -- that represents a membership of 500  
14          local businesses. Many of them are your customers,  
15          and many of them would like to be your customers.

16          And on behalf of the Board of Directors, I  
17          want to speak to you on the benefits of having  
18          liquid national gas available to our business  
19          community, especially down here in downtown Jensen  
20          Beach and along Indian River Drive. Our chamber  
21          supports the proposal of the Florida City Gas  
22          territory map that would extend gas to -- from the  
23          Treasure Coast Square Mall to Sewall's Point. Our  
24          chamber is consistent in supporting free enterprise  
25          and the additional utility options for our many

1 business community members. And I thank you for  
2 your time.

3 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Mr. Rose,  
4 and apologize for skipping over you there.

5 Next is Mr. Darley or --

6 MR. DARLEY: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. You are recognized.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MR. DARLEY: Thank you very much for your  
10 time, as well. My name is Nick Darley. I'm the  
11 Vice President of Conchy Joe's Restaurant here in  
12 Jensen Beach, and Vice Chair of the Jensen Chamber  
13 of Commerce, also. We have Conchy Joe's Restaurant  
14 on Indian River Drive, as well as the Dolphin Bar  
15 and Shrimp House. And we also have Stringers  
16 Tavern and Oyster Bar, which is located right down  
17 the street in Sewall's point.

18 I wanted to speak with you all to let it be  
19 known that we absolutely would be in support of the  
20 proposed extension of the Florida City Gas  
21 territory map from the Treasure Coast Square Mall  
22 to Sewall's point that would enable our restaurants  
23 and other businesses in our community to get  
24 connected to the natural gas lines. During our  
25 busiest time in the seasonal months, we currently

1 use around 1,000 gallons of propane per week for  
2 our current three restaurants combined. There can  
3 be some variation on that number, depending on the  
4 weather and how much we may need to use our patio  
5 heaters and whatnot, but we are very consistent  
6 overall with the usage from our kitchens.

7 I should also mention that we currently have  
8 plans to put a second restaurant on the northwest  
9 corner of the Conchy Joe's property, if you're  
10 familiar with that, which will include a brewery  
11 and restaurant. We expect the fuel consumption for  
12 the brewery equipment will be somewhat similar in  
13 comparison to what we use in one of our commercial  
14 kitchens currently.

15 But thank you, again, for your consideration  
16 to bring natural gas to our area and please feel  
17 free to reach out with any questions that you may  
18 have. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you for taking  
20 the time today, Mr. Darley, to present in this  
21 docket.

22 With that, I want to make sure that we don't  
23 have any additional speakers on the lines. Any  
24 other customers on the line?

25 MR. DE GUZMAN: Yes. Yes. Hello. Hello.

1 Hello. Hello.

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: Yes, we can hear you. Can you  
3 state your name?

4 MR. DE GUZMAN: Yes. My name is Jorge De  
5 Guzman. I was in the hospital with my dad, and I  
6 tried speaking to you guys, and you just couldn't  
7 hear me.

8 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Mr. Guzman, we can hear  
9 you now. Go ahead.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT

11 MR. DE GUZMAN: Yeah. My company is Total  
12 Power and Gas Contractors. We sell generators.  
13 And Florida City Gas is instrumental in helping our  
14 customers achieve the goal of having a standby  
15 generator. Elda Moyer has been exceptionally good.  
16 I have been working with her for over 14 years.  
17 She's only a phone call away, not only to myself,  
18 but to all of my customers. I also want to give a  
19 shout-out to Wanda Rodriguez, Nellie Rodriguez and  
20 Peter Feralls who are also essential in their  
21 different territories, per se. And that's all I  
22 have to say.

23 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. I'm glad we were able to  
24 get you on, Mr. Guzman. I appreciate you taking  
25 the time, especially with what you're dealing with

1 to make your comments today. So thank you for  
2 that.

3 MR. DE GUZMAN: Certainly. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN FAY: With that, do we have any other  
5 customers that are on the line?

6 Okay. With that, just a quick reminder that  
7 we do appreciate all the callers that called in  
8 today for the comments. If you have any questions,  
9 please feel free to reach out to our staff or a  
10 company representative for any additional  
11 information that you'd like to provide, or  
12 questions that you need answers.

13 If our Commissioners don't have anything  
14 additional to add -- no. With that, we see this  
15 customer meeting adjourned. Thank you.

16 (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER


STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I, DANA W. REEVES, Professional 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 28th day of September, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

DANA W. REEVES  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #GG970595  
EXPIRES MARCH 22, 2024