

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 10:00 AM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket Nos. 20230001 & 20230019  
**Attachments:** Consumer Inquiry - Tampa Electric Company; FW Rising costs for utilities in Hillsborough County

See attached customer correspondence and reply for Docket Nos. 20230001 & 20230019

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 4:26 PM  
**To:** 'jowen1257@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Consumer Inquiry - Tampa Electric Company

Mr. James Owen  
jowen1257@gmail.com

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1429072C

Dear Mr. Owen:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Tampa Electric Company (TECO) to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC). The FPSC regulates investor-owned electric, and natural gas utilities throughout the state, and investor-owned water and wastewater utilities in those counties which have opted to transfer jurisdiction to the FPSC. The FPSC has authority in the telephone industry which is limited to the Lifeline Assistance Program, Florida Relay Service, and pay telephone service. We appreciate the opportunity to respond directly to you.

You expressed a concern about recent rate increases. On March 7, 2023, the FPSC approved a mid-course correction to the fuel factors and granted preliminary interim storm restoration charge for TECO.

The adjusted fuel factors reflect unrecovered fuel costs incurred in 2022. The interim storm restoration recovery charges are costs associated with named storms and will replenish each utility's storm reserve fund. Interim storm restoration charges are approved for a 12-month recovery period and are subject to refund, with interest, pending further review once the total actual costs are known for each utility.

Utilities do not earn a profit on fuel charges. The fuel and capacity cost component of customers' bills is set for each calendar year, but mid-course corrections are used when a utility's costs increase or decrease significantly in the interim. Under Commission rules, a utility must notify the PSC when it expects an under- or over-recovery greater than 10 percent.

TECO's approved charges include the new fuel factor and the preliminary approval for recovery of \$131 million in interim storm restoration costs associated with Hurricanes Dorian, Elsa, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storms Alberto, Nestor, and Eta.

We appreciate you sharing your views and will add your correspondence to both Dockets 20230001 and 20230019 regarding the mid-course correction and the storm restoration recovery, respectively.

You also requested competition in the electric industry in Florida. Florida is not a deregulated state. The Florida Public Service Commission cannot deregulate the electric industry. It would be up to the Florida Legislature to make changes in the Florida Statutes to deregulate the electric industry.

Customers who are experiencing difficulty in providing payment on their account can contact the following resources for financial assistance:

You also requested competition in the electric industry in Florida. Florida is not a deregulated state. The Florida Public Service Commission cannot deregulate the electric industry. It would be up to the Florida Legislature to make changes in the Florida Statutes to deregulate the electric industry.

Customers who are experiencing difficulty in providing payment on their account can contact the following resources for financial assistance:

\* Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program --- <https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-services/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program/find-your-local-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-provider-for-help>

\* Elderly Electric Assistance (EHEAP), which provides assistance for home-energy emergencies to qualified, low-income households with at least one person 60 years of age or older. To find out about qualifications, you may contact your county's local EHEAP agency, or by calling 1-800-963-5337.

You also expressed concern about Hillsborough County Water. Section 367.022, Florida Statutes, indicates that systems owned, operated, managed, or controlled by governmental authorities, including water or wastewater facilities operated by private firms under water or wastewater facility privatization contracts as defined in s. 153.91, and nonprofit corporations formed for the purpose of acting on behalf of a political subdivision with respect to a water or wastewater facility are exempt from regulation by the FPSC as a utility nor are they subject to the provisions of Chapter 367. You may review the section by using the following link:

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0300-0399/0367/Sections/0367.022.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0300-0399/0367/Sections/0367.022.html)

You may contact the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners by using the following information:

Chairman Ken Hagan  
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners  
601 E. Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33602

Telephone: (813) 272-5452

Contact form: [https://hcflgov.formstack.com/forms/contact\\_commissioner?field51883190=2](https://hcflgov.formstack.com/forms/contact_commissioner?field51883190=2)

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

Ellen Plendl  
Regulatory Analyst IV  
Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach  
1-800-342-3552 (phone)  
1-800-511-0809 (fax)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Governor's Office of Citizen Services <EOGCitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 4:12 PM  
**To:** Ellen Plendl  
**Subject:** FW: Rising costs for utilities in Hillsborough County

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please find attached email received by the Governor's Office of Citizen Services. This email is forwarded to your office for review and any response or action appropriate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martha Lynn  
Office of Citizen Services  
Executive Office of the Governor

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**From:** James Owen <jowen1257@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 9, 2023 4:56 PM  
**To:** GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com  
**Subject:** Rising costs for utilities in Hillsborough County

Constituent message:

- Name**  
James Owen
- Email Address**  
[jowen1257@gmail.com](mailto:jowen1257@gmail.com)
- Phone Number**  
7575352257
- Subject**  
Rising costs for utilities in Hillsborough County
- Message**  
Governor DeSantis,  
I am concerned that the cost of power and water in Hillsborough County is getting out of hand. I was raised on the east coast of Florida and recently retired to Hillsborough County in 2021. The cost of water is outrageous and I have recently learned that the county is set to raise water charges 4% next year (2024) and 5% each year for the following 7 years. We have also seen our power bill, from TECO, consistently go up since we retired here. These costs are a deterrent to us and we are considering moving elsewhere. We are a retired couple and these rising costs are putting a little strain on our retirement budget.  
Please consider this email as an example of what other Florida residents are seeing with regards to the viability of living, and staying in this great state.  
Your consideration of this subject and ways to help would be appreciated. Regardless, you have my support in the upcoming primary. We both believe you will be a Great President.
- Attach file (optional)**

7. **User IP Address**  
47.201.121.28
8. **HTTP User Agent**  
Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10\_15\_7) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/16.6 Safari/605.1.15
9. **Date Submitted**  
09/09/2023
10. **Time Submitted**  
4:55:35 pm, EDT

This message was sent from <https://www.flgov.com>.

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.