

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:49 AM
To: 'Luis T Garcia'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Case # 20250011-EI

Good Morning, Luis Garcia.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20250011, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6467*

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From: Luis T Garcia <elg330@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 6:29 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Case # 20250011-EI

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Hello,

My name is Luis Garcia, and I have lived in Charlotte County for the past 21 years. I am writing to express concerns regarding the rate adjustments Florida Power & Light (FPL) is proposing for 2025.

I was directly involved with one of the properties FPL purchased in Charlotte County—a 6,400-acre tract known as Williams Farms, located at [53480 Bermont Road](#). FPL acquired the property in November 2022. At that time, I was overseeing hunting operations and alligator egg collection, two activities that alone generated over \$90,000 in annual revenue for the farm. Mr. Williams, the original owner, passed away a year before the sale. I spoke with his son, Mark, who was managing the property from South Carolina, and

asked about FPL's intentions for the land. He informed me that FPL had stated they may install a solar farm after 2028.

Since then, FPL has acquired several additional large properties, including Eden Town, a major citrus grove, and others along U.S. Highway 31 in Arcadia and Neil Road in Charlotte County. From what I've observed, the orange groves on many of these properties have been bulldozed and the cattle removed. These lands previously supported local jobs and food supply, producing watermelons, vegetables, and sod—much of which is now being imported from other states.

Several months ago, I attended a Charlotte County Agricultural and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ANRAC) meeting along with a few neighbors. Representatives from FPL were present. I asked about plans for Williams Farms, especially since, in March 2023, hunting blinds and wild game feeders were brought in so that FPL executives could turkey hunt on the property during the fall. The land includes an airstrip and cabins, making it ideal for executive retreats. At that meeting, an FPL employee stated there was no hunting allowed on FPL-owned land. I responded that this was not accurate, as I had direct knowledge of the situation from a ranch worker (not employed by FPL) who confirmed the hunting activities taking place. Let me be clear: I have no issue with anyone taking time to relax and enjoy nature. However, I do take issue when that comes at the expense of FPL customers. Properties like Williams Farms have the potential to generate interim income that could help offset the costs of maintaining these lands until solar development begins. When I managed operations, we collected saw palmetto berries, harvested alligator eggs from over 50 miles of canals, and removed large alligators that preyed on smaller, egg-producing females. These two activities alone brought in over \$90,000 annually. In addition, there are other viable, income-producing uses such as cattle grazing, sod harvesting, and vegetable farming—specifically on areas that may never be suitable for solar panels. These operations could be restarted to help cover ongoing costs without shifting the full burden to consumers. I also know of licensed, insured, and ready contractors, including minority-owned businesses, who are willing to step in immediately.

Another matter I'd like to raise concerns a newly constructed rock road in the state-owned Webb Management Area, directly in front of my home. I estimate the road to be nearly 20 miles long and very costly to build. When I asked a supervisor during construction why it was being installed, I was told it was necessary for power line maintenance. However, I have lived here for over 20 years and clearly recall when FPL replaced the steel transmission poles. That work took months and was completed without a rock road. Bermont Road, a paved road, runs just 20 yards away. Now, a private timber contractor is the only one I've seen using this road, hauling harvested timber from the Webb Management Area. Since the road is being used for staging and transport by a private company, shouldn't they be required to help cover its cost—especially if the expense was passed on to customers?

Thank you for taking the time to consider these issues. I believe there are opportunities for more responsible land use and transparency in decisions that ultimately affect ratepayers.

Sincerely,
Luis Garcia
Charlotte County Resident