

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 4:14 PM
To: 'Krista McCreary'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Grenelefe Utility Water and Wastewater Rate Increases

Good Afternoon

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20250023, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance.

Thank you,
Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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-----Original Message-----

From: Krista McCreary <mccreary@cogeco.ca>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Cc: Brian Penney <bpenney1@cogeco.ca>
Subject: Grenelefe Utility Water and Wastewater Rate Increases

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We are customers of Grenelefe Utility and we are writing to express our opposition to the proposed staff recommended water and wastewater rate increases in Docket No. 20250023-WS.

Such a dramatic and sudden increase is just not reasonable. This seems to violate the commission's duty under section 367.081(1), Florida statutes which requires that rates be "fair, just and reasonable" to both customers and the utility. Rates must balance the utility's right to recover prudent costs with the customer's right to an affordable and essential service. Water is an essential requirement for life. The proposed rates exceed all other private utility rates in Florida. The original development plan claimed that existing water and sewage capacity was adequate to meet the needs of current customers and the new development. This now doesn't appear to be true.

We understand that Grenelefe is facing infrastructure challenges and environmental compliance obligations. However, the proposed approach unfairly shifts nearly all of the financial burden onto existing customers. Under Florida Law, the Commission has the authority to:

1) Require that new development and future growth pay their proportionate share of capacity costs through plant capacity charges rather than burdening current ratepayers.

- 2) Spread recovery of major capital improvements over a longer time period, instead of imposing immediate and unaffordable increases.
- 3) Consider whether grant funding, low interest loans or state/federal assistance are available before approving extreme increases.

We respectfully urge the Commission to:

- 1) Reject the current rate structure as filed.
- 2) Require Grenelefe Utility to resubmit a plan that phases in increases gradually and equitably.
- 3) Ensure that developers and new connections bear appropriate responsibility for growth related costs, consistent with Commission precedent and statutory authority.

The current proposal would devastate residents who are older and on fixed incomes as well as families on fixed incomes. Please uphold your responsibility to keep rate increases fair, just and reasonable.

Thank you for considering our comments and for protecting the public interest in this matter.

Sincerely,
Brian and Krista Penney
44 Grenewood Lane
613-264-0044