

Antonia Hover

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20210015
Attachments: Re unsafe electrical infrastructure coupled with spiraling out-of-control rate increase requests!; Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

See attached customer correspondence and FPSC reply for Docket No. 20210015.

Antonia Hover

From: Beatrice Balboa <beatricebalboa@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Ellen Plendl
Subject: Re: unsafe electrical infrastructure coupled with spiraling out-of-control rate increase requests?!
Attachments: Miami Herald_ FPL's hoped-for \$2 billion hike in electric bills is too much for Miami families - Catalyst Miami.pdf

11 July 2021 0900 hours

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the latest news media reports underscoring the woeful and disastrous state of the electrical grid throughout the State of Florida, leading to death and destruction, despite strong documentation indicating such problems exist. To compound FPL deep contempt and disrespect of the hardworking taxpayers residents of the State of Florida, documented allegations of overbilling, overcharging and overwhelming electrical rates, surcharges, and fees (Florida Power & Light (FPL) is asking for a \$2 billion increase!) are contributing to a pervasive climate of complete distrust between customers of FPL and the FPL Corporation. Highlighted news media article (attached and shown below) underscores this deep contempt and disrespect of the hardworking taxpayers residents of the State of Florida. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these egregious concerns potentially impacting adversely the public's safety, health, finances, policies, trust, confidence, and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in these matters and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Beatrice Balboa
1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Unit 1008
Pompano Beach, Fl 33062-6631
USA

At a time when many Miami families are struggling to keep the lights on, Florida Power & Light (FPL) wants to force them to foot the bill for a \$2 billion rate hike — the largest rate increase in our state's history.

FPL says the exorbitant rate increase is “needed” to fund infrastructure upgrades. But if you take a closer look at FPL's track record, you'll understand why skepticism about the need for this proposed rate hike is rampant, and why it's important to question what the company will do with our hard-earned dollars if FPL manages to push this measure through the Florida Public Service Commission.

FPL's proposed rate hike will increase the utility's revenue by \$6.5 billion. Energy Information Administration data from 2019 suggests that FPL's revenue per customer is already the seventh highest

among the nation's 20 largest investor-owned utilities, but apparently, that's not enough for FPL. If this rate hike goes through, the average customer's electricity bill would increase by \$216 per year by 2025.

ECONOMIC BURDEN

Many of FPL's customers are already having a hard time making ends meet. More than 645,000 Florida households were late paying their electricity bills in April. This summer, they are facing difficult decisions about whether to keep the lights and air conditioning on, or to buy needed medications or even food. And keep in mind that extreme heat kills more Americans than any other weather disaster, so it's not a stretch to imagine that these impossible choices will lead to heat-related deaths and illnesses. That's especially upsetting when you consider that among the nation's 52 biggest utilities, FPL has been ranked in 51st place when it comes to energy efficiency programs, which save ratepayers money on energy costs.

FPL's hoped-for rate hike would hit communities of color especially hard because they have less of a financial cushion. For example, while white households in our city have median liquid assets of \$10,750, median liquid assets for Puerto Rican households and families of African American descent have only \$11 in liquid assets. Note that these statistics were collected before economic fallout from COVID-19 depleted so many families' reserves. Given how many Floridians suffered as tourism jobs and other employment options evaporated, is now really the time to ask for a 20 percent hike in power rates?

On top of the economic burden, the proposed rate hike doesn't prioritize something that would benefit Miami residents enormously: renewable energy. Trading fossil-fueled electricity for solar power would reduce unhealthy air pollution, which disproportionately harms communities of color. It would also help curb the dangerous effects of climate change with which all Floridians are familiar, from rising sea levels to more extreme heat events to more severe tropical storms. What's more, new solar generation now offers the cheapest electricity in history, according to the International Energy Agency.

SOLAR ENERGY

Instead of maximizing Florida's tremendous potential for solar energy, FPL and other Florida utilities have a solid record of trying to keep solar energy from thriving in the Sunshine State. A few years back, FPL spent millions of dollars to fund a deceptive ballot initiative that would have imposed severe limits on rooftop solar. In Tallahassee, FPL and other utilities field 80 to 100 lobbyists to press their case to an audience of 160 legislators. They have secured regulations that force homeowners to buy costly insurance policies for large home solar arrays and prohibit non-utilities to sell solar electricity directly to consumers, and a new law that prohibits cities from intentionally moving to 100 percent clean energy.

FPL's habit of putting profits before the planet and the people of Florida has to stop. The Florida Public Service Commission is now holding public hearings to decide if FPL's \$2 billion rate increase will be approved or not. Please join Catalyst Miami, the Miami Climate Alliance and your fellow Floridians in urging the PSC to strike down this gratuitous and potentially dangerous record-breaking rate increase. Demand that FPL reinvest profits into renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives that serve all the people of Florida.

At a time when Miami families are struggling to keep the lights and air conditioning on, rebuild our local economy, and put food on the table, they should not also have to foot the bill for more fossil-fueled power and more profits for FPL.

Miami Herald Op-Ed | FPL's hoped-for \$2 billion hike in electric bills is too much for Miami families

7 July 2021

By Zelalem Adefris and Natalia Brown

This op-ed originally appeared in the [Miami Herald](#).



Florida Power & Light is asking for a \$2 billion rate hike to fund infrastructure upgrades. An October 2018 file photo shows former Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez with FPL President Eric Silagy. CARL JUSTE CJUSTE@MIAMIHERALD.COM

At a time when many Miami families are struggling to keep the lights on, Florida Power & Light (FPL) wants to force them to foot the bill for a \$2 billion rate hike — the [largest rate increase](#) in our state's history.

FPL says the exorbitant rate increase is “needed” to fund infrastructure upgrades. But if you take a closer look at FPL's track record, you'll understand why skepticism about the need for this proposed rate hike is rampant, and why it's important to question what the company will do with our hard-earned dollars if FPL manages to push this measure through the Florida Public Service Commission.

FPL's proposed rate hike will increase the utility's revenue by \$6.5 billion. Energy Information Administration [data from 2019](#) suggests that FPL's revenue per customer is already the seventh highest among the nation's 20 largest investor-owned utilities, but apparently, that's not enough for FPL. If this rate hike goes through, the average customer's electricity bill would increase by \$216 per year by 2025.

ECONOMIC BURDEN

Many of FPL's customers are already having a hard time making ends meet. More than 645,000 Florida households were late paying their electricity bills in April. This summer, they are facing difficult decisions about whether to keep the lights and air conditioning on, or to buy needed medications or even food. And keep in mind that extreme [heat kills](#) more Americans than any other weather disaster, so it's not a stretch to imagine that these impossible choices will lead to heat-related deaths and illnesses. That's especially upsetting when you consider that among the nation's 52 biggest utilities, [FPL has been ranked in 51st place](#) when it comes to energy efficiency programs, which save ratepayers money on energy costs.

FPL's hoped-for rate hike would hit communities of color especially hard because they have less of a financial cushion. For example, while white households in our city have median liquid assets of \$10,750, median liquid assets for Puerto Rican households and

Share

f [Share on Facebook](#)

t [Share on Twitter](#)

✉ [Share by Email](#)

Related



[TIME | City Heat is Worse if You're Not Rich or White. The World's First Heat Officer Wants to Change That](#)

[Read more](#)

families of African American descent have only [\\$11 in liquid assets](#). Note that these statistics were collected before economic fallout from COVID-19 depleted so many families' reserves. Given how many Floridians suffered as tourism jobs and other employment options evaporated, is now really the time to ask for a 20 percent hike in power rates?

On top of the economic burden, the proposed rate hike doesn't prioritize something that would benefit Miami residents enormously: renewable energy. Trading fossil-fueled electricity for solar power would reduce unhealthy air pollution, which disproportionately harms communities of color. It would also help curb the dangerous effects of climate change with which all Floridians are familiar, from rising sea levels to more extreme heat events to more severe tropical storms. What's more, new solar generation now offers the [cheapest electricity in history](#), according to the International Energy Agency.

SOLAR ENERGY

Instead of maximizing Florida's tremendous potential for solar energy, FPL and other Florida utilities have a solid record of trying to keep solar energy from thriving in the Sunshine State. A few years back, [FPL spent millions of dollars to fund a deceptive ballot initiative](#) that would have imposed severe limits on rooftop solar. In Tallahassee, FPL and other utilities field 80 to [100 lobbyists](#) to press their case to an audience of 160 legislators. They have secured regulations that force homeowners to buy costly insurance policies for large home solar arrays and prohibit non-utilities to sell solar electricity directly to consumers, and a [new law](#) that prohibits cities from intentionally moving to 100 percent clean energy.

FPL's habit of putting profits before the planet and the people of Florida has to stop. The Florida Public Service Commission is now holding public hearings to decide if FPL's \$2 billion rate increase will be approved or not. Please join [Catalyst Miami](#), the [Miami Climate Alliance](#) and your fellow Floridians in [urging the PSC to strike down](#) this gratuitous and potentially dangerous record-breaking rate increase. Demand that FPL reinvest profits into renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives that serve all the people of Florida.

At a time when Miami families are struggling to keep the lights and air conditioning on, rebuild our local economy, and put food on the table, they should not also have to foot the bill for more fossil-fueled power and more profits for FPL.

Zelalem Adefris is the vice president of policy & advocacy at Catalyst Miami, a nonprofit organization working to solve issues adversely affecting low-wealth communities. She is on the steering committee of the Miami Climate Alliance. Natalia Brown is climate justice program manager at Catalyst Miami and co-chair of the Miami Climate Alliance Clean Energy Working Group.



Copyright© Catalyst Miami 2020

Created by [Code Nation](#) using [NationBuilder](#)



Antonia Hover

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 7:59 AM
To: 'Beatrice Balboa'
Subject: Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

Ms. Beatrice Balboa
beatricebalboa@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Balboa:

This is in response to your July 11 email and an article from your local newspaper to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) regarding Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).

We will add your E-mail to Docket No. 20210015, regarding FPL's Petition for a rate increase. You may review all the information filed with the Florida Public Service Commission by accessing our website at <http://www.floridapsc.com>. Tap on the section for Clerk's Office, then Dockets and type in Docket No. 20210015 (just the number). Once you reach the Docket, tap on Document Filings Index to view all the information filed by the utilities and other parties in this Docket, as well as any action the FPSC has taken on this matter.

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 Consultant
Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach
1-800-342-3552 (phone)
1-800-511-0809 (fax)