

Jacob Veaughn

From: Jacob Veaughn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 8:24 AM
To: 'Nina Tatlock'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: TECO Rate Increase Docket 20210034-EI.

Good Morning, Nina Tatlock

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20210034 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veaughn

Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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850.413.6656

From: Nina Tatlock <tatlock@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: TECO Rate Increase Docket 20210034-EI.

Dear Commissioners,

Please say no to this requested rate increase. Why should the investors be allowed to maintain a 10.75% return on equity (a relatively high rate for the industry)? Most of their customers are dealing with negative returns and it is well known at this point that most families don't even have \$500 in savings for emergencies. TECO was among the first of the major utilities to resume disconnections during the height of the pandemic, and has disconnected over 35,000 customers since resuming disconnection. Does it sound like these customers can afford a rate increase? COVID cases are rising once again, and Floridians are still struggling to get back on their feet. Any major increase in power bills right now could be devastating for many families. Now is not the time for a rate increase.

Many of the expenses TECO is attempting to recover could be covered by the company itself and not its ratepayers. Maybe they should forgo the plans to build a 20 ft. seawall that will only displace flood waters upon the community where the Big Bend Power Plant is located and the community that I live in. Tampa Electric is pitching the conversion of their coal burning unit in the Big Bend power plant to natural gas as a major victory for the environment. But in reality, they are simply switching from one unsustainable fossil fuel to another. Environmentalists across the Tampa bay region have risen up against that conversion, recognizing that it would lock in decades of natural gas dependency. TECO is already 85% reliant on natural gas as a fuel source, one of the highest rates of dependency in the state. The company could have made major investments in energy efficiency or additional investments in renewable energy instead. TECO could have retired the units and found the excess power through efficiency improvements or additional solar, but chose a shortsighted stopgap instead.

We do not need any new natural gas improvements on the grid. I do not want my utility bill payments going to pay for dirty fracked gas. Please tell TECO to find a better way forward.

Thank you for allowing me a chance to have a say and I ask once again that you please say no to this rate increase request from TECO.

Sincerely,

Nina Tatlock
Apollo Beach, FL resident