

**Nickalus Holmes**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 8:42 AM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No 20250029  
**Attachments:** Constituent Issue - Bill Mellon ; bill-mellon-response-letter0710.pdf; E-Form Other Complaints TRACKING NUMBER: 210449; Teco People Gas Rate increases; Mike La Rosa and John Plescow

See attached customer correspondence for Docket 20250029

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** Ross, Tara <Tara.Ross@FLHouse.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 2:54 PM  
**To:** David Frank; Ellen Plendl  
**Subject:** Constituent Issue - Bill Mellon

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

Good afternoon David and Ellen,

We have a constituent who wrote to us regarding increased rates with the PSC. He wrote the following:

**I object to the customer charge rates that you are considering to increase.**

**I use about .2 to .3 THMS a day to run my gas dryer and gas water heater. This month those THMS cost \$9.97 but my customer services and taxes cost an additional \$30.23. Do you see a problem with that? I do.**

**I use a gas heater a couple of weeks in the year when the temperature drops in St. Petersburg in the winter months. Because of that I get bumped up to a customer service rate class. Do you see a problem with that? I do.**

Do we have a response that we could give to this constituent? Thank you!

Bill Mellon  
4035 49th Ave. South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
(727)867-4380  
[wrmellon@verizon.net](mailto:wrmellon@verizon.net)

Warmest Regards,

Tara Ross  
District Aide  
(727) 387-8600  
Rep. Linda Chaney, District 61  
P.O. Box 40134  
St. Petersburg, FL. 33743

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** consumerComplaint@psc.state.fl.us  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 11:37 AM  
**To:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** E-Form Other Complaints TRACKING NUMBER: 210449

### CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Name: Bill Mellon  
Telephone: 7278674380  
Email: wrmellon@verizon.net  
Address: 4035 49th Ave. South St. Petersburg FL 33711

### BUSINESS INFORMATION

Business Account Name: Bill Mellon  
Account Number: 211008165642  
Address: 4035 49th Ave. South St. Petersburg FL 33711

### COMPLAINT INFORMATION

Complaint: Other Complaints against Peoples Gas System, Inc.

Details:

Hi

I object to the customer charge rates that you are considering to increase.

I use about .2 to .3 THMS a day to run my gas dryer and gas water heater. This month those THMS cost \$9.97 but my customer services and taxes cost an additional \$30.23. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

I use a gas heater a couple of weeks in the year when the temperature drops in St. Petersburg in the winter months. Because of that I get bumped up to a customer service rate class. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

The CEO makes \$358k/yr and her 7 VP make between \$260 to \$300k/yr and that is almost \$2.2m a year for 8 top executives for Peoples Gas. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

Don't increase our rates. Reduce these salaries and reduces our rates and taxes!

Bill Mellon

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## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** bill@mellon-fl.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2025 11:37 AM  
**To:** Consumer Contact  
**Cc:** GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com; diceglie.nick.web@flsenate.gov; Linda@LindaChaney.com  
**Subject:** Teco People Gas Rate increases

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

Hi,

I object to the customer charge rates that you are considering to increase.

I use about .2 to .3 THMS a day to run my gas dryer and gas water heater. This month those THMS cost \$9.97 but my customer services and taxes cost an additional \$30.23. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

I use a gas heater a couple of weeks in the year when the temperature drops in St. Petersburg in the winter months. Because of that I get bumped up to a customer service rate class. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

The CEO makes \$358k/yr and her 7 VP make between \$260 to \$300k/yr and that is almost \$2.2m a year for 8 top executives for Peoples Gas. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

Don't increase our rates. Reduce these salaries and reduces our rates and taxes!

Bill Mellon

## Nickalus Holmes

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**From:** bill@mellon-fl.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 2:37 PM  
**To:** Consumer Contact; Mike La Rosa; John Plescow  
**Subject:** Mike La Rosa and John Plescow

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

Dear Mr. La Rosa and Plescow,

I received your letter of 6/24/25 and I believe you misunderstood my complaint. It is against PSC and People Gas combined. People Gas for sending rate increases to PSC without controlling their budget and PSC for approving rate increase without any basis. PSC is set up to protect consumers from out-of-control utilities. It is not set up to approve whatever the utilities throw at them.

Send the request back for a rate deduction not a rate increase. As I stated before, do you see a good reason for \$9.97 in actual gas usage to have a monthly bill charge of over \$40. Add the rate increase it will be over \$50 for \$9.97 in gas usage.

People Gas is out-of-control. Officer salaries exceed \$2.2mm/yr for the top officers and if you add a few more you can reach over \$3mm/yr easily. Their underground infrastructure is the exact same when I moved into my house 37 years ago in 1988 so there isn't any additional expense in that area.

My electric (Duke) customer service charge is \$12 a month but People Gas is \$25 a month. People Gas is a much smaller company than Duke and there is no good reason for it to be \$25/mo as well as the proposed \$35/mo that you are considering.

Please do your job for the customer of this little out-of-control utility company and say "NO!" on this rate increase. Ask for a rate deduction on monthly customer charge to be less than Duke.

Bill Mellon

"Hi

I object to the customer charge rates that you are considering to be increased.

I use about .2 to .3 THMS a day to run my gas dryer and gas water heater. This month those THMS cost \$9.97 but my customer services and taxes cost an additional \$30.23. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

I use a gas heater a couple of weeks in the year when the temperature drops in St. Petersburg in the winter months. Because of that I get bumped up to a customer service rate class. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

The CEO makes \$358k/yr and her 7 VP make between \$260 to \$300k/yr and that is almost \$2.2m a year for 8 top executives for Peoples Gas. Do you see a problem with that? I do.

Don't increase our rates. Reduce these salaries, which will reduce our rates and taxes!

Bill Mellon

"

COMMISSIONERS:  
MIKE LA ROSA, CHAIRMAN  
ART GRAHAM  
GARY F. CLARK  
ANDREW GILES FAY  
GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

STATE OF FLORIDA



OFFICE OF  
CONSUMER ASSISTANCE & OUTREACH  
CYNTHIA L. MUIR  
DIRECTOR  
(850) 413-6482

## Public Service Commission

July 10, 2025

Mr. Bill Mellon  
4035 49th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1473025G

Dear Mr. Mellon:

This is in response to your inquiry with the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) regarding Peoples Gas System (PGS).

You expressed a concern that with the customer charge on your monthly PGS bill. The customer charge represents the fixed portion of the bill dealing with the service line, meter, meter readings and administrative expenses associated with customer billing. For instance, meter reading and customer billing are done monthly regardless of the customer's consumption level. As a result, PGS bills the usage separately, as this amount may fluctuate each month.

We have learned from PGS that your account reflects the Residential Service 2 (RS-2) rate classification. PGS tariff, Sheet 7.201, allows the company to bill a monthly customer charge of \$24.41 to your residential account for the RS-2 rate classification. I have enclosed a copy of the tariff for your records.

Rule 25-7.085, Florida Administrative Code, requires natural gas utilities to bill the customer charge separately from the energy charge. I have attached a copy of the rule for your review.

We have reviewed your PGS bills rendered between January 17, 2025 and June 18, 2025. Your bills reflect a \$24.41 customer charge, which is in compliance with PGS's tariff.

It appears that the company has not violated Florida Administrative Code rules or its tariff.

You also expressed concern about an increase in PGS rates. I have enclosed our brochure, "*Utility Ratemaking in Florida*," for your review. On April 4 2023, Peoples Gas System, Inc., filed a petition for a rate increase. We will add your correspondence to Docket 20250029 regarding the petition.

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CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0850

An Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

PSC Website: <http://www.floridapsc.com>

Internet E-mail: [contact@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us)

Mr. Bill Mellon

Page 2

July 10, 2025

You may review all the information, documentation, and correspondence filed for Commission consideration in docket 20250029 by accessing the FPSC website at [floridapsc.com](http://floridapsc.com). Under the Clerk's Office tab at the top of the page, click on Dockets. Type in the docket number 20250029. Click the Search button. Then select Document Filings Index for a list of all filings in the docket. This procedure allows you to view all of the information filed by the utility and other parties in the docket.

If you have any questions or concerns please call Ms. Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,



Shonna McCray  
Regulatory Program Administrator  
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach

SM:mep

Enclosures (3)

### **25-7.085 Customer Billing.**

(1) Bills shall be rendered monthly. With the exception of a duplicate bill, each customer's bill shall show at least the following information:

(a) The meter reading and the date the meter was read plus the meter reading for the previous period. When an electronic meter is used, the gas volume consumed for the billing month may be shown. If the gas consumption is estimated, the word "estimated" shall prominently appear on the bill.

(b) Therms and cubic feet consumed.

(c) The total dollar amount of the bill, indicating separately:

1. Customer, Base or Basic Service charge.

2. Energy (therm) charges exclusive of fuel cost in cents per therm.

3. Fuel (therm) charges in cents per therm (no fuel costs shall be included in the charge for energy).

4. Total gas cost which at a minimum is the sum of charges 1 through 3 above but can include other line item charges (e.g., Florida Gross Receipts Tax).

5. Franchise fees, if applicable.

6. Taxes, as applicable on purchases of gas by the customer.

7. Any discount or penalty, if applicable.

8. Past due balances.

9. The gross and net billing, if applicable.

(d) Identification of the applicable rate schedule.

(e) The date by which payment must be made in order to benefit from any discount or avoid any penalty, if applicable.

(f) The average daily therm consumption for the current period and for the same period in the previous year, for the same customer at the same location.

(g) The delinquent date or the date after which the bill becomes past due.

(h) Any conversion factors which can be used by customers to convert from meter reading units to billing units.

(i) Where budget billing is used, the bill shall contain the current month's consumption and charges separately from budgeted amounts.

(j) The name of the utility plus the address, telephone number(s) and web address where the bill can be paid and questions concerning the bill can be answered.

(2) All gas utilities shall charge for gas service on a thermal basis instead of on a volume basis. The provisions governing customer billing on a thermal basis shall be as follows:

(a) The unit of service shall be the "Therm."

(b) The number of therms which shall have been taken by consumer during a given period shall be determined by multiplying the difference in the meter readings in cubic feet at the beginning and end of the period by the conversion factors in paragraph (1)(h) including a heating-value factor which has been determined as prescribed in paragraph (c) below.

(c) The heating-value factor for gas utilities receiving and distributing natural gas shall be the average thermal value of the natural gas received and distributed during the preceding month. In case the average heating value during the calendar month has been below the standard, then the value to be used in determining the factor shall be the heating value standard minus a deduction of one percent (1%) for each one percent (1%) or fraction thereof that the average heating value has been below the standard.

(d) The consumer shall be billed to the nearest one-tenth of a therm.

(3) Whenever the period of service for which an initial or opening bill would be rendered is less than the normal billing period, no bill for that period need be rendered if the volume amount consumed is carried over and included in the next regular monthly billing. If, however, a bill for such period is rendered, the applicable charges, including minimum charges, shall be prorated.

(4) When there is sufficient cause, estimated billings may be used by a utility provided that with the customer's third consecutive estimated billing the customer is informed of the reason for the estimation and whom to contact to obtain an actual meter reading if one is desired. An actual meter reading must be taken at least once every six months. If an estimated bill appears to be abnormal once an actual meter reading is obtained, the bill for the entire estimation period shall be computed at a rate based on use of service during the entire period and the estimated bill shall be deducted. If there is substantial evidence that such use occurred during only one billing period, the bill shall be computed.

(5) The advancement or postponement of regular meter reading dates is governed by Section 366.05(1)(b), F.S.

(6) The practices employed by each utility regarding customer billing shall have uniform application to all customers on the same rate schedule.

(7) Franchise Fees.

(a) When a municipality charges a utility any franchise fee, the utility may collect that fee only from its customers receiving service within that municipality. When a county charges a utility any franchise fee, the county may collect that fee only from its customers receiving service within that county.

(b) A utility may not incorporate any franchise fee into its other rates for service.

(c) This subsection shall not be construed as granting a municipality or county the authority to charge a franchise fee. This subsection only specifies the method of collection of a franchise fee, if a municipality or county, having authority to do so, charges a franchise fee.

*Rulemaking Authority 366.05(1) FS. Law Implemented 366.05(1), 366.06(1) FS. History—New 12-15-73, Repromulgated 1-8-75, Amended 5-4-75, 11-21-82, 12-26-82, Formerly 25-7.85, Amended 10-10-95, 7-3-96, 2-1-16.*

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**RESIDENTIAL SERVICE  
Rate Schedule RS**

**Availability:**

Throughout the service areas of the Company.

**Applicability:**

Gas Service for residential purposes in individually metered residences and separately metered apartments. Also, for Gas used in commonly owned facilities of condominium associations, cooperative apartments, and homeowners associations, (excluding any premise at which the only Gas-consuming appliance or equipment is a standby electric generator), subject to the following criteria:

1. 100% of the Gas is used exclusively for the co-owner's benefit.
2. None of the Gas is used in any endeavor which sells or rents a commodity or provides service for a fee.
3. Each Point of Delivery will be separately metered and billed.
4. A responsible legal entity is established as the Customer to whom the Company can render its bills for said services.
5. RS-GHP refers to any Residential Customer utilizing a gas heat pump ("GHP") for heating and cooling.

Customers receiving service under this schedule will be classified for billing purposes according to annual usage as follows:

<u>Billing Class</u>	<u>Annual Consumption</u>
RS-1	0 – 99 Therms
RS-2	100 – 249 Therms
RS-3	250 – 1,999 Therms
RS-GHP	All Therms

**Monthly Rate:**

<u>Billing Class</u>	<u>Customer Charge</u>
RS-1	\$19.10 per month
RS-2	\$24.41 per month
RS-3	\$31.54 per month
RS-GHP	\$31.54 per month

Distribution Charge: \$0.35165 per Therm for RS-1, RS-2, and RS-3  
\$0.12395 per Therm for RS-GHP

Minimum Bill: The Customer charge.