

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

In re:

DOCKET NO. 20250011-EI

Petition for rate increase by  
Florida Power & Light Company.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING:

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

DATE: Thursday, June 5, 2025

TIME: Commenced: 6:00 p.m. Central  
Concluded: 8:00 p.m. Central

PLACE: Pensacola State College  
Hagler Auditorium  
1000 College Blvd. Building 2A  
Pensacola, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter and Notary  
Public in and for the State of  
of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 JOHN BURNETT and MONICA BARNES, ESQUIRES, 700  
3 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420; appearing  
4 on behalf of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).

5 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL, OFFICE OF  
6 PUBLIC COUNSEL, MARY A. WESSLING and AUSTIN WATROUS,  
7 ESQUIRES, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 West Madison  
8 Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400, appearing  
9 on behalf of the Citizens of the State of Florida (OPC).

10 BRADLEY MARSHALL and JORDAN LUEBKEMANN,  
11 ESQUIRES, Earthjustice, 111 S. Martin Luther King Jr.  
12 Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301; appearing on behalf of  
13 Florida Rising, Inc. (Florida Rising), League of United  
14 Latin American Citizens of Florida (LULAC), and  
15 Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida, Inc.  
16 (ECOSWF).

17 SHAW STILLER, ESQUIRE, FPSC General Counsel's  
18 Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL  
19 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the Florida Public  
20 Service Commission (Staff).

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Testing. Testing. All  
3 right. Loud and clear. Awesome.

4 Well, good evening, everybody. It's a  
5 pleasure to be here. Welcome, and thank you all  
6 for attending this customer hearing. This is a  
7 part of the review of Florida Power & Light's  
8 company request for a rate adjustment.

9 Today's service hearing is an important part  
10 of the process and dedicated to hearing from you,  
11 the customer, and your experience with FPL.

12 My name is Mike La Rosa. It's a privilege to  
13 be the Chair of the Florida Public Service  
14 Commission. Along with me are my fellow  
15 Commissioners. I am going to allow them a brief  
16 minute to introduce themselves, starting with  
17 Commissioner Clark.

18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 Testing. Testing. Is it on? Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman.

21 My name is Gary Clark. Let me just say it is  
22 a privilege to be here with you tonight. I want to  
23 take an opportunity to thank you each of you for  
24 taking the time out of your schedule to be here.

25 This is a very important part of the process.

1           It's very important to us to hear your feedback and  
2           to get some opinions from you on the type of job  
3           that FPL is doing as relates to service and  
4           reliability, so we look forward to hearing your  
5           testimony tonight.

6           COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Good evening,  
7           everyone. I am Gabriella Passidomo Smith. I also  
8           just want to echo Commissioner Clark's remarks.  
9           Thank you so much for being here.

10           The one thing I also want to remind all of you  
11           too is that, you know, if your friends or neighbors  
12           or family were not able to come out tonight and  
13           couldn't deal with the rain, I don't blame them,  
14           but they still have an opportunity to have their  
15           voices heard by submitting written comments to us.  
16           We will read those just as if they were here  
17           tonight. So we want to let you know to tell your  
18           neighbors that they still have an opportunity to  
19           let us know about FPL's service, and we appreciate  
20           you being here.

21           Thank you.

22           COMMISSIONER FAY: My name is Andrew Fay. I  
23           want to thank all of y'all for being here again  
24           tonight too. As my colleagues mentioned, this as  
25           really important part of our rate case process. I

1 know it's not easy to be here, and scheduling, and  
2 other responsibilities are tough, so thank you for  
3 taking the time to be here, and I hope we will get  
4 started soon.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Good evening. My name  
7 is Art Graham, and I am impressed all you guys came  
8 out here to brave this rain. I am glad you came,  
9 and I am looking forward to your comments.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Well, thank  
11 you, Commissioners.

12 If you noticed, off to the right side is a  
13 large screen interpreting in Spanish, of course, if  
14 it's needed, so, of course, pay attention there if  
15 that's necessary.

16 Let's go ahead and get us officially started.  
17 Staff, will you please read the notice?

18 MR. STILLER: By notice issued May 14th, 2025,  
19 this time and place has been set for a customer  
20 service hearing in Docket No. 20250011-EI. The  
21 purpose of the service hearing is set forth more  
22 fully in the notice.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Thank you.

24 Let's go ahead and hear from counsel and we  
25 will start with Florida -- with FPL.

1 MS. BARNES: Good evening. Monica Barnes  
2 appearing on behalf of Florida Power & Light, and I  
3 would also like to enter an appearance for John  
4 Burnett, General Counsel.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Office of Public Counsel.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Walt Trierweiler, the Office  
7 of Public Counsel. I would like to make an  
8 appearance for Ali Wessling and Austin Watrous.

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you, counsel.  
10 Again, thank you for participating -- sorry.  
11 I am so sorry.

12 MR. MARSHALL: No worries.

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: I am jumping right in, man.  
14 You guys are so tight together, it's hard to see  
15 you have guys. So let me recognize LULAC and  
16 Florida Rising.

17 MR. MARSHALL: Thank you.

18 Bradley Marshall on behalf of the League of  
19 United Latin American Citizens of Florida, better  
20 known as LULAC, the Environmental Confederation of  
21 Southwest Florida, better known as ECOSWF, and  
22 Florida Rising.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Bradley, I had you on my  
24 list too, so -- all right. So now we are ready to  
25 move on. So thank you, counsel.

1           Again, thank you all for participating today.  
2           It's important for us, as been noted, to hear what  
3           your experience has been with FPL.

4           In August, there will be a more technical  
5           hearing. We encourage you to follow along and  
6           watch it through our website. That will give you a  
7           better insight and better understanding on how we  
8           look at evidence, and how we manage the rate case  
9           process, and, of course, and how we ultimately make  
10          decisions as a commission. So certainly stay tuned  
11          and take a look at that for when that's coming in  
12          August.

13          Also, has been noted this evening, if you, for  
14          some reason, did not get to have all of your  
15          comments heard tonight, or if there is a friend or  
16          neighbor that also has comments, there is a green  
17          handout that was handed out as you walked in.  
18          There is still some available in the back. That  
19          has more information on how to send us comments by  
20          mail, also comments via email. So feel free to  
21          take advantage of that if it's so necessary.

22          With us today, of course, is FPL. If you have  
23          any billing issues, they have got personnel here to  
24          be able to help you. If you have any of questions  
25          as it relates to the rate case process from the



1 Commission, from the agency, just let us know. We  
2 have got staff that can help you and can assist and  
3 answer any questions.

4 Let's go ahead and start and hear from the  
5 parties with a brief three-minute opening, and I  
6 will start with FPL.

7 MS. BARNES: Thank you, Chairman La Rosa.

8 Armando Pimentel, President and CEO of Florida  
9 Power & Light, will deliver comments.

10 MR. PIMENTEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
11 Commissioners. My name is Armando Pimentel, and I  
12 am President and CEO of Florida Power & Light  
13 Company. We are here today because we have asked  
14 the Public Service Commission for new base rates  
15 beginning in 2026.

16 Let me begin by thanking all of our customers  
17 that are here today. We are honored to serve you.  
18 I am proud of the 9,000 FPL employees who work hard  
19 every day to reliably power Florida, but we must  
20 always get better, which is why your feedback is so  
21 important to us.

22 FPL's mission is to deliver reliable  
23 electricity every day while keeping bills as low as  
24 possible. We know we have encountered many  
25 challenges impacting our customers here. However,

1       we have improved reliability in northwest Florida  
2       by 23 -- by 63 percent since 2019, and typical  
3       residential customers now pay \$21 a month less in  
4       real dollars than they paid before joining the FPL  
5       family. This is the result of prudent investments  
6       and a culture of continuous improvement.

7               By operating the most efficient utility in  
8       America, we have saved customers \$24 a month. The  
9       modernization of FPL's power plant fleet has also  
10      yielded significant fuel savings for our customers.

11             Our investments in smart grid technology  
12      helped avoid 2.7 million outages last year,  
13      including approximately 800,000 outages related to  
14      Hurricane Debby, Helene and Milton.

15             That's what a rate request is about,  
16      continuing with these smart investments for  
17      reliable, resilient service and technology while  
18      keeping bills as low as possible.

19             It's been four years since our last rate  
20      request. Florida is growing fast. Meeting  
21      Florida's growing power demand and delivering the  
22      outstanding services our customers expect will  
23      require significant new investment. Even with the  
24      proposed increase, typical bills are expected to  
25      stay well below the national average. While we

1 work hard to keep bills low, we recognize some  
2 customers face challenges.

3 As Chairman La Rosa indicated, our  
4 Vice-President of customer service, Dawn Nichols  
5 and her team, are here today and are willing to  
6 help with anything that you need assistance with.

7 At FPL, customers always come first. Three  
8 years ago, we started holding community advisory  
9 meetings here in northwest Florida to get feedback  
10 from customers and community leaders. We have  
11 incorporated a lot of that feedback already, but  
12 will never stop asking for feedback.

13 We have length our customers know about these  
14 service hearings so that they can share their  
15 experiences with the company. We want to hear  
16 about what we do well, and more importantly, about  
17 those things that we can improve.

18 So thank you for participating, and thank you  
19 for the opportunity to serve you.

20 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

21 Office of Public Counsel.

22 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you, Chair,  
23 Commissioners.

24 Good evening. My name is Walt Trierweiler,  
25 and I am the Public Counsel for the state of

1 Florida. My office, the Office of Public Counsel,  
2 sometimes known as OPC, was created 51 years ago by  
3 the Florida Legislature to give customers like you  
4 an effective voice in these proceedings.

5 Today, I want you to know the Office of Public  
6 Counsel actively opposes FPL's proposed rate  
7 increases in 2026 and 2027. The theme for this  
8 case affordability, and we argue, with the  
9 assistance of eight nationally respected expert  
10 witnesses, these proposed rate increases and the  
11 Tax Adjustment Mechanism will result in unfair,  
12 unjust and unreasonable rates for you.

13 I am not going to take the time tonight and  
14 tell you everything that we are doing to resolve  
15 this case in your favor, but I do want you to be  
16 confident in the extensive discovery our office has  
17 conducted with FPL, the hundreds of hours my team  
18 has devoted to studying thousands of pages of  
19 responsive documents from FPL, and the depositions  
20 that we have taken of FPL's witnesses to identify  
21 reductions that should be made to FPL's request.

22 I also want you to be confident that your  
23 voice is a valuable part of this rate case. These  
24 rate increases have not yet been decided, and these  
25 Commissioners, who are conducting virtual and

1       in-person customer service hearings all over the  
2       state from Miami to Pensacola, are here to listen  
3       to you. So please share your thoughts as clearly  
4       and as persuasively as you can, because your sworn  
5       testimony will be considered by the Commission and  
6       the parties, both tonight and in the future, when  
7       the Commission examines all of the evidence before  
8       them to approve only that portion of FPL's rate  
9       increases that are reasonable, prudent and in the  
10      public interest.

11           I invite you to share the details of your  
12      experiences as a customer of FPL, and to share the  
13      personal impacts FPL's proposed rate increases will  
14      have upon you, your family, your friends, your  
15      business and your employees.

16           Do be mindful of time so that your neighbors  
17      here may also have time to speak. We have 36  
18      people signed up tonight. That's about half of the  
19      numbers that we have dealt with in some locations,  
20      which is amazing because of the torrential rain.

21           I really appreciate you being here. It's  
22      wonderful to be here in beautiful Pensacola. And  
23      as a son of the Panhandle, I want to remind  
24      everybody that even if you are fired up, even if  
25      you are passionate about what you have to say

1           tonight, and I hope you do stand up and say it,  
2           let's all remember what makes the Panhandle  
3           special, it's the gracious and sweet people of the  
4           Panhandle. And remember that you are here to  
5           persuade, and so temper your -- temper your  
6           passions if you can, but effectively deliver what  
7           you came here to say, and we would all appreciate  
8           that.

9           Thank you again for taking the time to  
10          participate in today's customer hearings. We look  
11          forward to hearing from you.

12          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

13          LULAC/Florida Rising, I haven't for the gotten  
14          about you.

15          MR. MARSHALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16          Good evening, everyone. Florida Rising, LULAC  
17          and ECOSWF are associations of mostly residential  
18          customers, and are in this case because many of  
19          their members cannot afford FPL's \$9.8 billion  
20          requested rate hike. Too many Floridians are  
21          already unable to afford their electric bills,  
22          especially since FPL's last rate increase in 2021.  
23          Access to affordable electricity becomes more and  
24          more crucial every year as climate change continues  
25          to drive Florida's already brutal summer

1           temperatures ever higher.

2           For of 2023, the latest year for which we have  
3           complete data, FPL's actual average residential  
4           bills were \$170 a month, \$36 higher than the  
5           national average monthly bill. That made FPL the  
6           tenth highest bill in the country among large  
7           investor-owned electric utilities.

8           Today, even as FPL asks for this rate  
9           increase, the preliminary data shows the average  
10          FPL residential customer is already paying over  
11          \$400 more per year for electricity than in 2021.  
12          And by bills, we mean the amount that customers  
13          actually pay on average each month. Not a  
14          hypothetical bill based on a hypothetical usage  
15          that FPL uses to make bill comparisons that do not  
16          reflect real world usage.

17          We agree with the Office of Public Counsel  
18          that FPL has not shown any need for their requested  
19          increase, and believe that this case is not about  
20          need, but about increasing profits.

21          We understand that as Floridians, storm  
22          recovery is extremely important to everyone, and  
23          some may believe that this rate increase will aid  
24          FPL in getting the lights back on after a storm,  
25          but that is not what the money in this case is for.

1        Supporting this increase actually means supporting  
2        increased profits for FPL well above the national  
3        average for utilities.

4            Finally, as a quick housekeeping matter, I  
5        know that FPL may have reached out to some of you  
6        and asked if you could come support their request  
7        today. You might be involved with an organization  
8        that receives funding or association dues from FPL  
9        or an affiliate, or that features FPL or an  
10       affiliate among your board of directors, or they  
11       may be a client of yours. That's perfectly all  
12       right, but that is relevant information for the  
13       record. In the interest of holding an efficient  
14       hearing, I just ask that you go ahead and disclose  
15       that up front in your testimony so that I don't  
16       have to take up more time asking you follow-up  
17       questions about those connections through  
18       cross-examination.

19           With that, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank  
20       you all for being here tonight. We look forward to  
21       your testimony.

22           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

23           Are there any elected officials in the room  
24       tonight? Any elected officials? All right. So  
25       normally I allow elected officials to come and



1 speak first.

2 We will go ahead and move on to customer  
3 testimony. As your comments, of course, as  
4 mentioned, will become part of the official record.  
5 You may be asked questions either by us as  
6 Commissioners or some of -- one of the attorneys  
7 that are here today. That's not intended to be  
8 intimidating by any matter. That's just intended  
9 so that we can better understand the comments and  
10 maybe clarify something that was said.

11 If you do plan to speak and you have signed  
12 up, do you mind standing up raising your right hand  
13 and we can take a quick oath?

14 (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the  
15 oath.)

16 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you. You may have a  
17 seat.

18 All right. So kind of quick instructions. To  
19 make sure that all of your neighbors have an  
20 opportunity to speak today, we want to try to be as  
21 efficient as we can. I am going to allow two  
22 minutes per comments. I won't cut you off if you  
23 are in mid-thought or in mid-sentence. Just start  
24 to kind of round out your thoughts as your time  
25 comes to an end.

1           There is a light system in front of you,  
2           green, yellow, red. It's kind of self-explanatory.  
3           Of course, when it gets to red, please just try to  
4           round up your comments.

5           Public Counsel, Mr. Trierweiler, will be  
6           helping me out today. He will go ahead and start  
7           calling names out. We will try to call two or  
8           three at a time. When you hear your name up, just  
9           start to kind of work your way up to the front,  
10          maybe have a seat here in the front row, it looks  
11          like it's vacant, and then just be ready to be kind  
12          of on deck or in the hole ready to jump up behind  
13          the mic when your time arises.

14          I think we are ready to go. Walt, go ahead  
15          and let's get us started.

16                 MR. TRIERWEILER: Yes, sir, Chairman.

17          All right. First we are going to hear from  
18          Kaylee Peters, but Girasol Alfonso and Charlie  
19          Dyell we will hear from next. So they are on deck,  
20          go ahead and make your way forward, but first we  
21          are going to hear from Kaylee.

22                         PUBLIC COMMENT

23                 MS. PETERS: Hi. Good evening. My name is  
24          Kaylee Peters. I am an FPL customer and AARP staff  
25          member.

1 I am here today to express my concerns  
2 regarding the proposed rate increase by FPL. This  
3 increase would create an undue burden on my  
4 family's household, and allow FPL massive profits.  
5 I would ask that you put many customers over  
6 profits.

7 This increase, if approved, would affect  
8 future utility rate cases, not only in Florida, but  
9 across the country. Hard-working families are  
10 already stretched thin. Many households are  
11 struggling with rising costs for essentials like  
12 food, housing and health care. Increasing electric  
13 rates would only deepen that burden.

14 Electricity is a necessity, not a luxury.  
15 Everyone deserves affordable, reliable electric  
16 services. No one should have to choose between  
17 keeping the AC on or paying for groceries.  
18 Everyone is watching as this is one of the largest  
19 requests in U.S. history.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

22 MR. TRIERWEILER: Girasol Alfonso, please.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT

24 MR. ALFONSO: It's Girasol Alfonso. Thank  
25 you.

1 All right. Thank you, everybody. Hello. My  
2 name is Girasol Alfonso. I am an FPL customer and  
3 a community organizer here in Pensacola.

4 I care very deeply about the families here who  
5 might be suffering if this is approved. Right now,  
6 they are already suffering, though. Americans are  
7 experiencing rising inflation costs and rising  
8 inflation rates, sorry, and living costs. Here in  
9 Pensacola, people are struggling to even afford  
10 rent.

11 I, myself, when I first moved into Pensacola,  
12 I was forced into homelessness because the rent  
13 prices were just absurd. And when I did find an  
14 apartment, utilities like electricity, which I was  
15 using FPL at the time, and still am, made it even  
16 harder for me to keep that house, or that  
17 apartment.

18 If this commission approves FPL's request for  
19 a rate increase, Floridians will be paying more for  
20 electricity while FPL racks \$9 billion over the  
21 course of four years. That's money people like me  
22 cannot even comprehend.

23 In 2023, the Supreme Court criticized this  
24 commission for signing off on what was, at that  
25 time, the largest electric rate increase in

1 Florida's history. After that increase, which was  
2 in 2021, it was said that our rates would decrease  
3 over four years -- after four years, but instead,  
4 FPL is requesting what might be the largest  
5 increase in U.S. history, like the person before me  
6 just said, setting yet another record.

7 Like one gentleman said earlier -- I forget  
8 his name, my apologies -- this is not about need,  
9 this is about profits, making as much as profit as  
10 possible, and I know.

11 I am about to -- I will close with this. We  
12 ask that this commission not be fooled, that you  
13 take us Floridans and FPL customers into  
14 consideration when deciding whether to approve this  
15 request or not. We ask that you reject the rate  
16 increase, and we ask you to understand that we  
17 cannot afford higher living costs. The costs are  
18 already enough. We can't afford what is -- what  
19 they currently are now.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

22 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

23 Charlie Dyell, please. And after Charlie, we  
24 are going to hear from Sami Epstein, Sarah Brummet  
25 and Chanson Brummet, please.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MR. DYELL: Hello. My name is Charlie. I am  
3 here to speak against the base rate increase as an  
4 FPL customer and as a Pensacola resident.

5 I have lived in Pensacola for six years, and I  
6 have watched my cost of living steadily increase  
7 while my wages have stagnated. Your case review  
8 states that FPL is requesting a rate increase to,  
9 quote, allow an opportunity to earn a fair rate of  
10 return on its investment. And I am asking you to  
11 deny their request so that I can continue to put a  
12 roof over my head.

13 People in Pensacola are experiencing a cost of  
14 living crisis. I am experiencing a cost of living  
15 crisis. FPL's CEO made \$10 million last year, and  
16 the CEO of their parent company, NextEra, made 20  
17 million. I made \$29,000 last year, and every year  
18 of my adult life so far. They can survive without  
19 an extra \$9 billion over the next four years. I am  
20 not confident that I can survive more rate  
21 increases. An 11.9 return on equity is excessive  
22 and unnecessary.

23 When they raised their rates back in 2021, and  
24 we pushed back, they claimed that the rate increase  
25 was temporary and that they would decrease after

1 four years. Here we are. They haven't gone down,  
2 and they are asking for more. I trust this company  
3 about as far as I can throw it.

4 This commission's role, as I understand it, is  
5 to regulate and protect us from utility companies.  
6 This utility company has proven itself to be an  
7 untrustworthy profit-driven monopoly that has no  
8 regard for their customer's well-being -- is that  
9 time?

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: No.

11 MR. DYELL: Okay. Cool.

12 On behalf of the people you have been  
13 appointed to represent, please do not let FPL raise  
14 their base rate yet again. We cannot afford it.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

17 MR. TRIERWEILER: Sami Epstein, please.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT

19 MR. EPSTEIN: Hello, and good evening. My  
20 name is Sami, and I am here today speaking out as  
21 an FPL customer, a service industry worker and a  
22 community organizer.

23 I have lived in the City of Pensacola my  
24 entire life, and I remember when FPL bought out  
25 Gulf Power and immediately prices increased. FPL

1       promised these prices are temporary and things will  
2       stabilize when they switch us over to their power  
3       lines and their power grid and their  
4       infrastructure.

5               Here we are, four years later, with prices  
6       steadily rising and hundreds of dollars annually --  
7       you mentioned that prices are increasing, like,  
8       \$400 annually. It is extremely difficult for  
9       people to afford this.

10              I am sorry that I am getting emotional. This  
11       is putting -- this is putting me and so many of my  
12       friends, my coworkers, other residents, in a  
13       position where they have to choose between basic  
14       necessities, and this is all happening while the  
15       company asked for a profit hike of 11.9 percent, or  
16       \$8.9 billion, which is significantly more than the  
17       national average of 9.5.

18              This is the largest request in U.S. history,  
19       and this payout will be huge for executive  
20       salaries. The FPL justification for the hike  
21       includes the need to accommodate over 275,000 new  
22       customers since 2021, and expected an additional it  
23       335,000 more by 2029. However, the residential  
24       sector only consumes three-tenths -- I am sorry --  
25       only consumes three-tenths of all energy consumed



1 in the state of Florida.

2 These figures do not warrant such a steep  
3 increase, especially when FPL's profits remain so  
4 robust. There is no reason to continue giving the  
5 executives and their shareholders of FPL millions  
6 more of our hard earned money when we can barely  
7 afford groceries.

8 Thank you for your time and consideration.

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

10 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you. Sarah Brummet,  
11 please.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

13 MS. BRUMMET: Good evening, everyone. I have  
14 to wonder truly if any FPL executive has ever  
15 knocked on any doors in any poor neighborhoods in  
16 any city that they claim to serve, because are  
17 we -- those of us who have identified ourselves as  
18 community organizers do it all the time. All we do  
19 is talk to people about the issues that they are  
20 faced with on a day-to-day basis. And the number  
21 one issue facing every single person that we talk  
22 with is that they can't afford to survive.

23 And so it's an insult when a company who's CEO  
24 makes millions of dollars annually, whose  
25 executives make millions of dollars, whose parent

1           company makes multiple tens of millions of dollars  
2           in profit when it asks for more profit. That is  
3           money that comes out of our hard earned paychecks.

4           We have children we are struggling to feed and  
5           house. I know there is probably many parents in  
6           this room, every single person who came here today  
7           is probably representative of literally thousands  
8           of people who would like to be here but have to  
9           work and can't just show up to a meeting and defend  
10          themselves.

11          Our community is hurting. Our community is  
12          desperate for any kind of relief, and it would be a  
13          real shame, a real shame, if Florida Power & Light  
14          were able to raise their rates again just after  
15          promising that, actually, in 2026, at the beginning  
16          of the year, that that's when our rates are finally  
17          going to come down. Well, now they are saying,  
18          never mind, actually they are going to go up.

19          I don't think it's acceptable. I really  
20          implore this body to reelect the rate hikes, to  
21          reject raising the sealing on what their profits  
22          can be. In fact, I would like to propose a rate  
23          decrease. I think the people should be able to  
24          bring that for discussion.

25          So thank you for your time.

1 MR. TRIERWEILER: Chanson Brummet, please.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MR. BRUMMET: Good evening. I am a father. I  
4 am a homeowner, and I was born and raised here in  
5 Pensacola, and I think it's important starting off  
6 that we understand that this just isn't about being  
7 upset because FPL wants to raise their rates and we  
8 don't want to spend more money, because spending  
9 money sucks. This is about working class people in  
10 this county not being able to afford to keep their  
11 power on during the summer heat. This is the  
12 people fighting for our survival versus a  
13 corporation fighting to make more profits than they  
14 did the year before.

15 We are not here simply because we don't want  
16 to spend more money. We are here because we can't  
17 afford to keep our power on. When FPL took over  
18 our service, the community came out and we told  
19 them -- we came out -- we came out in droves.  
20 There was so many people who came out during this  
21 time, and we told them that we could not afford  
22 what they were charging, and they told us that we  
23 needed to be patient. They said, in four years  
24 that our rates were going to drop, and we were  
25 going to be singing their raises, and everything

1           was going to be wonderful. Well, it's been four  
2           years, and I am standing here saying that we can't  
3           afford groceries. We can't afford to send our kids  
4           to daycare. We can't afford to go to the doctor or  
5           to the dentist, and we cannot afford to be patient.

6           Again, this isn't about not liking to spend  
7           money. This is about the people in this county  
8           struggling to keep ourselves from drowning. And if  
9           the PSC is doing what it says it's doing and acting  
10          in the interest of the people, you will choose  
11          throwing the people a life raft instead of making  
12          sure a few millionaires can buy a bigger yacht.

13          Thank you.

14          MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. Next we are  
15          going to hear from Brian Wyer, followed by James  
16          Hagerott and Chris Platé.

17          Brian Wyer, please.

18          MR. PLATÉ: Brian is not here.

19          MR. TRIERWEILER: And you are?

20          MR. PLATÉ: I am Chris. Sorry.

21          MR. TRIERWEILER: Okay. James. Thank you.

22                       PUBLIC COMMENT

23          MR. HAGEROTT: Hello. My name is of James  
24          Hagerott. I am the President and Co-Owner of  
25          Sterling Fibers. We are a manufacturing plant over

1           in Santa Rosa County. We have been there since  
2           1989 -- or I have been there since 1989, but the  
3           plant has been there since 1958.

4                   We make fibers for industrial applications  
5           like brakes, filters and gaskets. Our biggest  
6           markets are automotive, which are highly  
7           competitive. We are here in northwest Florida, but  
8           75 percent of our sales are actually overseas  
9           outside of the United States, so competition is  
10          extremely important to us.

11                   The actual rate that I am in with FPL, they  
12          are asking for an increase of more than 30 percent.  
13          My all-in bill is going up 20 percent according to  
14          my FPL representative. When I started working at  
15          the plant in 1989, our all-in rate, which I define  
16          as the total dollars paid divided by the total  
17          kilowatts consumed, was 4.2 cents per kilowatt. In  
18          2024, our rate was 14.1 cents per kilowatt. That's  
19          an increase of 236 percent. If this increase goes  
20          through in 2026, we will be at 16.9 percent.  
21          That's an increase of 302 percent since 1989.

22                   For reference, the Consumer Price Index for  
23          1989 has only gone up 162 percent. And for further  
24          reference, a company like us that's under  
25          competition, our product has only gone up 47

1           percent.

2           Florida needs manufacturing to have a  
3           well-rounded economy. We can't all sell hamburgers  
4           and hotel rooms to tourists. We need to have  
5           manufacturing. If this rate goes through,  
6           manufacturing will be uncompetitive, and it's going  
7           to lead to a loss of jobs. You know, I don't want  
8           to have to lay off employees. I ask you to please  
9           deny this increase.

10          Thank you.

11          MR. TRIERWEILER: Chris will be followed by  
12          Laylah Holiday, Jerry Couey and Leroy Williams.

13          Chris.

14                           PUBLIC COMMENT

15          MR. PLATÉ: Thank you. Chairman and  
16          Commissioners. It's my pleasure to speak tonight.

17          My name again is Chris Platé, and I serve as  
18          the CEO of FloridaWest Economic Development  
19          alliance, the lead economic development agency for  
20          all of Escambia County, including Pensacola and the  
21          town of Century.

22          Before moving to Pensacola, I spent 30 plus  
23          years in the Carolinas leading economic development  
24          organizations, where Duke Energy was an  
25          instrumental partner. When I was considering the

1       roll here in Escambia County, one of the most  
2       compelling factors was knowing that Florida Power &  
3       Light served this area. I saw in FPL the same kind  
4       of engaged, responsive and resource rich utility to  
5       partner that I had had to come to rely on in the  
6       Charlotte region.

7               Economic development today requires speed,  
8       reliability and competence. When companies  
9       evaluated their locations, they are not just  
10      looking at rates, but they want and need  
11      reliability, recovery response and long-term  
12      partnership. It is in those partnerships that  
13      companies that they need with their utility  
14      provider to find the most efficient and creative  
15      ways to serve their specific needs. FPL checks all  
16      those boxes. Their skill and sophistication mean  
17      they can respond quickly during outages and natural  
18      disasters, which is an absolutely necessary for  
19      advancing manufacturing to create continuity for  
20      their product.

21              Beyond infrastructure and reliability, FPL is  
22      a true partner in community building. They are a  
23      consistent investor in both economic development  
24      initiatives and essential civic and charitable  
25      organizations. Just as important, they share their

1 leadership and expertise by serving on local boards  
2 and commissions. I am proud to have a  
3 representative from FPL on both FloridaWest board  
4 of directors as well as a director on the Pensacola  
5 Escambia Promotion and Development Commission.

6 Something that speaks volumes about their  
7 commitment to the long-term success of this region,  
8 FPL also understands that to compete for new  
9 industry, they must have ready sites, their  
10 commitment to product development through the  
11 Florida's First Sites Program helps communities  
12 like ours prepare and certify industrial sites,  
13 shorten the timeline for companies, and making us  
14 more competitive nationally.

15 This is a forward-thinking investment within  
16 the Florida First Sites Program that directly  
17 supports job creation, good jobs that pay very  
18 well, and capital investment in places like  
19 Escambia County.

20 FPL also delivers something that's harder to  
21 quantify, and that's their competitiveness. So in  
22 an economic development environment, I can sit  
23 across from site selection consultants and other  
24 real estate executives knowing that we can make a  
25 compelling case for companies to locate in our



1 community.

2 In short, FPL helps us not just keep the  
3 lights on, but they help build a brighter economic  
4 future for our community.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

7 MR. TRIERWEILER: Laylah Holiday.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MS. HOLIDAY: Good evening, Commissioners.  
10 Thank you for taking this opportunity to listen to  
11 the people. I hope that the people are actually  
12 listened to. My name is Laylah Holiday. I am a  
13 lifetime resident of Florida, Pensacola. I am a  
14 public educator. I am a homeowner, and I am an FPL  
15 payer. And I am also somebody who really cares  
16 about my community.

17 And while I care about my community a lot, I  
18 have noticed some saddening changes. For example,  
19 I became an adult in 2020, and then right after, I  
20 was faced with 2021 rate increases, much like  
21 everything else increased. That is a reality as  
22 you have heard before. It's a reality that's  
23 facing every day people. Not people in fancy  
24 suits, people that have to work everyday jobs that  
25 you might not get to see every day that don't have

1 big offices. These people can't afford this.

2 I am here today because I am against the  
3 proposed rate increase without a thorough and  
4 comprehensive assessment; something that  
5 demonstrates a plan of return on equity; something  
6 that shows the people, not just big numbers, but  
7 shows people actually how are they getting  
8 impacted.

9 Another change that I have noticed as I have  
10 gotten older is, you know, something like how my  
11 mom used to take me to the Gulf Power building to  
12 take her and pay her monthly bill, I would go with  
13 her. That's not something I can do with my  
14 children.

15 I recently got married, I think like you,  
16 Commissioner Smith, and I am excited. I want to  
17 build a family. But with rate increases and stuff  
18 like this, I know many people, they are afraid to  
19 have kids. They are afraid to expand, you know,  
20 their families because they are afraid that they  
21 won't be able to afford that.

22 The Public Service Commission, I mean, I am  
23 just a regular person. I googled you guys, right,  
24 and it says that you guys facilitate the efficient  
25 provision of safe and reliable utility services at

1 fair prices. At fair prices. So is that really  
2 something way above the national average? I don't  
3 think so.

4 So I hope that you listen to everyday people,  
5 people that you may not get to see every day,  
6 people that are saying no to a rate increase that  
7 they didn't ask for from a company they don't have  
8 a choice to choose from.

9 So thank you for your time. I appreciate  
10 y'all, and have a good night.

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: Jerry Couey.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

13 MR. COUEY: Good evening, and I appreciate the  
14 time and effort you folks have put into this. I am  
15 an FPL customer, and for the record, I can only be  
16 an FPL customer, and that kind of goes to my  
17 comments.

18 I would imagine that when the state  
19 legislature said, hey, we got to furnish power to  
20 people, so let's build a franchise and let's set it  
21 at 10 percent, that's fair. From a personal note,  
22 I imagine a lot of private businesses would love a  
23 10-percent guaranteed profit margin, and so that's  
24 something I want you to consider.

25 What I am concerned about, because I can only

1           use FPL, as everybody else in this area, there has  
2           been an explosion over the years of political  
3           contributions, which I think is completely  
4           unnecessary. They have a franchise. They are  
5           guaranteed 10 percent, so why do those  
6           contributions have to be made?

7           Another grave concerning of mine is, and if  
8           you spend any time with me, you know that I feel  
9           the same way about every level of government, I  
10          just don't think companies should be making the  
11          decision on my behalf to make charitable  
12          contributions to anybody. They need to stick to  
13          the mission, and that mission is clean, efficient,  
14          cost-effective and safe electricity to the  
15          customers. Period. End of story. And from my  
16          standpoint, I think there needs to be some belt  
17          tightening first, some proven belt tightening.

18          I don't understand the political  
19          contributions. I don't understand all the  
20          charitable contributions. It's nice, but at a time  
21          where everybody wants a nickel more, everybody  
22          wants a dollar more, property taxes up, my  
23          homeowners insurance is \$4,500, my property taxes  
24          will soon be \$5,000 a year. I don't know how  
25          people make it, a husband and a wife and two or

1 three kids.

2 So at this time, until there is some serious  
3 demonstrated belt tightening, I would appreciate  
4 you withholding this increase.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Mr. Williams. After we hear  
7 from Mr. Williams, we are going to hear from Danny  
8 Zimmerman and -- Zimmern, I am sorry -- Fred  
9 Donovan and Jasmine Brown, please.

10 Mr. Williams.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

12 MR. WILLIAMS: My name -- again, my name is  
13 Leroy Williams. I am a -- I have a organization  
14 that deals with low-income families of 40 years. I  
15 also oversee a lot of the community centers  
16 throughout Escambia County, and in doing so, FPL  
17 has been doing an awesome job in working with  
18 people to save energy, to make their homes energy  
19 fish.

20 If you only seen and hear the conversations  
21 that these seniors are having around these  
22 different community centers and how impressive  
23 Florida Power has went out to the homes physically  
24 to help them by helping them to make their house  
25 energy efficient, and how they talk about how they

1       have saved on of their electrical bill, and that  
2       goes through the low-income families as well.

3           I deal with thousands of low-income families,  
4       like I said, for 40 years, and I am in the  
5       community deeply. And Florida Power has been doing  
6       an excellent job since they hit Pensacola in  
7       Florida, they have been doing an outstanding job in  
8       getting us prepared for whatever increases or  
9       whatever may happen, but they have certainly done  
10      an outstanding job.

11           And I am representing thousands of people who  
12      feel the same that I do. They went out to they  
13      homes. They did it through workshops. The  
14      information that goes out into the emails and  
15      different sources that they use to make sure that  
16      people are constantly informed, how they just go  
17      out. We do workshops. It's just amazing what they  
18      are doing to help in our community.

19           And there is a lot of people that love Florida  
20      Power. I just want to let you know that. And they  
21      are doing what they have to do to keep afloat. But  
22      at the end of the time, they are helping a lot of  
23      people, and a lot of low-income people who cannot  
24      afford, but now they are bragging about how they  
25      are saving, so it's a balance. If anything should

1           happen, they will be balanced and they will be  
2           okay, and so that's -- I am speaking on behalf of  
3           them. Consider whatever they consider.

4           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

5           MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

6           Danny Zimmern.

7                               PUBLIC COMMENT

8           MR. ZIMMERN: Good evening. I am Danny  
9           Zimmern. I have been a real estate broker here in  
10          northwest Florida for about 30 years. Today I have  
11          a team of about 20 real estate professionals. We  
12          are with the leading brokerage in Escambia and  
13          Santa Rosa County, Levin Rinke. I am the  
14          commercial director, and I do commercial real  
15          estate for most of my entire career. Most of our  
16          team actually does do residential, but I am the  
17          commercial guy and have a commercial team.

18          I am also on a number of civic and nonprofit  
19          groups, and I have leadership roles, so I get for  
20          kind of see the big picture of how our region is  
21          growing and what makes that growth possible.

22          From my perspective, reliable power is not a  
23          luxury. It's a necessity. In commercial real  
24          estate, it's the first thing that developers,  
25          potential businesses moving here, expansions,

1 growth, everybody, it's the thing they want to  
2 know. If they are moving, they want to know the  
3 power is stable, the infrastructure is modern and  
4 the utility is ready to support their needs.

5 And that's also the same on the residential  
6 side. Subdivisions, new growth. The way we are  
7 sprawling here in northwest Florida, it's very  
8 important that the lights will stay on literally  
9 and figuratively. Florida Power & Light has  
10 consistently provided that reliability across  
11 northwest Florida. Their attention and dedication  
12 to keeping the power on and getting it back on  
13 after national disasters around here is really a  
14 key component, and they have to have the resources  
15 to do that.

16 Another great example of their commitment to  
17 northwest Florida is their substantial investment  
18 in upgrading downtown Pensacola's electrical  
19 infrastructure. Beginning in 2018, they undertook  
20 \$86 million project to modernize the 70-year-old  
21 network supplying power to downtown businesses and  
22 residences. This comprehensive upgrade involved  
23 replacing outdated equipment, installing new  
24 underground duct systems and enhancing the overall  
25 reliability of the power grid.



1           They went on to do a \$3 million part of  
2           redoing downtown's roads as a part of that showing,  
3           more about their commitment. And they not only  
4           improved the infrastructure, but contributed to  
5           making downtown great.

6           They are not just a vendor. They are a  
7           partner in what we do around here for growth. We  
8           really need them to have the resources to do that,  
9           and we hope you will support Florida Power & Light  
10          because the people around here do.

11          Thank you.

12          MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you. Fred Donovan.

13                               PUBLIC COMMENT

14          MR. DONOVAN: Good evening. I think we got a  
15          good looking commission this year. I am Fred  
16          Donovan, Junior. I am an engineer with  
17          Baskerville-Donovan here in town. We have been  
18          here in town doing engineering for 100 years. Our  
19          centennial is next year. We are one of the older  
20          companies around, but one of the things that you  
21          get to do when you have been around for 100 years  
22          as an engineering consultant is you get to go  
23          through a lot of hurricanes, and we all know they  
24          come. There is going to be another one. It's  
25          going to be here soon, and there is nothing we can

1 do about it. So I wanted to talk a little bit  
2 about our experience working with FPL in terms of  
3 emergency response and dealing with tropical  
4 cyclones and hurricanes and such.

5 So we've got a long stretch of hurricane prone  
6 in our operating area, which is the same as FPL,  
7 down the Gulf Coast. So it goes all the way from  
8 Perdido Bay all the way over to the entrance to St.  
9 Andrews Bay. It's about 120 miles as the crow  
10 flies. So that's a pretty long area, and that's a  
11 lot of -- a lot of hurricanes has made landfall on  
12 that stretch over time.

13 And I tell you, as a recovery -- as an  
14 engineer, what happens is, as a storm hits and all  
15 of us engineers, we have to tell our wives  
16 good-bye, or husbands good-bye, for a long time  
17 because it's a big deal when one of those hits, as  
18 y'all know. So that's a specialized area and, you  
19 know, FPL really has done a great job integrating  
20 into the team.

21 And I will tell you this, for a electric  
22 provider and generator, the most important thing is  
23 that they get done quickly as fast as possible,  
24 because the rest of us engineers, we got to get  
25 wastewater flows transmitting. We have got to get

1           potable water moving. We have got floodwaters that  
2           we got to deal with, and there is a lot of other  
3           things, and getting the controllers working at the  
4           big intersections for the traffic control. There  
5           is a life safety issue, a public safety issue.

6           So we are just really proud to work with  
7           Florida Power & Light. They've really done a great  
8           job, in my opinion, the best in my career of  
9           preparing us for the next hurricane, so that when  
10          it hits, and it will, that all of us can work  
11          together as engineers to get the infrastructure  
12          programs back on line as fast as possible for  
13          everybody.

14          So that's what I wanted to tell you tonight.  
15          So thank you very much for having me.

16                 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

17                 MR. TRIERWEILER: Jasmine Brown, please.  
18          After Jasmine, we are going to hear from Mary  
19          Jordan, Laverne Baker and Richard Baker.

20                 Go ahead, Jasmine.

21                         PUBLIC COMMENT

22                 MS. BROWN: Good evening. I am Jasmine. I am  
23          a community organizer with PSL. I am also a  
24          resident of Pensacola and a customer of FPL.

25                 I was active at City Council when FPL was

1 first brought to Pensacola, and I remember many of  
2 us in the community were upset and worried about  
3 potential costs, and we filled up City Council many  
4 times requesting the City to do a feasibility study  
5 before we even brought them on.

6 Now we are here today and what our community  
7 has feared has come to pass ever since, and now --  
8 ever since, and now FPL wants to propose to take  
9 more money from us. In one of the hottest states  
10 in the country, with one of the highest populations  
11 of senior citizens, especially those on fixed  
12 income, they want to squeeze more money out of us  
13 for a service that's vital.

14 It's not precise enough to call power a  
15 utility. It's a necessity. It's not just an  
16 add-on to having a home as a monthly bill like  
17 Netflix. It's a necessity. We need power for our  
18 groceries. We need power for CPAP machines. We  
19 need power for dialysis machines, for breathing  
20 treatments for people with asthma. The proposed  
21 few dollars a month adds up over the years,  
22 especially when people are barely surviving now.

23 We need power, and because FPL has us  
24 strongarmed, because they are the only power  
25 company in the area, they also want their boots

1           around our neck.

2           FPL keeps telling us this is for the benefit  
3           of the customers, that our costs are lower than the  
4           national average. That is so nice to say, but that  
5           does nothing for the real citizens in the city who  
6           face real daily, possibly even life-threatening  
7           challenges.

8           When a struggling family gets a \$200 plus  
9           bill, they are not going to Google, oh, I wonder  
10          what they are paying for power in Jackson,  
11          Mississippi? I wonder what they are paying in  
12          Boston?

13          I have a friend who's a mother of five. Two  
14          years ago, FPL's price-gauging soulless company  
15          contributed to her and her kids being homeless,  
16          meanwhile, she was working two jobs. She had a  
17          neighbor who was -- who had more humidity than FPL  
18          who put a power cord from his house to her house so  
19          they could use a little fan and to use a heating  
20          bad to boil some food.

21          FPL is squeezing people dry. It's incredibly  
22          out of touch and callus to assume \$100 to \$300  
23          added annually to people's bills will be fine.  
24          It's out of touch to think people's whose bills are  
25          already high will be able to financially handle the

1       upcoming hurricane season, the upcoming rising  
2       temperatures.

3               This feels like panhandling. The CEO says the  
4       balanced plan we submitted to the PSC would enable  
5       FPL to continue to make smart investments in the  
6       grid and a new generation of resources to benefit  
7       our customers and to power our fast growing state.

8               This is from the website. This -- these  
9       investments -- we keep talking about these  
10      investments. Are we getting a cut? We are not  
11      getting a cut of these investments y'all keep  
12      investing. He makes millions of dollars a year.  
13      The company has made close to \$4.5 billion in the  
14      past two years. It sounds like that's the price  
15      hike money right there. It doesn't have to come  
16      from our pockets. Open your wallets.

17              And so there is no way to justify this to us  
18      people, the workers in this community that needs to  
19      shoulder the costs of fattening FPL's pockets. For  
20      the good things FPL has done, as noted by a couple  
21      other folks in this room, FPL doesn't need an extra  
22      price hike to continue doing those things.  
23      Clearly, they are already doing them.

24              FPL doesn't need a price hike to continue  
25      doing those things because they have enough money.

1       They should be ashamed that in the face of rising  
2       housing prices, rising temperatures, climate  
3       disaster, they seek to raise prices even more for  
4       their company's political games, investments and  
5       profits. I have seen that they have spent  
6       thousands on politicians. That's the price hike  
7       money right there. What more money do we need to  
8       shell out of our working pockets that the company  
9       needs to fund billionaires' pockets?

10           So I urge the PSC to side with community  
11       members who are being priced out of our basic  
12       necessities, rather than \$1 billion company that  
13       has a monopoly on our area.

14           Thank you.

15           MR. TRIERWEILER: Mary Jordan.

16                   PUBLIC COMMENT

17           MS. JORDAN: Hi. My name is Mary Jordan. I  
18       own a small business over on the west side of town.  
19       One of the things that nobody seems to notice is  
20       the amount of money that FPL has had to put into  
21       the infrastructure throughout our county and  
22       throughout Santa Rosa County, and the amount of  
23       jobs that they have had to open up in order to make  
24       all of that infrastructure more hardened than what  
25       it is.

1           Outside of my business, very specifically,  
2           they put the power underground. During Sally,  
3           right after that, it was almost a week-and-a-half  
4           before our power came back on-line.

5           Our business, which is insurance, not  
6           nearly -- certainly not popular, but a necessity,  
7           everybody wants to get to us, and they couldn't  
8           because we had no power, so we were sitting out  
9           there with lawn chairs and our cell phones trying  
10          to do the best we could to service our customers.  
11          However, now our power is underground. All of the  
12          mainlines going in now have cement poles.

13          None of that comes as, you know, it doesn't  
14          come for free. Those things actually come with  
15          cost, and I recognize that as a business owner,  
16          that it's part of -- it's a cost of doing business.  
17          It's a cost of actually being able to provide a  
18          service that I need in order to keep my business  
19          running.

20          They have always been -- FPL has always been  
21          responsive to everything that I have ever asked  
22          for, and they have always been there when I needed  
23          them, but having reliable power is huge in my  
24          world. So I have always had nothing but good  
25          things to say.



1 Thank you.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

3 Laverne Baker, please.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MS. BAKER: Excuse me. Hello. My name is  
6 Laverne Baker, and I have been a resident of  
7 northwest Florida for 40 years, of course when  
8 prices for anything go up, I am not excited about  
9 it, but I am here tonight to support Florida Power  
10 & Light's proposed rate increase for several  
11 reasons.

12 Florida Power & Light is working hard to  
13 ensure storm resiliency for its customers. It is  
14 important for our community to have the  
15 infrastructure, which includes new technology and  
16 better equipment. And it's important for us to --  
17 for them, really, for us to have them plan ahead  
18 and have it in place.

19 We have many things that we -- concern us and  
20 worry us in everyday life. And I know for myself,  
21 I do not want it to be whether or not I am not  
22 going to have power on a house I can't turn on my  
23 lights, or I can't carry on life because my  
24 electricity is out.

25 I have always had the best customer service

1 from Florida Power & Light during hurricane  
2 tragedies and situations here, and also our last  
3 snowstorm that came that nobody expected.

4 I mean, I do know that several people in our  
5 neighborhood have -- need electricity for medical  
6 devices. And when our transformer blue, within  
7 minutes, a crew was out there working in the  
8 freezing cold. We went out there and offered them  
9 something warm to drink. They were very reassuring  
10 and went to all the neighbors and told them the  
11 power would be up soon. So it was very reassuring.

12 You know, I wouldn't even be bothered if some  
13 of the money from rate increase went to salaries to  
14 recruit and retain professionals like the FPL  
15 crews.

16 Out of the 1.4 million utility poles and the  
17 1.1 million transformers that FPL is responsible  
18 for, I know that only one of each of those affects  
19 my home, but I support this planned rate increase,  
20 and I am willing to pay my share to make the  
21 service and resiliency better for everyone in the  
22 state of Florida.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Ms. --

25 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Ma'am, quick question.

1           MR. MARSHALL: Were you associated with  
2 helping raise money for Baptist Health in the past?

3           MS. JORDAN: Yes, I did.

4           MR. MARSHALL: And does FPL donate a  
5 substantial amount of money to that organization?

6           MS. JORDAN: They did. I did not personally  
7 solicit that donation.

8           MR. MARSHALL: Thank you.

9           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

10          MR. TRIERWEILER: Next we are going to hear  
11 from Richard Baker, followed by Patrick Garrett and  
12 Dave Murzin, please.

13                           PUBLIC COMMENT

14          MR. BAKER: Thank you.

15               I have lived in Escambia and Santa Rosa  
16 Counties for over 50 years, and important to me is  
17 reliable, good service. Over the decades, we have  
18 asked a lot of Gulf Power, Southern Company and now  
19 Florida Power & Light.

20               We had nationally recognized quality problems  
21 and recognized our power -- air quality problems  
22 and recognized that our power shift away from  
23 relatively cheap coal power and now want them to be  
24 a leader in shifting resource other than natural  
25 gas. This does cost, did cost, and cost lots of

1 money.

2 We live in a hurricane prone area, and we want  
3 them to build an infrastructure and backup system  
4 that is a state-of-the-art and very fast recovery.  
5 This is an area that has a lot of old utilities  
6 infrastructure that must be replaced and upgraded,  
7 and we are relatively a efficient area, requiring  
8 outside capital to do this.

9 I know Florida Power & Light has to go to the  
10 capital markets to attract those funds, and then  
11 pay for it out of the future net revenues. You  
12 have to able to compete with other utility  
13 companies. I am not a shareholder and I have never  
14 been, but I read that you have generally have lower  
15 yield numbers compared to your major competitors,  
16 like Duke Energy and Southern Company. You have to  
17 earn a reasonable return to attract that money  
18 needed to support our current and future  
19 infrastructure, those profits we keep hearing  
20 about, that is that hold that goes into those  
21 future infrastructure. So Florida Power & Light  
22 earning a reasonable return to its shareholders is  
23 very important to me.

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

1 MR. TRIERWEILER: Patrick Garrett.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MR. GARRETT: Hi. Thank you, Commissioners.  
4 How are y'all today, and guests?

5 My name is Patrick Garrett, and I am from  
6 Tampa, Florida originally, so Tampa Electric  
7 Company serviced my family. I am also a nephew of  
8 a 36-year career linemen, he has passed away now.  
9 He would be about 82 years old if he was still  
10 alive. So I watched my late uncle work the lines,  
11 put those 10,000 volts up here in. He earned a  
12 great living. He provided for his family of five  
13 children, a farm, a hunting camp, they paid well  
14 and had great benefits.

15 As young men, we all wanted to work for TECO,  
16 but then a family rule type then, so I went to  
17 college and became a professional -- blue collar.  
18 I was raised very blue collar. So a lot of the men  
19 he ran with became great mentors of ours growing up  
20 in doing the outdoor activities.

21 So I have an office in Tampa. I have an  
22 office in Pensacola. I bought up here about three,  
23 four years ago, so a taxpayer, and I pay for your  
24 electricity too, and enjoy it. I work  
25 catastrophes. I own Garrett Claims Group. I have

1       worked every hurricane, storm damage claim you can  
2       imagine since 1995, and I am amazed at the  
3       municipalities and communities that aren't prepared  
4       financially and fiscally when these storms roll  
5       through. You can tell the difference.

6               Now it takes money to live on the coast or  
7       near the coast. And in Tampa, we have it. Miami  
8       they have it. Orlando has it. If you have money,  
9       you are going to have that infrastructure. So I  
10      applaud those who put the money in who continue to  
11      do the right thing, who pay their employees, who  
12      have that great work environment, I applaud you. I  
13      have watched it growing up as a young man.

14             Throughout my travels in northwest Florida, I  
15      have been amazed, from Tallahassee to Pensacola, on  
16      the recovery time. You see those linemen lined up  
17      everywhere working their tails off, it's because of  
18      you because you support them, you pay for them and  
19      they do a great job.

20             Recently, I was in Punta Gorda. They got hit  
21      by Hurricane Charley in 2004. Wiped out. I was  
22      down there with a city official, and I said, man,  
23      you got the power on? This is amazing. He goes,  
24      yeah, because we put power poles in three years  
25      before Hurricane Ian came. And I said, well,

1           that's great. They are up and running. No  
2           problem. They weren't without power for a month.

3           So I just want to give you a little bit of my  
4           experience. I applaud you. I support you. And no  
5           one here recalls late 1980s in Tampa, we had  
6           rolling blackouts from the freeze. Rolling  
7           blackouts in Tampa, Florida. Y'all did not have  
8           them here in Pensacola from the snowstorm. No one  
9           went without electricity, so thank you so much.

10          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11          MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. We are going to  
12          hear next from Dave Murzin, and following Dave is  
13          Robin Bridges and Tom Lloyd, please.

14                       PUBLIC COMMENT

15          MR. MURZIN: Good evening, Commissioners.  
16          Welcome to Pensacola. My name is Dave Murzin. I  
17          am a small business person, and I also have a real  
18          estate license.

19                 In recent years, extreme weather events and  
20          market destructions have underscored the urgent  
21          need for energy resilience across the United  
22          States. As Florida enters another hurricane season  
23          with rising energy demands, we can cannot afford to  
24          repeat the mistakes of places like Texas in 2021.

25                 Florida Power & Light is taking proactive

1 steps to strengthen the grid throughout northwest  
2 Florida. These upgrades are part of a larger  
3 statewide effort to modernize Florida's electric  
4 grid.

5 Since 2018, service reliability in northwest  
6 Florida has improved by over 63 percent thanks to a  
7 reduction in wooden transmission structures,  
8 expansion of underground power lines and  
9 installation of over 9,000 smart grid devices.  
10 Across the state, more than 2.7 million outages  
11 were avoided in 2024 due to smart self-healing grid  
12 technology. But the work isn't done.

13 The global energy landscape is shifting. We  
14 are deeply connected to global supply chains for  
15 fuel, materials and critical equipment.  
16 Destructions anywhere can affect our ability to  
17 maintain and expand the power grid. Every power  
18 failure leads to economic losses, diminished public  
19 trust and, in some cases, risk to life. Grid  
20 failures can drive away investment, destabilize  
21 communities and damage Florida's economic outlook.  
22 Simply put, disaster is more expensive than  
23 prevention.

24 I believe in protecting Florida's taxpayers  
25 and the economy means planning ahead. Floridans



1       deserve stable, secure and affordable energy  
2       futures. Through a continued investment, strategic  
3       policy and a commitment to innovation, Florida can  
4       build an electric grid that withstands storms and  
5       market shocks, long-term resilience, prosperity for  
6       every well-being community. I ask you to support  
7       the request.

8               Thank you.

9               MR. TRIERWEILER: Robin Bridges.

10                               PUBLIC COMMENT

11               MS. BRIDGES: Good evening. My name is Robin  
12       Bridges. I am the director of Be Ready Alliance  
13       Coordinating for Emergencies. It is a local  
14       nonprofit that does, again, disaster resiliency in  
15       our community.

16               Our mission here is to create a community with  
17       disaster resilience through our public/private  
18       partnerships with education, to our community  
19       around us, and throughout the Panhandle.

20               With Florida Power & Light's help, we have  
21       been able to, again, speak to more, and getting  
22       more education out into our community. Without,  
23       again, proven partnerships in our community, like  
24       Florida Power & Light as a first responder, I have  
25       seen what Florida Power & Light, again, is able to

1 do and contribute within our community, as many of  
2 the people before me has talked about with the  
3 infrastructure changes, and seeing that our lights  
4 and power lights are going underground so we can  
5 get our community back up and running after a  
6 disaster.

7 I have reacted and -- excuse me -- I have  
8 responded to disasters from Irma all the way to  
9 just recently the Milton disasters and seen the  
10 effects of Florida Power & Light. So as, again,  
11 the Director of BRACE, I am here to support the  
12 work that Florida Power & Light is doing and in  
13 giving back into our community even during the blue  
14 skies, not just after the storm.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

17 MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Quick question.

19 Go ahead.

20 MR. MARSHALL: I am sorry, quick follow-up  
21 question. When you said with FPL's help, did you  
22 mean they sponsored some of your --

23 MS. BRIDGES: They have in the past, yes.

24 MR. MARSHALL: Thank you.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Tom Lloyd. After Tom Lloyd,

1 we are going to hear from Christian Wagley, Christa  
2 Brandt, Joseph Jones and Margaret Albrecht.

3 Tom, go ahead.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MR. LLOYD: Good afternoon. Tom Lloyd. I  
6 bring a different perspective. I am the Emergency  
7 Manager for Santa Rosa County, and what I am going  
8 to speak to it the resiliency, the reactivity, as  
9 well as the responsiveness that we have seen with  
10 FPL.

11 We have two conditions that we operate in,  
12 blue sky and gray sky is what it's called. So the  
13 blue sky would be just like today. Normal  
14 operating. Gray sky being storm conditions. So  
15 those are the key opportunity times that I  
16 experience working with FPL.

17 I will tell you, during a blue sky incident,  
18 which may be a car accident that takes down a power  
19 pole, power line or somehow impacts the  
20 infrastructure, we have noticed a dramatic  
21 reduction in the response time that it has taken  
22 FPL crews to get out to reestablish electricity to  
23 our citizens.

24 On average, every time that we call what's  
25 called their distribution center, DCC, excuse me,

1       which is basically their 911 center my 911 center  
2       works with on a daily basis, they issue 30-minute  
3       or less ETA on their crews getting there. I would  
4       say, the majority of the time we have a crew --  
5       they have a crew on scene with my responders within  
6       30 minutes, which ultimately adds to us being able  
7       to operate safely, they eliminate the hazard, and  
8       then our emergency crews are actually take care of  
9       citizens.

10           An example of a gray sky condition that we  
11       most recently dealt with FPL was a partner was the  
12       ice storms. I will say during that, they had a  
13       significant incident that happened in east Milton.  
14       There was a very significant area, a substantial  
15       amount of homes that were without power for a  
16       significant amount of time.

17           During that time, we pressed heavily upon them  
18       for ETAs, what it looked like for restoration, what  
19       the efforts were. They have at least two  
20       representatives that sit in our Emergency  
21       Operations Center that supply communication to us.  
22       And during that communication, they spent a  
23       tremendous amount of time informing us that they  
24       were not just trying to restore, but they were  
25       actually hardening their infrastructure in that

1 area.

2 I will leave you with this: We have seen  
3 dramatic increases to our Highway 90 corridor,  
4 Highway 98 corridor, Woodbine Road in the Pace  
5 area, hardening of infrastructure. And as an  
6 emergency manager, it is more important that we see  
7 the investment in infrastructure before a storm,  
8 because it helps to save dollars in restoration  
9 efforts.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12 MR. TRIERWEILER: Christian Wagley, please.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

14 MR. WAGLEY: So I am an FPL customer here in  
15 Pensacola, and when I look up the Google review  
16 rating of my favorite neighborhood cafe three  
17 blocks from my house, they score a 4.6 out of 5.  
18 People love that place. When I look up FPL  
19 Northwest Florida, they score a 1.3. I cannot find  
20 another rating on-line as low as that. And that's  
21 a rating that really reflects a monopoly that's not  
22 being properly regulated by the Public Service  
23 Commission, who is supposed to ensure a proper  
24 balance between corporate profits and fair rates.

25 I hear FPL saying we have low rates. That's

1 not true. I have right here with me a list of the  
2 electric rates of 37 investor-owned and public  
3 utilities in Florida over the past year. FPL  
4 Northwest Florida has the sixth highest rates in  
5 the state. Interesting -- there is 31 lower than  
6 that.

7 Interestingly all the investor-owned utilities  
8 are clustered at the top, while the publicly owned  
9 utilities were all much lower. What that tells me  
10 is that the city councils around the state that  
11 typically regulate those utilities are doing a  
12 better job in ensuring fair rates than what the  
13 Public Service Commission is doing.

14 Now you are being asked to approve an  
15 exceptional rate of return, 11.9 percent, far, far  
16 above the national average. There is no  
17 justification for that, considering the high rates  
18 that we already have here, and the poor customer  
19 service that I shared with you.

20 I know some folks have talked about hurricane  
21 costs. I know that's typically recovered after a  
22 storm, the surcharges, so that's kind of covered  
23 that way. I am not sure about that.

24 Somebody else who recognized some of these  
25 issues, the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme

1 Court, who agreed the balance is not there in the  
2 work that you are doing. When he challenged one of  
3 your rate case approvals, he said, that you often  
4 seem to inexplicably dismiss the extensive reports  
5 of your own staffers, which sometimes contradict  
6 the findings made in your final orders on rates,  
7 and he questioned the kind of evidence that you are  
8 relying on.

9 By the way, the lack of balance includes the  
10 ploy often used by utilities like FPL. They  
11 purposely overbill the system, and you have been  
12 allowing it. More lines, more substations, more  
13 stuff because you are letting them pass the cost of  
14 that plus a healthy profit on to customers. That  
15 needs to stop.

16 Finally, there is legacy being shaped here,  
17 it's a legacy being shaped by all of you, the  
18 Public Service Commission, and I don't want you to  
19 be remembered as a Public Service Commission that  
20 approved the largest rate increase in American  
21 history and continued to allow this ploy of  
22 overbuilding the system. You can get this right.  
23 Ensure a fair balance between corporate profits and  
24 fair rates for people, and I encourage you to take  
25 that path.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you, Christian.

3 Christa Brandt, please.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MS. BRANDT: Hello. Good evening. I am the  
6 Director of the Pensacola Chapter of Valerie's  
7 House. We are a nonprofit that provides grief  
8 support to children after the loss of a parent or a  
9 sibling or a close family member.

10 Before I go further, I would like to state for  
11 the record that a member of FPL does sit on my  
12 advisory board, and they do support us, as they do  
13 many community organizations.

14 At Valerie's House, our mission is to be able  
15 to provide a space that is emotionally and  
16 physically safe for healing. 13 nights out of  
17 every month, we provide grief support to over 350  
18 children as they come to connect with other kids  
19 who are going through similar experiences, and  
20 learn healthy coping mechanisms.

21 When we moved into our location in a historic  
22 house in East Hill, there was not a light on the  
23 utility pole outside of our building creating  
24 several safety hazards. One, for grandparents now  
25 raising their grandkids, they had difficulty seeing



1 the stairs and the steps and walking through uneven  
2 pavement, very much increasing the risk of them  
3 tripping and falling.

4 Also, being near the downtown area are places  
5 more exposed, and without proper lighting, dark  
6 areas can unintentionally become hot spots for  
7 crime or unsafe activity, making families feel  
8 afraid and vulnerable when leaving our space at  
9 night.

10 After I shared these concerns with FPL, they  
11 immediately understood the urgency and acted  
12 quickly to install a light on that utility pole,  
13 ensuring that grieving families have a space that  
14 fosters both emotional and physical safety.

15 This is just one story, one of many that  
16 demonstrates how FPL does show up for our  
17 community. They are reliable, their foresight and  
18 commitment to the community and well-being does  
19 shine bright.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

22 Joseph Jones, please.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT

24 MR. JONES: Thank you for the opportunity to  
25 allow my views on FPL's quality of service. My

1 name is Joseph Jones. I am a retiree of FPL, but  
2 right now, as a retiree, I am just a residential  
3 customer, I have been for 67 years, born and raised  
4 in Pensacola. I am invested in this community, and  
5 I have volunteered in many organizations over the  
6 years.

7 Honestly, except for during the storm, I  
8 really don't care to think about FPL, or any  
9 utility for that matter. Aside from paying my  
10 monthly bill, because that means that life is okay,  
11 I trust that they will be there whenever I need  
12 them, and I just think about other things.

13 Now, OPC asked for specifics, and about the  
14 best I can provide you would be due because -- due  
15 to the way that the lines are laid out, I have  
16 historically been one of the last customers  
17 connected post hurricane in the city. I don't live  
18 way north of the county in the boondocks. I am in  
19 the city. And I have dealt with that my whole life  
20 because it really wasn't that bad that I couldn't  
21 go about seven days without power.

22 Ever since FPL has taken over, I get to enjoy  
23 having my power restored in about two days, which  
24 is really good. But really, even the seven days  
25 were prompt, if you look at what was being

1 accomplished.

2 FPL's organization, their preparation and  
3 training ensures a quick and safe restoration to  
4 normalcy. I know you want to -- us to talk about  
5 the quality of service, but normalcy to mean is  
6 quality of life.

7 Many customers, I am afraid, often overlook  
8 the breadth of their operations, but I know the  
9 dedication firsthand. I have always enjoyed  
10 fantastic reliability. I appreciate the customer  
11 service, and their quick, swift, safe restoration  
12 of our electrical service.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

15 MR. TRIERWEILER: We are going to hear from  
16 Margaret Albrecht, followed by Ken Fountain, Olevia  
17 McNally and Tim Bryant.

18 Margaret.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

20 MS. ALBRECHT: Good evening. My name is  
21 Margaret Albrecht. I work for the Escambia County  
22 School District.

23 Let's just start off with a few facts. Facts,  
24 national average ROE for electrical companies is  
25 9.6 percent. You already of make 10.6 percent.

1 More than the national average. Now you want 11.9  
2 percent.

3 Now, to get down to the personal, I was going  
4 to ask your CEO a question before he conveniently  
5 left here. So I will ask all of you a question.  
6 Do you enjoy air conditioning? That's a question.  
7 Do you enjoy air conditioning? You don't? Yes?  
8 No?

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Ma'am, we are not here to  
10 answer questions. We are here to hear from the  
11 community.

12 MS. ALBRECHT: Fine. I bet that you do all  
13 enjoy air conditioning. I am going to go home  
14 tonight and cuddle up to an icepack because I can't  
15 afford to turn the air conditioning on. I heat  
16 water on the stove, not in a water heater because  
17 it is cheaper to do it on the stove.

18 So, of course, you are not here to answer my  
19 questions, so I will leave you with this one.  
20 Where do you think I am going to cut next? Huh?  
21 What am I supposed to cut next?

22 There was a beautiful rainbow out tonight when  
23 we came in, and I was looking at that rainbow and  
24 thinking, we are going to need that bot of gold in  
25 order to pay for our electricity bills.

1 MR. TRIERWEILER: Ken Fountain, please.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MR. FOUNTAIN: Hello. My name is Ken  
4 Fountain. I am a board-certified real estate  
5 attorney and also a small business owner in Santa  
6 Rosa County, Navarre Beach, Florida.

7 I really don't want to repeat what we heard  
8 earlier about the importance of having a power grid  
9 and having a reliable system for the commercial  
10 investment clients in the community, but what I  
11 really wanted to share with you today is kind of my  
12 experience as a business owner.

13 I have been a restaurant owner on Navarre  
14 Beach, Florida, since 2019. And over that time, we  
15 have had multiple storms and events that we have  
16 had to call Florida Power & Light to come help us  
17 restore power, and most recently that happened  
18 literally a month ago. On May 3rd, we had a storm  
19 come through, it knocked out three transformers at  
20 our restaurant, which shut down our restaurant.  
21 Now, this is important because we are a summer  
22 tourism and hospitality business. We had 15  
23 employees coming in that day that all were counting  
24 on work, and without power, you really can't  
25 operate a restaurant.

1           So they jumped on that, and we contacted them.  
2           They came out, and I am really glad they saved the  
3           Cinco de Mayo weekend. It was our first weekend.  
4           I can tell you everyone that worked there was  
5           really excited, all those family's that work for us  
6           were excited they could come to work. I was  
7           excited that we could also stay open, and it was  
8           really our first big summer weekend.

9           So I just want to tell you how much that I  
10          found Florida Power & Light to be a big -- a great  
11          partner for small business. They have been really  
12          reliable in helping us whenever we have problems.  
13          We had problems in 2020 with storms, 2022 -- I went  
14          back and looked how many times have they saved us.  
15          It's been three times that I can really point to  
16          that we really were shut down, and Florida Power &  
17          Light has gotten faster and faster and faster and  
18          more reliable in responding to our needs. So I  
19          just urge you to support their request to build  
20          that infrastructure.

21                 Thank you.

22                 MR. TRIERWEILER: Olevia McNally.

23                         PUBLIC COMMENT

24                 MS. McNALLY: Thank you, Chairman and  
25                 Commissioners. My name is Olevia McNally. I serve

1 on the Board of FloridaWest Economic Development  
2 Alliance along with a staff member of FPL. I am  
3 sharing about how FPL came through for me  
4 personally on a very stressful day.

5 The morning of my wedding, I was getting  
6 ready. I had on you out-of-town family at a house  
7 I had rented, a house where we were having the  
8 reception later that day, and catering was getting  
9 set up outside. I heard a large boom, a  
10 transformer, all the power went out. I walk out, I  
11 am talking with my family, and we made the decision  
12 that if there was ever a day to pull that card of  
13 knowing someone, it was my wedding day. I called,  
14 the phone call was answered and we had power back  
15 within about 40 minutes, so we greatly appreciated  
16 that.

17 I knew someone to call because of serving on a  
18 separate board together with someone from FPL.  
19 They know and serve our community by being involved  
20 with a lot of not-for-profits. Thank you for the  
21 time.

22 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Ma'am, we have a quick  
24 question. Sorry.

25 MR. MARSHALL: Are you also involved with them

1 through Habitat for Humidity, is that right?

2 MS. McNALLY: I am. I started working for  
3 Habitat last Thursday, so I haven't made any  
4 requests yet for that position.

5 MR. MARSHALL: Okay, but they are a sponsor of  
6 that organization too?

7 MS. McNALLY: Yes.

8 MR. MARSHALL: Thank you.

9 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. Next up is Tim  
10 Bryant, followed by Kelvin Enfinger, Alton Lister  
11 and Frankie Gibbs.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

13 MR. BRYANT: Good evening. My name is Tim  
14 Bryant. I am the owner and operator -- co-owner,  
15 actually -- my brother would prefer that I call him  
16 a co-owner -- Five Flags Speedway here in  
17 Pensacola. We are on the west side of town. The  
18 track was built in 1953. We took ownership in  
19 2007. It's an entertainment venue, but we do stock  
20 car raising to be specific. I think when the track  
21 was built, it was probably lit by a string of  
22 lightbulbs between the trees out there. I don't  
23 know. But it's come along we way since then.

24 Currently, we have probably, give or take, 100  
25 1,500 watts worth of halogen lightbulbs that lights



1       our speedway. Florida Power & Light is currently  
2       working with us on a program to help save some  
3       energy and some costs, so we are looking forward to  
4       that by going to an LED lighting system. So we  
5       have been granted some great service from FPL on  
6       that.

7           Listen, our industry relies on people coming  
8       and buying a ticket to our events, so disposable  
9       income is kind of what they do to do that, so I am  
10      cognizant of all of the views that most of these  
11      people have here tonight. No one likes rate  
12      increases. But I will also tell you that FPL has  
13      stepped up their level of service in recent years  
14      in ways I think some folks just maybe take for  
15      granted, and we don't, I mean, because we see it.

16           We are currently on the very tail end of a  
17      underground program, storm secure underground  
18      program to be specific. It's been an ongoing  
19      project for about a year. We are within two or  
20      three weeks of converting and taking all of our  
21      transformers down out of the sky and then finally  
22      place transformers on the ground.

23           We have actually granted them an easement, we  
24      granted FPL an easement right through the center of  
25      our property out there so that they could secure

1           what they call a loop, which will ensure that in  
2           times of storm, power will be restored to all of  
3           our neighbors much quicker.

4           So I think they are on the cutting edge of  
5           technology. I am not qualified to say if a rate  
6           increase is justified or not. Certainly, you  
7           members of the Commission have a task on your  
8           hands, and I appreciate you listening to all these  
9           folks tonight and gathering their input.

10          I will tell you this, FPL's level of service  
11          is beyond anything that we can comprehend, and the  
12          very fact that, you know, we can flip those  
13          switches and turn them lights on daily without --  
14          with very little interruption in times of need, I  
15          think is testament to the job they are doing.

16          Thank you.

17          MR. TRIERWEILER: Kelvin Enfinger.

18                               PUBLIC COMMENT

19          MR. ENFINGER: Good evening, Commission  
20          members. Thank you for holding this meeting here  
21          in Pensacola. My name is Kelvin Enfinger. I am  
22          the Vice-President of a local commercial  
23          construction company that's been in this community  
24          for nearly eight decades. I also serve as the  
25          State Chairman for Associated Builders and

1 Contractors of Florida, where we serve just a  
2 little over 2,000 members across the state.

3 I am here today to speak in support of the  
4 long-term infrastructure investments that FPL has  
5 made that are making an impact in our industry. As  
6 builders, we rely on dependable power to keep job  
7 sites running safely and efficiently. FPL's  
8 modernization of the grid, storm hardening and  
9 commitment to clean energy have helped minimize  
10 outages, reduced project delays and created a more  
11 predictable environment for our work. It's not  
12 just good for contractors, it's essential to the  
13 businesses and the communities that we build for.

14 FPL's impact goes beyond the construction  
15 site. Their work to support economic development,  
16 partnering with local communities to attract major  
17 employers and new industries drives job creation  
18 and creates this demand for commercial development  
19 and strengthens Florida's positions to the top  
20 destination for growth. We know that when reliable  
21 energy infrastructure is available, businesses will  
22 follow.

23 We have also seen FPL step-up as a partner in  
24 workforce development investing in apprenticeships  
25 and education that align with organizations like

1       ABC that help prepare the next generation of  
2       skilled workers.

3               We understand that rate adjustments are  
4       difficult decisions, but we also know that reliable  
5       modern energy is foundational to Florida's economic  
6       future. From where we stand in the construction  
7       industry, FPL's investments are delivering  
8       long-term value for our businesses, our workforce  
9       and our communities.

10              Thank you for your time.

11              CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12              MR. TRIERWEILER: Alton Lister.

13                              PUBLIC COMMENT

14              MR. LISTER: I am Alton Lister, Lister  
15       Builders, and thank you also for letting us be here  
16       and -- this tonight.

17              Full disclosure, I am a member of the  
18       Homeowners' Association. I have been on the board  
19       for a number of years, past president, and there is  
20       a member of the Florida Power & Light that is on  
21       our board. I am on the senior board of the Florida  
22       Home Builders Association. I also want to disclose  
23       I have never once asked for any kind of a  
24       contribution from Florida Power & Light, and the  
25       only financial transaction between me and them has

1 my name written on the bottom of the check, just to  
2 make sure we are clear.

3 I am not for any increases daily or monthly in  
4 my costs, but against my will, it is happening all  
5 the time around me. The truth is, the cost of  
6 labor and everything else is going up, you used to  
7 do a drive-thru lunch for under \$10. It ain't  
8 happening anymore. Everything is going up. It's  
9 all increased. And, of course, they have had to  
10 raise their prices because food is going up, labor  
11 is going up, et cetera.

12 41 years ago I went into business and the cost  
13 of a new home back then, crazy enough, I could  
14 build you a whole home for \$30 a square feet. I  
15 can't even get your foundation in now for that  
16 because everything is going up. Of course,  
17 plumbers weren't making \$35 and \$40 an hour back  
18 then.

19 I am not excited about any form of cost of  
20 living experience, but I know that everything is  
21 going up, and so we have to associate that that's  
22 going to be in every aspect of our life.

23 Being involved in the homeowners' association  
24 locally, state and nationally, we have fought to  
25 try to help with transformers was in shortage, and

1           understanding that economics 101 came into play,  
2           and because they had all the costs went up and  
3           during that time for transformers, which has to be  
4           carried and passed on to somebody.

5           One thing to consider the value we receive  
6           with FPL, we have got a much smarter grid since  
7           they took over from Gulf Power. They were quickly  
8           to be disposed of by the Southern Companies when  
9           they needed money because there was not a good  
10          revenue for Gulf Power, but that was intention  
11          there.

12          We don't want higher rates, but as a builder,  
13          we are very thankful that our owners can turn a  
14          switch on and not wonder if they are will have  
15          electricity after a storm.

16          I will close with this: I spoke with a friend  
17          from Dallas and I mentioned I was coming here  
18          tonight. Their response was they would have gladly  
19          paid more per month not faced the outages in their  
20          recent stormageddon. I was happy to tell him that  
21          we had a snow storm in Florida, and I was never  
22          without power during this period of time. I am not  
23          opposed to paying a bit more each month for the  
24          securities of good service.

25          Thank you very much.

1           MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. Next we are  
2 going to hear from Frankie Gibbs. Following  
3 Frankie is Eric Cleaton, Martin Stanovich and Steve  
4 Sasser.

5                           PUBLIC COMMENT

6           MR. GIBBS: Good evening, Commissioners. My  
7 name is Frankie Gibbs, and I have lived in the  
8 region for 25 years. I am a retired military  
9 officer, and I am pleased to say I have had the  
10 pleasure, or displeasure, to live all over the  
11 southeast United States at one time or another.  
12 And one of the things that I have found near and  
13 dear to me is the safety of my family the many  
14 times that I have had to be away from them. I can  
15 assure you there is comfort in knowing when they  
16 flip the switch, the power comes on, and that's  
17 reliable.

18           I happen to live in a community that most of  
19 all the residents are a little older, who are all  
20 Baby Boomers, many of them with declining health,  
21 limited mobility, and the comfort of knowing that  
22 the power is on when they turn that switch means  
23 the world to them.

24           Over that 25 years, I can count on, well,  
25 maybe 11 days that I have been without power. And

1 I guarantee you, many of the friends that I met  
2 over the many years who lived all over the country,  
3 they cannot say that. They cannot say that 100  
4 percent they have 100 percent confidence in their  
5 power grid, and that's because we are fortunate.

6 So many things we take for granted, like basic  
7 electricity, running water, clean water, we just  
8 take it for granted. But we what we don't see, all  
9 those things comes at a cost. The cost of living  
10 on the south end of Santa Rosa County, driving down  
11 98, I see the power poles go up, and I know that  
12 built into that is more reliability of the power  
13 grid, and that's truly what quality of life is all  
14 about. Being able to rest assured that your  
15 friends, your neighbors and your loved ones can be  
16 confident to know.

17 I know that we have family in central Florida,  
18 who experienced two major hurricanes a week apart,  
19 and it was absolutely devastating. And I know  
20 personally of all the joy they experienced when the  
21 power came on.

22 So no one is in the favor of a rate chase,  
23 raised just for the sake of a raise. But when it  
24 comes for even more reliability in the power grid,  
25 I am all for it, and so are all of my neighbors, my



1 friends and neighbors.

2 Thank you very much.

3 MR. MARSHALL: Chair, question.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sir, a quick question.

5 MR. MARSHALL: Quick question. Are you  
6 associated with the Okaloosa County Habitat for  
7 Humidity?

8 MR. GIBBS: Yes, I am. And as of the 1st of  
9 July, I will be the sitting chairman. I am also  
10 many years be the chairman of the board of the  
11 Chamber of Commerce of Navarre. I chair a  
12 nonprofit group called the Pink Pirates. We raise  
13 money to fund mammograms for those who don't have  
14 them. Yes.

15 MR. MARSHALL: And is FPL a sponsor of Habitat  
16 for Humidity?

17 MR. GIBBS: Yes. And that goes without  
18 saying. Many other people have said they have been  
19 a tremendous community partner, and many, many  
20 people have benefited far beyond a reliable power  
21 grid.

22 MR. MARSHALL: Okay. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

24 MR. GIBBS: Thank you.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you for your service

1           and continued service.

2           MR. GIBBS: Thank you.

3           MR. TRIERWEILER: Eric Cleaton.

4                           PUBLIC COMMENT

5           MR. CLEATON: Good evening. I am Eric  
6           Cleaton. I have been in Pensacola and dealing with  
7           real estate over 40 years, and I do a lot of rental  
8           properties, lower income and what have you. I can  
9           tell you the service that FPL has given to me and  
10          my renters has been awesome. I never, ever get a  
11          complaint believe it or not -- I get a lot of  
12          complaints, but nobody ever complains about their  
13          light bill in any rental house, and I have  
14          low-income, high income, and I have been, you know,  
15          I have got over 150 units. And I can tell you I  
16          never, ever get complaints. And their service is  
17          always so good.

18                 And one thing I like about them, their service  
19          is what I am here to tell you, I think is great.  
20          They have a system where I can automatically put  
21          all of my properties there, and if someone turns  
22          their lights off, it automatically stays on, okay.  
23          And then when a new tenant comes in, they cut it  
24          off and send me a bill. So I have no interruption  
25          for power as far as getting it ready to rereant,

1 carpet shampoo, air conditioning, I have continuous  
2 power. I don't have to pay a deposit either. And  
3 that's been very helpful to the real estate  
4 community, and I am very thankful for their service  
5 and what they do for Pensacola.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

8 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

9 Martin Stanovich, please.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT

11 MR. STANOVICH: Thank you, Commissioners, for  
12 this opportunity. Marty Stanovich, Martin. I am  
13 President and CEO of First Tee of Gulf Coast.

14 For full disclosure, for 16 years, having been  
15 a professor at this fine institution for 14, I have  
16 been back at Pensacola for 40 years, I do have a  
17 member of Florida Power & Light, Mr. Rick Byars,  
18 who serves on my board of directors, and we are  
19 supported, and I went ahead and ran the numbers, in  
20 between one and two percent of our annual budget  
21 for our entire eight-county organization serving  
22 over 1,000 youth. And I think one of the things  
23 that you will do -- I spent eight years in  
24 Tallahassee, and there is a lot of idealism in  
25 Tallahassee.

1           In 1995, only behind Glades County, this was  
2           the second poorest county per capita in the state  
3           of Florida. There is no major industry here. We  
4           have the military, and we are thankful and very  
5           proud of the Navy, the Marines, the Air Force  
6           presence, the Army, but besides tourism, which has  
7           come along long, long way in that 30 years, we have  
8           been blessed to have the leadership in economic  
9           development, and also in that nonprofit community,  
10          because without major industry -- and I will speak  
11          on behalf, I sat on over a dozen boards before by  
12          became executive director of a nonprofit -- without  
13          a company like Florida Power & Light to drive the  
14          bus, there is nobody that is going to drive the bus  
15          in this community.

16                But as a residential customer, I own three  
17          homes in Escambia County. I have lived in the same  
18          home for 27 years, which I purchased for \$65,000 in  
19          the Beach Haven community. This is West Pensacola,  
20          west Escambia County out towards Perdido.

21                I was without power for three weeks after  
22          Hurricane Ivan. Receiving almost the same impact  
23          from Sally, 16 years later to the day, I was out of  
24          power for less than six days. What Florida Power &  
25          Light has done to make the infrastructure more is

1       he resilient and also more responsive to customers,  
2       whether it's a lighting request or also finding out  
3       ways for cost savings, FPL is doing a fantastic job  
4       here in this community, and we are very proud to  
5       have them.

6               Thank you, Commissioners.

7               CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

8               MR. TRIERWEILER: Steve Sasser. Steve will be  
9       followed by Louise Ritz, Dustin Seifert and Michael  
10      Broker.

11                       PUBLIC COMMENT

12              MR. SASSER: Good evening. I appreciate you  
13      hearing me.

14              I am not a customer of FPL. I am an  
15      electrical contractor. We are celebrating our 20th  
16      year. We are based out of Daphne, Alabama. We  
17      have an office in Freeport and an office in  
18      Jacksonville. And I just want to tell you a little  
19      of our experience working with FPL.

20              We work, I don't know, at least a half a dozen  
21      different utilities across Mississippi, Alabama,  
22      Florida, but FPL is absolutely the best at  
23      responding to us as far as emergency disconnects,  
24      coordinating with engineers on new services. It is  
25      extremely easy to get ahold of someone who knows

1       the project that you are going to be working on,  
2       and from the folks who answer the phone, to the  
3       engineers that you deal with, the linemen out  
4       there, you can tell they are just -- they are  
5       dedicated to keeping customers' lights on. Their  
6       level of dedication, it stands out amongst the  
7       other utility companies I work with, so whatever  
8       they are doing, they are doing a good job.

9       Thank you.

10       CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11       MR. TRIERWEILER: Louise Ritz, please.

12                   PUBLIC COMMENT

13       MS. RITZ: Can you hear me?

14       CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Loud and clear.

15       MR. TRIERWEILER: Yes, ma'am.

16       MS. RITZ: Thank you. Well, I appreciate this  
17       time. I came not really thinking I would be  
18       speaking, but I enjoyed hearing the various  
19       speakers tonight, and as they spoke, I thought  
20       about our experience as a homeowner. We have lived  
21       in Escambia County for over 55 years, and we live  
22       in our home for that many years plus.

23               I have had some interesting experience with  
24       both Gulf Power and Florida Power & Light, and I  
25       can say that I am glad we have electricity.

1           Let's look at six points that I would like to  
2           share with you both as a homeowner and as a  
3           ratepayer.

4           Number one: I am appreciative of the website,  
5           because I can go to Florida Power & Light's website  
6           and pay the bill. I can look up past payments. So  
7           that's a definite plus. And I am sure it must save  
8           some time for the staff. Anyone want to comment on  
9           that? Because I haven't asked that over the  
10          customer service line.

11          Let's see, point two, as I listened, you are  
12          asking for ratepayers to increase the amount that  
13          they will be paying. Number one, I would like to  
14          suggest something. Would the corporation of  
15          Florida Power & Light like to say how they will  
16          tighten their corporate belt? I had not thought  
17          about that, and I see I am on yellow.

18          Okay. 11.9 percent is a hefty increase. I  
19          would like to see how they can bring that down. I  
20          challenge the corporation to do that.

21          Number three: Florida Power & Light has a  
22          some sort -- is that it?

23          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Continue.

24          MS. RITZ: Continue. Thank you very much for  
25          your courtesy.

1           Flower -- how did Florida get to be flower?  
2           Oh, I know it's -- Florida Power & Light has a  
3           supplement, and they don't call it their own, they  
4           call it Florida Power & Light Home. Well, I had  
5           signed up for the electrical portion of it and  
6           decided I didn't want it because I discovered that  
7           the corporation was not directly connected, even  
8           though Florida Power & Light collected the fee and  
9           paid it to Florida Power & Light Home, but it had  
10          no connection. I found that very puzzling.

11          All right. The next one is I am so grateful  
12          to see the concrete poles erected, because that's a  
13          plus. They did -- eliminating the creosote poles  
14          on North 9th Avenue, and in place, put the concrete  
15          poles. And that's a great asset to have both  
16          constantly, but also during times of storm,  
17          especially hurricanes.

18          Lastly, on a personal note with our home. We  
19          have a five ton Carrier unit -- sorry for the plug  
20          -- on top of our home that my husband designed and  
21          built. Well, lo and behold, about, let's say,  
22          seven months ago, and let me add to that, the power  
23          went off. I thought oh, no, because this unit is  
24          very touchy. It waits five minutes before the  
25          whole house generator comes on. So can I please



1           have customer service? I wanted to know how  
2           critical this was, if they are going to do what I  
3           call a flash off and a flash on, because it can  
4           upset the Carrier unit because it waits five  
5           minutes before it calls on the generator to provide  
6           electricity for it.

7           So for that, I have pluses and challenges for  
8           Florida Power & Light. And again, keep that  
9           website up. It's helpful. But also, as a  
10          corporation, I challenge what are you going to do  
11          to tighten your belt? You are asking the customer  
12          to put more funding up. But how are you going to  
13          role model that as a corporation?

14          Thank you for your time and also your  
15          generosity of the extra moments.

16          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Of course. Thank you.

17          MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

18          Dustin Seifert.

19                               PUBLIC COMMENT

20          MR. SEIFERT: My name is Dustin Seifert. I am  
21          an air conditioning contractor for Economy  
22          Appliance Heat & Air. Been in Pensacola my entire  
23          life. I am second generation in the business, and  
24          we've had a relationship with Gulf Power and  
25          Florida Power & Light for over 10 years to be able

1       to offer the rebate programs and incentives to all  
2       of our customers. Air conditioning systems consume  
3       about half of the power inside of a normal home.  
4       So it's the largest energy consumer in the house.  
5       And the new air conditioners have become much more  
6       efficient over time, but much more expensive.

7               So we have utilized Gulf Power and Florida  
8       Power & Light's rebate program. They have an  
9       instant rebate for high efficiency air conditioning  
10      systems of \$150, so we pass that on to our  
11      customers as an instant discount, and we are funded  
12      by the power company.

13             They also have the FPL Home program to where  
14      they will finance an air conditioning system for  
15      zero down to the customer to replace an air  
16      conditioning system, they have a 9.9 percent  
17      interest rate through the FPL Home program, but the  
18      customers really come out nothing out of pocket up  
19      front to purchase the air conditioning system. We  
20      put the units in, and a lot of times the energy  
21      reduction in the house offsets the cost, or the  
22      financed amount. So I feel like that's a very  
23      beneficial program to customers who may not have  
24      \$7,000, \$8,000 or \$9,000 to buy an AC system. They  
25      can utilize this program to essentially come

1 nothing out-of-pocket and have a reliable air  
2 conditioning system.

3 So we are excited to see how this rebate  
4 program and the incentives increase. We have been  
5 told that there is a program where they will be  
6 able to tie the financing price to the end of the  
7 power bill, which I think is pretty exciting. And  
8 they said that they are also going to increase the  
9 instant rebate amount, which I think is going to  
10 help offset these expensive air conditioning  
11 systems that people are really forced or need.

12 So thank you guys for your time.

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

14 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. Next up is  
15 Michael Broker, and then, folks, we only have three  
16 more customers signed up, and they are Dave Hoxeng,  
17 Steven King and Mark Green.

18 Michael Broker.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Is Mr. Broker here?

20 MR. TRIERWEILER: Moving on, Dave Hoxeng.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT

22 MR. HOXENG: Howdie. I am -- here tonight. I  
23 am sure it's been a long time for you all.

24 I made money by selling advertising, my wife  
25 and I own radio stations, and I looked before I

1           came tonight, and our cost of power for the last 12  
2           months has been \$113,000, so we have some skin in  
3           this game.

4           The two things I have to talk about tonight  
5           have to do with the future of our community, both  
6           of which I feel are a really important part.

7           The first is growing jobs for our kids and  
8           their kids. And the future for me is to grow our  
9           community, which means jobs. And from what I have  
10          seen, FPL has been a great partner in helping  
11          resolve sites that are ready for new businesses to  
12          build and hire people, and have heard good feedback  
13          from people that are in the construction business  
14          about the service that Gulf -- excuse me -- that  
15          FPL provides, and Gulf Power did before.

16          The other thing is resiliency. I thought Gulf  
17          Power did a pretty good job. I have been here a  
18          little over 20 years, and lived through Ivan, and  
19          they did a good job, but FPL has invested a lot of  
20          money in resiliency, has been coming earlier  
21          tonight for reset wooden poles, putting out  
22          concrete poles, more and more of the wiring is  
23          going underground. Their resiliency is going to  
24          serve us well in the long-term for our economy too.

25          So thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

3 Steven King.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MR. KING: Okay. All y'all are Commissioners?  
6 FPL?

7 This is a local issue regarding the plant  
8 here. Can you tell me how many generators are up  
9 there generating power? Anybody?

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, we are not -- we are  
11 here to hear --

12 MR. KING: Okay, well, then I will say what I  
13 am going to say.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sure.

15 MR. KING: They have a generator that's down.  
16 Their intent is to replace the generator. The  
17 problem is they paid for the generator to be  
18 rebuilt and updated, and it's under warranty. So  
19 why are they going to spend money because it comes  
20 out of a different pocket which allows them to  
21 raise their rates? Why? You can't answer that, so  
22 we will leave it at that.

23 Have a good day.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

25 MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sir.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: Sir, we have a question for  
3 you.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Mr. King, quick question.

5 MR. TRIERWEILER: Would you mind returning to  
6 the mic, please?

7 MR. MARSHALL: I'm sorry, Mr. King, I just  
8 wanted to know if you have any information about  
9 which generator?

10 MR. KING: I have sources.

11 MR. MARSHALL: Maybe I can catch up with you  
12 after.

13 MR. KING: Yeah. Have a good day.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: I thought you were going to  
15 answer the question for him. That's pretty  
16 impressive.

17 MR. TRIERWEILER: Mark.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT

19 MR. GEERS: Hi, my name is Mark Geers. I live  
20 in Gulf Breeze, Florida. I am a local resident and  
21 FPL customer. I am also likely one of the only  
22 people in this room that would actually benefit  
23 from a rate increase, but I am opposed.

24 The reason that I would benefit is because I  
25 sell residential solar panels as a distributor in

1       the market here locally in Pensacola and the  
2       Panhandle. I am not really here to talk to the  
3       Commission. I am more here to talk to the people  
4       behind me, so hopefully there are still enough  
5       listening, even though I think I am last to go, but  
6       I do have a couple of great things I would like to  
7       mention to the Commission. The first being I feel  
8       I am well aware that this is going to result in a  
9       rate increase. I know how this goes. I would ask  
10      that you encourage or require that rate increase to  
11      go towards, you know, grid resilience in the form  
12      of solar, batteries and distributive generation  
13      incentives, similar to the ones that we heard about  
14      when it came to air conditioning upgrades for local  
15      residents that can benefit off of these systems by  
16      upgrading their homes with solar and battery, as  
17      well as commercial solar and battery and  
18      utility-scale. So I would ask that that to be a  
19      requirement if the increase is passed, or when it  
20      is inevitably passed.

21           To the people behind me, I just wanted to say,  
22      you know, it's been a lot of bad, and I guess some  
23      good from people who have been paid to come up here  
24      and talk, but I want to kind of explain that the,  
25      you know, with the exponential increase -- or

1       excuse me -- the exponential decrease in the cost  
2       of oral solar and battery, we are going to need  
3       utility companies less and less. This is already  
4       true today, and it's going to continue to become  
5       more and more true as time goes on. Utility  
6       companies know that. That's one of the reasons why  
7       they are wanting to increase their dollar figure  
8       today is because they are not going to be there in  
9       the future.

10           Every day, we get closer and closer, battery  
11       technology is cheaper and cheaper and easier to  
12       install on your home, which means you don't have a  
13       need for what the utility company offers you  
14       through centralized generation.

15           My point in saying this is that isn't a  
16       monopoly anymore. It's slowly fading. Word  
17       spreads fast. And eventually, we won't need them.  
18       So a 10-percent guaranteed profit of nothing is  
19       nothing. They are scared. They are paying off  
20       politicians in order to retain their control, but  
21       it's a losing battle. That's why they want more  
22       money now.

23           So continue fighting. Continue doing what you  
24       can to pay your bills. Oppression brings  
25       rebellion. You can rebel against monopolies. You



1           can put solar and battery on your house today and  
2           with the rate increase, our lives just get better.  
3           So I hope everybody that's still here, you know,  
4           understands that. I am happy to talk to anybody  
5           that would like to know more.

6           Thank you.

7           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. So we've got  
8           one additional speaker, not additional, but Mr.  
9           Stephen Rome who had stepped out but is back.

10          Mr. Rome my friend, you are recognized when  
11          you are ready.

12                               PUBLIC COMMENT

13          MR. ROME: Good evening. My name is Stephen  
14          Rome. I am a Pensacola resident for 32 years, an  
15          FPL customer and an AARP volunteer. I am here  
16          today to express my concerns regarding the proposed  
17          rate increase by FPL.

18          Many seniors, as well as many in our  
19          community, are currently juggling with rising cost  
20          of medicine, food and housing. FPL's request is  
21          based on corporate greed, especially with a return  
22          on equity of 11.9 percent, which is over the  
23          national average. That is pure profit coming out  
24          of the pockets of the public.

25          I urge the Commission to thoroughly scrutinize

1           this request and consider the impact on seniors  
2           like me and others in the community, and ensure  
3           that the rate increase, if any, is fair and  
4           reasonable.

5           Thank you for the opportunity to address this  
6           commission tonight. Thank you.

7           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

8           MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

9           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Is there anybody else who  
10          signed up that may have been inadvertently missed  
11          or skipped over that intended to speak? Okay.  
12          Excellent. All right. Well, not seeing any.

13          Thank you all for coming out today.  
14          Obviously, this is an important issue and important  
15          to the community, so thank you guys very much.

16          Thank you to Pensacola State College for  
17          hosting us. As was referenced a few times, we have  
18          been traveling around the state into the territory  
19          hearing from customers, literally from Miami to  
20          here, to Pensacola, and, of course, having a good  
21          venue to do that and host us is important, so thank  
22          you to Pensacola State College for allowing us to  
23          embark and have this meeting here this evening.

24          Commissioners, members, any further business  
25          before us? I don't believe so.

1                   Thank you again, all, for coming out, and I  
2           will go ahead and call this meeting adjourned.

3           Thank you.

4           (Proceedings concluded.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER


2 STATE OF FLORIDA )  
3 COUNTY OF LEON )  
45 I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby  
6 certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the  
7 time and place herein stated.8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I  
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the  
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;  
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true  
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,  
14 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor  
15 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
17 financially interested in the action.18 DATED this 14th day of July, 2025.  
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