CORRESPONDENCE
7/27/2026
DOCUMENT NO. 04673-2026

Hong Wang

From: noreply@psc.state.fl.us
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:03 AM
To: r.smith822@gmail.com
CC: Consumer Contact
Subject: Docket Number - 20260026-GU

Good Morning, Randy Smith,

We will be placing your comments below in docket correspondence in Docket No. 20260026-GU, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance.

Sincerely,

Hong Wang
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
850-413-6770

From: r.smith822@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 09:59 AM
To: Florida Public Service Commission
Subject: Docket Number - 20260026-GU

Description:
Customer Comment Id: 277
Are you a customer of Florida City Gas: Y
Name: Randy Smith
Phone: 8438221822
Email: r.smith822@gmail.com

Address: 3260 TREETOP DR, TITUSVILLE, Brevard, FL 32780
Submit Date: Saturday, July 25, 2026 09:59 AM

Comment: Thank you to the FPSC in oversight of our essential services and ensuring that we, the consumers, receive these services in a “reasonable” manner. Regarding Docket No. 20260026-GU, I would like to voice my opposition to the rate increase for the following reasons.

A very small percentage of southeast Florida residents use natural gas. I can only assume that Chesapeake Utilities Corporation purchased FCG thinking it would improve their profit margins. Chesapeake is a monopoly, and the companies it has used to deliver product and serve us in Florida are all owned by Chesapeake, as noted in the Bakertilly independent auditor’s report, GU602-25-AR. How can operating efficiencies be improved if there is no competitive bidding in any of these supporting functions?

The FCG letter to consumers states that want to reach an 11.25% ROE. That seems to be an extreme amount on an accounting measure that is supposed to represent how efficiently a company uses its shareholders' equity to generate profit. Chesapeake is trying to impose its strength as a monopoly over a consumer base that has no options in choosing a gas utility company. They say the rate increase will allow them “to recover the cost of operating the Utility and to allow the company an opportunity to earn a FAIR rate of return on its investment. If Chesapeake wants to improve its ROE, they should focus on the denominator (assets and liabilities) not increasing the numerator (income) simply by raising rates. A higher ROE should not be a burden to consumers just to raise value for shareholders.

I must also point out that Chesapeake is a DEI structured company, or EDI, as listed in their reports and websites. Are the residents of the free state of Florida now being force to support a company that may not be following best practices for running a profitable company? Are we supporting a company that may be pushing the consumer away from gas, towards other “environmentally friendly” energy sources like wind or solar?

I am a senior citizen on a fixed income. FGC is proposing a rate hike that more than doubles the base charge of $18 to $36.50, and increases the per therm rate by 35%. The inflation rate in this nation has held around 3% over the past three years. The Independent Auditors’ Report also includes data on executive salaries. I’m not bitter about that, but salaries should be earned from the profits of running the business. The business model for utility companies is different from the manufacturing world that I’m familiar with, but I don’t see how charging the peasants more is a fair means to make up for poor business decisions or mismanagement. I just don’t see the justification in this proposed rate increase.

Thank you for your consideration is this matter.