CORRESPONDENCE
JUN 20, 2016
DOCUMENT NO. 03868-16

Collin Roehner

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 1:12 PM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Cc: Diane Hood
Subject: FW: Comments for FPL Docket Number 160021 : FPL's proposed rate hike
Attachments: PSCletter.docx

Customer correspondence

From: Gail Liberman and Alan Lavine [mailto:mwliblav@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 12:56 PM
To: Consumer Contact; Ruth McHargue; Diane Hood
Subject: Comments for FPL Docket Number 160021 : FPL's proposed rate hike

Please make certain my attached comments on Docket 16021 are submitted to the Public Service Commission!

Gail Liberman

Comments for FPL Document Number 160021 : FPL's proposed rate hike

I strongly urge the Public Service Commission to reject Florida Power & Light's planned $1.3 billion rate proposal, which published reports indicate could lead to an unaffordable 23%-plus rate increase for typical residential customers over four years.

Although I'm a long-time FPL customer and truly appreciate the company's good service, I believe its financing should be absorbed not by customers, but by the company's investors, growing customer base and extra-prudent management.

Right now, the national annual inflation rate is running slightly over 1 percent and our economy remains on an unstable footing. This makes the proposed rate hike—especially for Florida residents on a fixed income --unaffordable. Some 23 percent of Palm Beach County's 1.4 million residents are over age 65.

In only my second year of retirement, I have had to absorb a $20-plus monthly rise in base Medicare costs and a 20% monthly increase in long-term care insurance costs. That's on top of a new roof--$20,000. Water bills have tripled since we bought our home in 1997. Rates for property taxes and homeowners insurance also are skyrocketing. All this when the maximum available federally insured CD rates hover in the 1 percent to 1.5 percent range! This is unsustainable—even for the most financially astute FPL customer!

The failing of your publicly-supported body to halt FPL's proposed rate hike ultimately could necessitate our state and federal governments to cough up more entitlements. Already one in seven seniors in South Florida faces a choice between paying for rent, medication or food, according to the Feeding South Florida. Our national debt stands at nearly $20 trillion or $59.5 thousand per citizen!

FPL argues that its rates, following its proposed increase, will still be lower than in 2006. But rates *should* be lower than in 2006, due to the plunging price of oil and cheap natural gas during that period. It's been about the only saving grace for us retirees!

FPL also cites natural gas improvements as part of the reason for its hike. However, whether FPL's aggressive move to natural gas is a "prudently incurred" expense is subject to dispute by the Union of Concerned Scientists. That

Cambridge, Massachusetts-based organization contends Florida has the highest risk nationally for being over-reliant on natural gas for electricity generation now and in the future. Its senior energy analyst John Rogers, according to the Palm Beach Post, said such over-dependence on natural gas creates a risk of price volatility, carbon emissions and investments in power plants and pipelines that may not be needed down the road.

Imagine if we FPL customers have to absorb all those added costs on top of this 23 percent-plus proposed rate hike!

Sincerely,

Gail Liberman
Palm Beach Gardens, FL