

Collin Roehner

From: Angela Charles on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 10:16 AM
To: 'linda kitch'
Subject: RE: Public Comment, Docket No. 160021-EI

Good morning Ms. Kitch,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 160021-EI and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Charles
Commission Deputy Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee FL 32399-0850
850-413-6826

From: linda kitch [<mailto:kindalitch@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, July 02, 2016 10:28 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: linda kitch
Subject: Public Comment, Docket No. 160021-EI

Petition for increase in rates by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
Docket No. 160021-EI

Linda Kitch
2160 Bay Street
Sarasota, FL 34237

Consumer Comments:

I attended the Sarasota public hearing on June 3rd. Thank you for setting that up.

I strongly feel that PSC should -- indeed, must! -- deny the rate increase application of FPL, based on several factors.

FPL's 2017-2019 proposed base rate increase is not insignificant (26% for 1000 kwh usage, for instance). They've been spending lots of money on a PR campaign telling us, the consumers, that we have such low rates, which is true. But then they want to raise it, by 26%?! I'm pretty sure that wasn't in the TV advertisement. Had they not spent fortunes on PR they would have additional monies to spend on operating costs!

I notice that the base rate increases are also regressive: the more you use, the less your rate increases: 26% at 1,000 kwh, 22% BR increase for 2,000 kwh, 21% BR increase for 3,000 kwh. (I calculated simple percentages based on the PSC Special Report chart of sample charges.) The chart, in fact, begins with a sample 1,000

kwh/month use. I'm extrapolating, based on the chart, that consumer who use less, such as myself and some of my neighbors -- some who aren't even using A/C this summer because they cannot afford it -- would see slightly higher increases in the base rate. Increases in the cost of everything are inevitable, but twenty-six percent increase over three years is outrageous.

Need I remind you that FPL is, in fact, a monopoly, as many utilities are, for good historical reason. As such, though, their consumer cannot select an alternative provider. In 2015 FPL recorded \$1.65 billion profit; \$1.52 billion in 2014. I'm not challenging the right of a company to make a healthy profit. 1.65 billion in profits from 5 million accounts (NextEra Annual Report 2015): these are not healthy profit numbers for a monopoly -- this is, rather, egregious profiteering. They can certainly balance their income and expenses in ways that will, in fact, enhance and improve their service, building for the future, with their level of profit.

And one issue with which I take umbrage is FPL's pathetic record (and ongoing, also, endeavors) in the area of renewable resources. I'm sorry, but setting up their own centralized solar farms to keep savings from renewables within the company, that's just...backwards. Florida, in fact, is in such a sorry state as regards to moving forward with renewable energy, compared to, say, Sunny Massachusetts or Sunny New Jersey, I just don't have words for it. That's YOUR responsibility. PSC needs to set some standards here, then make sure the companies, including FPL, meet them. The rest of the country is laughing at us!

FPL does a good job, I agree. They certainly can continue to do so without further squeezing their consumers for huge profits for their management and shareholders. I urge you to reject this FPL rate hike request...or perhaps you could compromise and at least approve a much more modest increase. \$1,650,000,000 profit...really? Really? From consumers who have no free choice?