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COMMISSION
CLERK

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Florida Public Service Commission

Docket No. 20230023-GU

I am protesting the Peoples Gas System rate increase in this docket based on the excessive Purchased Gas cost that TECO charges myself and its other customers. The Florida PSC should not approve this rate increase until TECO reduces the purchased gas cost to a reasonable rate.

Currently the TECO purchased gas cost (that they supposedly do not make any money on) is 90 cents a therm. The current spot natural gas price is \$2.70 a 1000 cubic feet. This about 27 cents per therm. The Florida Gas Transmission 100% load factor rate is 78 cents per dekatherm or 7.8 cents a therm. This is only 35 cents a therm. Adding some gathering costs and marketers profit would still put it around 45 cents a therm delivered to Peoples Gas. Yet we are being charged double that!! Peoples is making millions of dollars every day from the purchased gas charge. Until this rate is reduced, The Florida PSC should not approve the rate increase filed for in this docket.

Currently in Maryland, where customers can purchase gas independent of Washington Gas Light, marketers are offering 1 and 2 year contracts for around 45 cents a therm, even though the pipeline suppliers to Washington Gas Light (Transco and Columbia Gas) have higher transportation rates than Florida Gas Transmission.

I worked for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for 34 Years in Pipeline Rates and worked on and supervised over 200 Interstate Pipeline rate cases in my career. I retired to Florida 10 years ago.

Please investigate TECO's excessive purchased gas rate and reduce it to the proper charge. Thank You.



Ralph Leslie