

**Charlie Smith**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 9:48 AM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket Nos. 20230001 & 20230019  
**Attachments:** Consumer Inquiry - Tampa Electric Company; FW Electric Bill

See attached customer correspondence and reply for Docket Nos. 20230001 & 20230019

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 9:45 AM  
**To:** 'karen@fundraisingforacause.com'  
**Subject:** Consumer Inquiry - Tampa Electric Company

Ms. Karen Conroy  
karen@fundraisingforacause.com

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1426125C

Dear Ms. Conroy:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Tampa Electric Company (TECO) to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC). The FPSC regulates investor-owned electric, and natural gas utilities throughout the state, and investor-owned water and wastewater utilities in those counties which have opted to transfer jurisdiction to the FPSC. The FPSC has authority in the telephone industry which is limited to the Lifeline Assistance Program, Florida Relay Service, and pay telephone service. We appreciate the opportunity to respond directly to you.

You expressed a concern about recent rate increases. On March 7, 2023, the FPSC approved a mid-course correction to the fuel factors and granted preliminary interim storm restoration charge for TECO.

The adjusted fuel factors reflect unrecovered fuel costs incurred in 2022. The interim storm restoration recovery charges are costs associated with named storms and will replenish each utility's storm reserve fund. Interim storm restoration charges are approved for a 12-month recovery period and are subject to refund, with interest, pending further review once the total actual costs are known for each utility.

Utilities do not earn a profit on fuel charges. The fuel and capacity cost component of customers' bills is set for each calendar year, but mid-course corrections are used when a utility's costs increase or decrease significantly in the interim. Under Commission rules, a utility must notify the PSC when it expects an under- or over-recovery greater than 10 percent.

TECO's approved charges include the new fuel factor and the preliminary approval for recovery of \$131 million in interim storm restoration costs associated with Hurricanes Dorian, Elsa, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storms Alberto, Nestor, and Eta.

We appreciate you sharing your views and will add your correspondence to both Dockets 20230001 and 20230019 regarding the mid-course correction and the storm restoration recovery, respectively.

You also expressed concern about the taxes and fees on your electric bill. In addition to the charges for monthly electric service, there are additional taxes and fees which are placed on your account by a number of different entities ranging from state to local governments. The Florida Gross Receipts Tax is authorized by Florida Statute 203 on utility service. The funds are remitted to the Florida Department of Revenue and is utilized for the Public Education Capital Outlay Fund. The Gross Receipts Tax is levied on the total electric service amount and is also levied on the Utility Tax, whereas taxes are calculated separately from electric service. For more information on the Gross Receipts tax, you may contact the Florida Department of Revenue at:

Tax Information Services  
Florida Department of Revenue

1379 Blountstown Highway  
Tallahassee, FL 32304 2716

Telephone: 1-800-352-3671

The franchise fee is also known as the Right of Way Utilization Fee. Franchise fees are levied by many municipalities and some counties throughout the company's service area. These governing bodies require the company to sign franchise agreements for the utility's use of rights of way within the areas of the taxing authority. Only the customers living within the corporate limits of areas levying the fee are billed. The money collected does not stay with the utility but goes to the governmental body levying the charge. The fee is applied to the charges for electric service (exclusive of any Municipal, County or State Sales Tax) provided to customers within the jurisdictional limits of each municipal or county.

Utility Taxes are levied by local governmental bodies and provides funds to aid in the day to day operation of the city government. For more information on the franchise fee and the city utility tax, you may contact your municipality.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

Ellen Plendl  
Regulatory Analyst IV  
Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach  
1-800-342-3552 (phone)  
1-800-511-0809 (fax)

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Governor's Office of Citizen Services <EOGCitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 8:03 AM  
**To:** Ellen Plendl  
**Subject:** FW: Electric Bill

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please find attached email received by the Governor's Office of Citizen Services. This email is forwarded to your office for review and any response or action appropriate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martha Lynn  
Office of Citizen Services  
Executive Office of the Governor

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**From:** Karen Conroy <karen@fundraisingforacause.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:29 PM  
**To:** GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com  
**Subject:** Electric Bill

Constituent message:

1. **Name**  
Karen Conroy
2. **Email Address**  
[karen@fundraisingforacause.com](mailto:karen@fundraisingforacause.com)
3. **Phone Number**  
8139284504
4. **Subject**  
Electric Bill
5. **Message**  
You need to do something about the rising costs of electric. The recent TECO rate increase are CRAZY. I have a 3,400 square foot home and my bill is almost \$600 a month and there are only 2 of us living here AND i have my range, hot water heater hooked up to gas. I make sure all electric is turned off when we leave the house AND i set the AC on 78.

There needs to be something to hold these people from gauging us since there is no competition and no place to go.

My last bill i had:

\$10.99 storm protection charge  
\$12.67 clean energy mechanism transaction fee  
\$30.12 storm surcharge  
\$11.87 florida gross tax receipt  
\$31.10 franchise fee  
\$35.77 Municipal Public service tax

How can we afford these prices??? These fees are crazy. The government should be stepping in and paying these fees.

6. **Attach file (optional)**
7. **User IP Address**  
47.200.98.95
8. **HTTP User Agent**  
Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/114.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
9. **Date Submitted**  
23/07/2023
10. **Time Submitted**  
6:28:41 pm, EDT

This message was sent from <https://www.flgov.com>.

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.