

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 8:45 AM
To: 'M McBride'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: COMMENT for upcoming SEPT 15 PSC Virtual Audio and Video Meeting

Good Morning

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20250023, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance.

Thank you,
Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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From: M McBride <minamcb@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 6:09 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: COMMENT for upcoming SEPT 15 PSC Virtual Audio and Video Meeting

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Reference: Grenelefe
Docket Number: 20250023-WS

Hello,

I am writing as a resident of Grenelefe subdivision in Haines City, FL about the proposed water rate increases. The rationale provided has been to allow for the recovery of the cost of operating the Utility and allow the company an opportunity to earn a fair rate of return on its investment.

Rather than recovery, this rate hike represents the passing on of business risk. As any investor or purchaser of a "used" item knows, it is not unusual to purchase an item and later discover deficiencies one wishes the prior owner had taken care of. As reported earlier this year in [Water Finance and Management](#), costs associated with operational and water infrastructure have continued to increase. As such, it is reasonable that residents may see a raise in rates to reflect this. What is not reasonable is the proposed increase when compared to the rest of the United States. The proposal includes an increase of water **from \$2.09 to \$14.74** per 1000 gallons and sewer rates to increase **from \$3.52 to \$44.53** per 1000 gallons. The chart below provides a comparison of per 1000 gallon cost nationally.

For 2023, WaterSense's estimate for average national rates are:

Customer Type	Cost per 1,000 gallons Water	Cost per 1,000 gallons Wastewater	Combined Water & Wastewater/1,000 gallons
Residential	\$6.64	\$8.57	\$15.21
Commercial	\$5.86	\$6.86	\$12.72

Source: [EPA.gov](https://www.epa.gov/watersense)

According to Bluefield research, in 2024, the Northeast region had the highest average combined water and sewer bills, totaling \$141.53 per month. This is in contrast to the South, where the average was \$118.21 per month. An underlying factor in this difference is the older utility assets and systems in the New England area, which require costly upgrades. (Water Finance and Management, Feb 2025).

Clearly, the proposed rates are out of sync with the rest of the nation.

The Global Commission on the Economics of Water states that only "in very rare cases does the price of water reflect the long run marginal cost of providing water". Which means if we are to collectively decide to operate differently, we must DO and BUILD in a way that is out of the ordinary. To simply repair and request unreasonable increases without a plan for how our water system might become sustainable simply means we will all return to this same juncture in a few years time.

I implore the Commission to rationally review the proposal and deny this increase as it does not represent a move toward a sustainable water future. I encourage the consideration of [water innovation practices and technologies](#) in use in places like the country of the Netherlands. If the residents of Grenelefe are going to be asked to pay rates that do not reflect the norms found within the United States, then we should also receive in return a water system that is the envy of the country.

Mina McBride

“Wherever your lives may be cast, make the world a bit better or more beautiful because you have lived in it.” - Edward Bok