

Petition for increase in rates by

Florida Power & Light Company

DOCKET NO. 160021-EI

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CONSUMER COMMENTS

At the recent Florida Public Service Commission hearing in Sarasota on the proposed FPL base rate increase, I was not surprised that some people were for it, while others were against it. I am for it because I believe FPL must grow to meet Florida's growing population, to prepare for a hurricane, and to invest in new energy sources.

What was surprising, and depressing, was that so many people wanted to limit the profit margins of NextEra Energy, FPL's parent company. This is subjective and arbitrary and goes against American capitalism.

What these people do not understand is that FPL's only responsibility to its customers is to provide them with clean, reliable energy at a fair price. These people also do not understand that the primary responsibility of NextEra is not to its customers, but to its shareholders.

Here is an analogy: The only responsibility of Ford to its customers is to provide them with a car that meets government standards for safety and fuel economy. The reason that Ford tries to make a car that drivers will buy instead of a Chevy is because of Ford's responsibility to its shareholders to make as much money as it can.

Of course, Ford is not a regulated monopoly, as is FPL. Still, if FPL meets its responsibilities to its customers, why limit the profitability of its parent company? NextEra is a public company and anyone can buy its stock. While I am not a shareholder, I firmly believe that it is none of my business, nor that of anyone else, to dictate how much money NextEra can make. If NextEra becomes the next Apple or Facebook, more power to it.

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