

**Brandy Butler**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 09, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket 20170272  
**Attachments:** Governor's Assignment Case Number 670,540 EOG000453012; letter-to-martin-rasch.pdf

See attached email and reply and add to the correspondence side of Docket 20170272.

## Brandy Butler

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**From:** CRM.CitizenServices <CRM.CitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 09, 2018 10:21 AM  
**To:** Ellen Plendl  
**Subject:** Governor's Assignment | Case Number: 670,540 | EOG:000453012  
**Attachments:** 670540-rasch.pdf

Case Number:	670,540
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Origin	Letter
EOG Source	Citizen Services
Created On	1/8/2018 3:48 PM
Letter Date	1/1/2018 12:00 AM
Priority	Default

### Case Attribute(s)

Attribute	
Utilities	

### Primary Contact Information

First Name	Martin	Last Name	Rasch	Phone	407-288-0446
City	4957 Courtland Loop Winter Springs, Florida 32708 United States	County	Seminole	State	Florida
	32708	Email			
Address Line 1	4957 Courtland Loop				
Address Line 2					
Organization /					

Additional Information

Description

Note

Case Assignment

Assigned To:	PSC - Public Service Commission	Due Date:	1/26/2018 3:48 PM

You have an assignment from the Executive Office of the Governor.

Please have staff review and respond as appropriate.

Please copy the link below to close the assignment, provide resolution information or request an extension/reassignment.

[Click Here to Update the Case](#)

If you have questions about this assignment, please send an email to [CRM.CitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:CRM.CitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com).

Sincerely,

Kristie Jemmott

Office of Citizen Services

Executive Office of the Governor

STATE OF FLORIDA

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CONSUMER ASSISTANCE & OUTREACH  
CYNTHIA L. MUIR  
DIRECTOR  
(850) 413-6482

## Public Service Commission

January 9, 2018

Mr. Martin E. Rasch, Jr.  
4957 Cortland Loop  
Winter Springs, FL 32708

RE: PSC Inquiry 1267149C

Dear Mr. Rasch:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your correspondence regarding Duke Energy Florida (DEF) to the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC 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 PSC. The PSC 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 assist you.

You expressed a concern about DEF's application for limited proceeding rate increase in Pinellas, Pasco, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties, for recovery of incremental storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Irma and Nate, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC. We will add your comments to the correspondence side of Docket No. 20170272-EI.

You also indicated that DEF should be required to place its facilities underground. Certainly the under grounding of distribution lines is feasible as many new residential subdivisions and high-density areas have underground lines. Residential developers roll the cost of under grounding into the cost of housing in new developments. In addition, some local governments have mandated under grounding for new construction. Unfortunately, the conversion of overhead lines to underground or the installation of underground lines in new construction is substantially more expensive than constructing overhead lines.

Under grounding does present certain benefits such as reduced tree-trimming expense and potentially faster restoration during routine outages. Primary lines are not typically under grounded due to high cost. The FPSC has studied the costs and benefits of under grounding electric distribution facilities. The cost effectiveness of a number of scenarios were examined, including under grounding for new construction and conversion of existing overhead lines to underground. The study concluded that under grounding was not cost-effective in all

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PSC Website: <http://www.floridapsc.com>

Internet E-mail: [contact@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us)

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scenarios. The FPSC took the position that those who benefit from under grounding should bear the additional cost.

The FPSC has established rules requiring utilities under its jurisdiction to install underground electric distribution facilities in new residential subdivisions or new multi-occupancy buildings when requested by a developer or government authority. The FPSC also has rules governing the conversion of existing overhead lines to underground when requested by a person or entity. The person or entity requesting the conversion or requesting new underground lines must pay for the costs of conversion.

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

Sincerely,



Randy Roland  
Regulatory Program Administrator  
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach

RR:mep