

Antonia Hover

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket 20180049
Attachments: FW FPL business practices; Fwd FPL business practices; FW FPL business practices

Please see attached correspondence and add to the correspondence side of Docket 20180049

Antonia Hover

From: Randy Roland
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Ellen Plendl
Subject: FW: FPL business practices
Attachments: Letters_ Thunderstorms are testing FPL ...pdf; Commission delays case on FPL Irma costs _ WPEC.pdf; Consumer advocate strikes deal with FPL...pdf; FPL, Consumer Advocate Reach Deal on Ir...pdf

From: Beatrice Balboa [<mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Randy Roland
Subject: Fwd: FPL business practices

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I look forward to your offices taking the necessary actions to address hardworking taxpayers citizens' concerns from the City of Pompano Beach, Broward County, State of Florida. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Balboa

1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Unit. 1008
Pompano Beach, Fl 33062-6631

Letters: Thunderstorms are testing FPL hurricane readiness

Posted Jun 11, 2019 at 7:31 AM

Updated Jun 11, 2019 at 8:30 AM

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by The News Service of Florida
Monday, June 10th 2019

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(News Service of Florida)

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"Due process requires that both FRF and FIPUG (the Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group) be given an adequate opportunity to review the settlement prior to taking a position on it," the order, dated Friday, said. Also, it said the positions the business groups take could affect how the hearing is handled. In the settlement, FPL and the Office of Public Counsel reached agreement on about \$1.3 billion in Irma-related costs --- and a process to better track costs during future storms.

FPL says it spent \$1.375 billion to restore electricity after Hurricane Irma blew through the state in 2017. But in filings as recent as late May, the Office of Public Counsel and the business groups questioned hundreds of millions of dollars in costs.

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Consumer advocate strikes deal with FPL over Hurricane Irma costs



By **MARCIA HEROUX POUNDS**

SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL | JULY 27, 2018



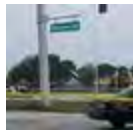
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"We got some concessions," Kelly said, pointing to about \$50 million in "reclassified" costs. "The most important to us is what we believe are tremendous improvements in the process for future cost recovery."

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[\[More business\] Trump's net worth rises to \\$3 billion despite setbacks, including reduction in Mar-a-Lago business »](#)

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South Florida Sun Sentinel



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By [JIM SAUNDERS NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA \(/SOURCE/JIM-SAUNDERS-NEWS-SERVICE-FLORIDA\)](#)

June 7, 2019 - 7:00am



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"Considered as a whole, the agreement fairly and reasonably balances the interests of FPL's customers and FPL," the utility and Office of Public Counsel said in a motion Thursday asking the commission to approve the settlement. "Approving the agreement is consistent with the commission's long-standing policy of encouraging the settlement of contested proceedings in a manner that benefits the customers of utilities subject to the commission's regulatory jurisdiction. Accordingly, OPC (the Office of Public Counsel) and FPL submit that the agreement is in the public interest, and respectfully request that the commission review and approve the agreement in its entirety and without modification."

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Adding to the difficulty are questions about whether utility operating expenses should be included in the hurricane-restoration costs --- or whether they are expenses that should be recouped through ordinary rates.

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"Importantly, while the financial issues addressed by the agreement are premised upon issues raised during the litigation of this matter, the process issues, not part of the litigation, have been added to the agreement in an effort to facilitate more efficient storm cost recovery proceedings in the future," the motion for approval of the settlement said.

Hurricane Irma, which made initial landfall in the Florida Keys and then barreled up the state, knocked out power to more than 4.4 million FPL customers, according to the settlement. The utility used workers from 30 states and Canada to restore electricity.

In a statement late Thursday, the utility said the settlement "affirms that FPL never loses sight of our responsibility to operate efficiently while executing an aggressive and rapid response to a major hurricane. In line with the company's culture of continuous improvement, the agreement also highlights FPL's commitment to rolling out new, advanced technology to better track storm costs in a way that provides more transparency and facilitates more efficient regulatory reviews in the future."

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By **MARCIA HEROUX POUNDS**

SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL | JUN 27, 2018



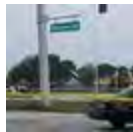
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By [JIM SAUNDERS NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA \(/SOURCE/JIM-SAUNDERS-NEWS-SERVICE-FLORIDA\)](#)

June 7, 2019 - 7:00am



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xxxx

I look forward to your offices taking the necessary actions to address hardworking taxpayers citizens' concerns from the City of Pompano Beach, Broward County, State of Florida. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Balboa

1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Unit. 1008

Pompano Beach, Fl 33062-6631

Letters: Thunderstorms are testing FPL hurricane readiness

Posted Jun 11, 2019 at 7:31 AM

Updated Jun 11, 2019 at 8:30 AM

I find it unbelievable that Florida Power & Light co. continues to spread the propaganda stating they are ready for hurricane season and all the improvements they have made. Yet a thunderstorm (like we've seen the last couple days) can come through and knock out power to "hundreds". How dumb do they think we are?

Jan Belwood, Palm City

McConnell needs to step up, move bills through Congress

To the recent letter writers who criticize the Democrats for not joining with Republicans in passing legislation, I suggest we consider a deal. When Republican Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell stops investing all his time in refusing to consider U.S. House-approved bills but manages to push through votes to stack the federal judicial benches around the country, maybe there is a mid-point at which both the House and Senate can begin to do their jobs as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

Harold Gittler, Lake Worth

Cuba travel ban is long-overdue idea

I happen to agree with President Donald Trump's decision to ban cruises to Cuba. Considering so much of the U.S. dollars spent in Cuba never seem to reach the poor impoverished Cuban citizens, and seem to only benefit the communist government, why would any American citizen want to spend money there? There are plenty of other countries to travel to rather than visit a country where life is made so intolerable for their own citizens.

Ilean Guthartz, West Palm Beach

Did the Russian believe Clinton was better candidate?

For once, I agree with President Trump. We all know that the job of a stable worker is shoveling manure, and Trump is a genius at this.

A couple weeks ago, he let it slip that Russia did interfere in the 2016 presidential election to insure his win. Why would our strongest enemy in the world not want Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton to be president? Maybe because Russia knew she was the most capable candidate.

Trump supporters should really think about these facts.

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Commission delays case on FPL Irma costs

by The News Service of Florida
Monday, June 10th 2019

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(News Service of Florida)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — After Florida Power & Light and the state Office of Public Counsel reached a proposed settlement last week, regulators will delay taking up a case about the utility's costs to restore

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BUSINESS

Consumer advocate strikes deal with FPL over Hurricane Irma costs



By **MARCIA HEROUX POUNDS**

SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL | JULY 27, 2018



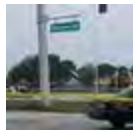
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A lineman with Florida Power and Light works on connecting a residence in Oakland Park after 2017's Hurricane Irma. (JOE CAVARETTA / Sun Sentinel)

Florida's Public Counsel has filed a settlement with Florida Power & Light Co. on its claimed \$1.3 billion cost recovery for 2017's Hurricane Irma.

The proposed settlement was filed Thursday with the Florida Public Service Commission ahead of the scheduled regulatory review of the expenses that begins Tuesday.



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In an interview Friday, Public Counsel J.R. Kelly said his office's priority is to secure new tracking procedures by FPL of its storm expenses.

"We got some concessions," Kelly said, pointing to about \$50 million in "reclassified" costs. "The most important to us is what we believe are tremendous improvements in the process for future cost recovery."

Kelly said he doesn't know what the commission's review of FPL's Irma expenses could

mean for consumers. FPL didn't implement a storm charge for Irma, saying it was using its tax windfall to cover the costs. But Kelly said FPL actually used the storm reserve, which is paid for by customers.

[\[More business\] Trump's net worth rises to \\$3 billion despite setbacks, including reduction in Mar-a-Lago business »](#)

"It's inaccurate to say FPL did not charge its customers," he said.

In the settlement, FPL agrees to new tracking methods of expenses when it uses out-of-state line crews to restore power after a storm, and of its vegetation management crews to prepare for storm season.

The commission is reviewing the proposed settlement, according to spokeswoman Cindy Muir. Tuesday's scheduled hearing will be reset for another date at which the settlement will be considered, she said.

Irma was a statewide storm that knocked out power to 90 percent of FPL's customers. FPL later said that most of its line and equipment damage came from overgrown trees and debris.

The parties came to the settlement, which has to be approved by the Florida Public Service Commission, after the failure in May of the Public Counsel's petition to force FPL to return its windfall tax savings to customers. The savings resulted from the federal tax overhaul in late 2017, which reduced the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%.

But the commission voted for FPL to keep the \$772 million annual tax refund, going against its own staff's recommendation to return the tax savings.

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Kelly said the Public Counsel's Office may appeal the decision to the Florida Supreme Court, depending on the written order by the commission on the tax issue, which is pending.

In the settlement, FPL agrees to additional tracking of its costs, which include a new smartphone app to monitor expenses for line crews and vegetation management crews in 2019. The app would eliminate the paper time sheet and sets up new procedures for tracking travel, meals and other crew expenses.

In its settlement with FPL, the Public Counsel says it “thoroughly” examined the utility’s expenses for Irma recovery through a series of requests to FPL and interviewing five of its witnesses.

Two state business groups, the Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group, had not joined the settlement as of its filing. Both groups took issue with FPL keeping its windfall tax savings.

Marcia Heroux Pounds

South Florida Sun Sentinel



Marcia Heroux Pounds is a business writer for the Sun Sentinel. She writes about the job market, entrepreneurs, technology and the workplace. She's the author of *I Found a Job!*, a book about how some people found jobs during the worst years of the recession.

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FPL and the Office of Public Counsel, which represents consumers in utility issues, filed the proposed settlement Thursday at the state Public Service Commission. The move came five days before the commission was scheduled to start a hearing on power-restoration costs from the massive 2017 hurricane. But two business groups that have been part of the case --- the Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group --- did not sign on to the settlement. As a result, Public Service Commission member Julie Brown, who is overseeing the case, issued an order delaying Tuesday's scheduled start of the hearing until July 9.

"Due process requires that both FRF and FIPUG (the Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group) be given an adequate opportunity to review the settlement prior to taking a position on it," the order, dated Friday, said. Also, it said the positions the business groups take could affect how the hearing is handled. In the settlement, FPL and the Office of Public Counsel reached agreement on about \$1.3 billion in Irma-related costs --- and a process to better track costs during future storms.

FPL says it spent \$1.375 billion to restore electricity after Hurricane Irma blew through the state in 2017. But in filings as recent as late May, the Office of Public Counsel and the business groups questioned hundreds of millions of dollars in costs.

Utilities in the past have typically been allowed to recoup storm-restoration costs from customers through tacking on extra charges to monthly electric bills. But utilities also have to go before the Public Service Commission to justify the details of the costs.

The situation with FPL and its Irma costs is different because the utility decided to use savings from a 2017 federal tax overhaul to cover the Irma restoration costs, rather than adding charges to customers' monthly bills. The Public Service Commission last month signed off on that decision.

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Politics

FPL, Consumer Advocate Reach Deal on Irma Costs

By [JIM SAUNDERS NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA \(/SOURCE/JIM-SAUNDERS-NEWS-SERVICE-FLORIDA\)](#)

June 7, 2019 - 7:00am



Utility trucks deployed after 2017's Irma

Florida Power & Light and the state advocate for utility customers have reached agreement on about \$1.3 billion in costs to restore electricity after Hurricane Irma --- and on a system to better track expenses when major storms hit in the future.

The agreement between FPL and the state Office of Public Counsel was filed Thursday, five days before the scheduled start of a hearing at the Florida Public Service Commission to scrutinize the costs. Two business groups that are part of the case --- the Florida Retail Federation and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group --- had not signed onto the agreement Thursday, though it was not immediately clear how that could affect the commission's handling of the settlement.

FPL says it spent \$1.375 billion to restore electricity after massive Hurricane Irma blew through the state in 2017. But in filings as recent as late May, the Office of Public Counsel and the business groups questioned hundreds of millions of dollars in costs. The agreement includes \$50 million in adjustments to accounting for expenses.

"Considered as a whole, the agreement fairly and reasonably balances the interests of FPL's customers and FPL," the utility and Office of Public Counsel said in a motion Thursday asking the commission to approve the settlement. "Approving the agreement is consistent with the commission's long-standing policy of encouraging the settlement of contested proceedings in a manner that benefits the customers of utilities subject to the commission's regulatory jurisdiction. Accordingly, OPC (the Office of Public Counsel) and FPL submit that the agreement is in the public interest, and respectfully request that the commission review and approve the agreement in its entirety and without modification."

Utilities in the past have typically been allowed to recoup storm-restoration costs from customers through tacking on extra charges to monthly electric bills. But the utilities also have to go before the Public Service Commission to justify the details of the costs.

The situation with FPL and its Irma costs is different because the utility decided to use savings from a 2017 federal tax overhaul to cover the Irma restoration costs, rather than adding charges to customers' monthly bills. The Public Service Commission last month signed off on FPL's decision.

Nevertheless, the commission still needed to review the expenses, with the hearing scheduled to start Tuesday. Part of the complexity of tracking expenses is that utilities bring in large numbers of crews from other states to help restore power after major storms.

Adding to the difficulty are questions about whether utility operating expenses should be included in the hurricane-restoration costs --- or whether they are expenses that should be recouped through ordinary rates.

The settlement includes a series of steps aimed at better tracking expenses and establishing guidelines for expenses of outside contractors. As an example, FPL this year will start using a smart-phone app for recording time and expenses of crews and will expand the app's uses in 2020.

"Importantly, while the financial issues addressed by the agreement are premised upon issues raised during the litigation of this matter, the process issues, not part of the litigation, have been added to the agreement in an effort to facilitate more efficient storm cost recovery proceedings in the future," the motion for approval of the settlement said.

Hurricane Irma, which made initial landfall in the Florida Keys and then barreled up the state, knocked out power to more than 4.4 million FPL customers, according to the settlement. The utility used workers from 30 states and Canada to restore electricity.

In a statement late Thursday, the utility said the settlement "affirms that FPL never loses sight of our responsibility to operate efficiently while executing an aggressive and rapid response to a major hurricane. In line with the company's culture of continuous improvement, the agreement also highlights FPL's commitment to rolling out new, advanced technology to better track storm costs in a way that provides more transparency and facilitates more efficient regulatory reviews in the future."

Comments

Submitted by Bill-1 on June 7, 2019 - 5:59pm

[Permalink \(/comment/88957#comment-88957\)](#)

Thank You FPL, for keeping costs in check, without you good folks keeping electricity running in Florida, nobody would ever live in hot and sunny Florida.

[reply \(/comment/reply/7349872/88957\)](#)

Submitted by VoteDem2020 on June 7, 2019 - 11:09am

[Permalink \(/comment/88947#comment-88947\)](#)

If any business today (especially in Florida) has the opportunity to gouge its customers, it will! (Even more so if the company has a monopoly or near-monopoly, e.g., utilities, drug production companies, Comcast, etc.)

[reply \(/comment/reply/7349872/88947\)](#)