

State of Florida




Public Service Commission

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-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: July 11, 2019

TO: Adam J. Teitzman, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Suzanne S. Brownless, Special Counsel, Office of the General Counsel 

RE: 20180049-EI- Evaluation of storm restoration costs for Florida Power & Light Company related to Hurricane Irma.

Please place attached email in the above docketed file as correspondence.

From: [Suzanne Brownless](#)
To: [Lisa Smith](#)
Subject: FW: FPL machinations?!
Date: Thursday, July 11, 2019 2:38:14 PM
Attachments: [FPL Settlement Approved on Irma Costs - Sunshine State News - Florida Political News.pdf](#)
[Regulators approve FPL's \\$1.3 billion in storm costs, applaud new mobile tech to track expenses - South Florida Sun-Sentinel.pdf](#)
[Florida Power & Light will keep rates stable despite high costs of hurricane restoration - Daily Energy Insider.pdf](#)

Can you prepare a memo to the Clerk asking them to place this in the 20180049-EI docket on the correspondence side?

Thanks,
Suzanne

Suzanne Brownless
Senior Attorney
Florida Public Service Commission
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Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
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Email: sbrownle@psc.state.fl.us

From: Beatrice Balboa [mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2019 2:25 PM
To: Suzanne Brownless
Subject: Fwd: FPL machinations?!

I noted additional issues with FPL (attached documentation). Please continue to keep an extremely close eye regarding FPL machinations with these issues as FPL ratepayers should NOT be "footing the bill" on FPL and/or NextEra out-of-state investment strategies, solar power "monopolization" and "pollution" activities. FPL should be devoting all their energies in meeting and/or exceeding the 2017 National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®) standards (which sets the ground rules and guidelines for practical safeguarding of utility workers and the public during the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply, communication lines and associated equipment) for storm hardening of the State of Florida electrical infrastructure. FPL should NOT be devoting all their energies requesting and lobbying for more storm hardening fees and rate increases that should have already been completed after both Hurricane Andrew (1992) and Hurricane Irma (2017).

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

3 Comments

Politics

FPL Settlement Approved on Irma Costs

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

July 10, 2019 - 8:30am



Utility regulators on Tuesday signed-off on a \$1.3 billion agreement involving Florida Power & Light's costs for restoring electricity after Hurricane Irma plowed through the state in 2017.

The Florida Public Service Commission approved the settlement between FPL, the state Office of Public Counsel and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group. The agreement finalizes the costs, which will be covered by the utility's savings from a 2017

federal tax overhaul.

"The storm that we're dealing with, Irma, was a tremendous impact to your customers, throughout your service area," said Commissioner Donald Polmann. "I think everybody should recognize that this has come to a pretty quick closure with the settlement agreement. I do absolutely see this to be in the public interest that we move forward expeditiously."

The agreement also includes the development of technologies intended to better track future storm expenses for the utility.

Commission Chairman Art Graham predicted a new cost-tracking app will reduce future restoration costs.

FPL had contended it spent \$1.375 billion to restore electricity after Irma made landfall in Monroe County and then barreled through much of the state. But in filings as recent as late May, the Office of Public Counsel, which represents consumers, and business groups questioned hundreds of millions of dollars in costs.

The agreement includes \$50 million in adjustments to accounting for expenses.

The utility, saying it accomplished what the customers expected, reported that 50 percent of its 4.4 million customers that lost power from Hurricane Irma were back online within one day. Within 10 days of the storm, 99 percent of the customers were restored.

FPL spokesman Mark Bubriski said the agreement confirms the company "handled that storm properly."

"Hurricane Irma may seem like ancient history to some folks, but really it was less than two years ago," he said. "The regulatory process takes some time to review everything that goes into it."

As an example of the steps to better track expenses, FPL is starting to employ a smart-phone app for recording time and expenses of crews, which will expand the app's uses in 2020.

"We have been working on some new technologies to help us better manage, track, and increase transparency around the costs of restoring power after a hurricane," Bubriski said.

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.

The utility used workers from 30 states and Canada to restore electricity after Irma, deploying 28,000 workers across its coverage area.

State Public Counsel J.R. Kelly said high costs are expected as utility crews come in as customers demand quick restoration of power. However, he said "we don't want open checkbooks to these people, pay them exorbitant amounts of money."

Comments

Submitted by [SophieHowarth \(/users/sophiehowarth\)](/users/sophiehowarth) on July 11, 2019 - 11:43am

[Permalink \(/comment/90394#comment-90394\)](/comment/90394#comment-90394)

I am making a good salary from home \$1200-\$2500/week , which is amazing, under a year back I was jobless in a horrible economy. I thank God every day I was blessed with these instructions and now it's my duty to pay it forward and share it with Everyone, Here is I startedc MORE INFORM PLEASE copy and paste HERE.....www.fox120.com

[reply \(/comment/reply/7381903/90394\)](/comment/reply/7381903/90394)

Submitted by [SophieHowarth \(/users/sophiehowarth\)](/users/sophiehowarth) on July 11, 2019 - 11:42am

[Permalink \(/comment/90393#comment-90393\)](/comment/90393#comment-90393)

On June 27, the motion to concur in the Senate Amendment for H.R. 3401, the emergency funding bill, was passed 305-102, with 25 not voting. To their credit, Wasserman Schultz and Shalala, regardless of their politics, voted "yes;" Mucarsel-Powell voted "no.".....<https://bit.ly/2XHEWoU>

[reply \(/comment/reply/7381903/90393\)](/comment/reply/7381903/90393)

Submitted by Anonymous on July 10, 2019 - 11:29am

[Permalink \(/comment/90345#comment-90345\)](/comment/90345#comment-90345)

How much did "the regulators" make in the settlement?

[reply \(/comment/reply/7381903/90345\)](/comment/reply/7381903/90345)

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BUSINESS

Regulators approve FPL's \$1.3 billion in storm costs, applaud new mobile tech to track expenses



By **MARCIA HEROUX POUNDS**
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL | JUL 09, 2019





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

The state's utility regulators signed off Tuesday on a settlement with Florida Power & Light Co. that consumer advocates say could better protect customers from being overcharged for storm preparation or recovery.

FPL demonstrated its new smartphone app for commissioners that it says is more efficient in recording contractors' work hours and payments made for trimming trees before a storm and restoring power after a storm. The Florida Public Service Commission seemed enamored with FPL's smartphone app, which could be used for any storms this hurricane season, with plans to update by 2020.



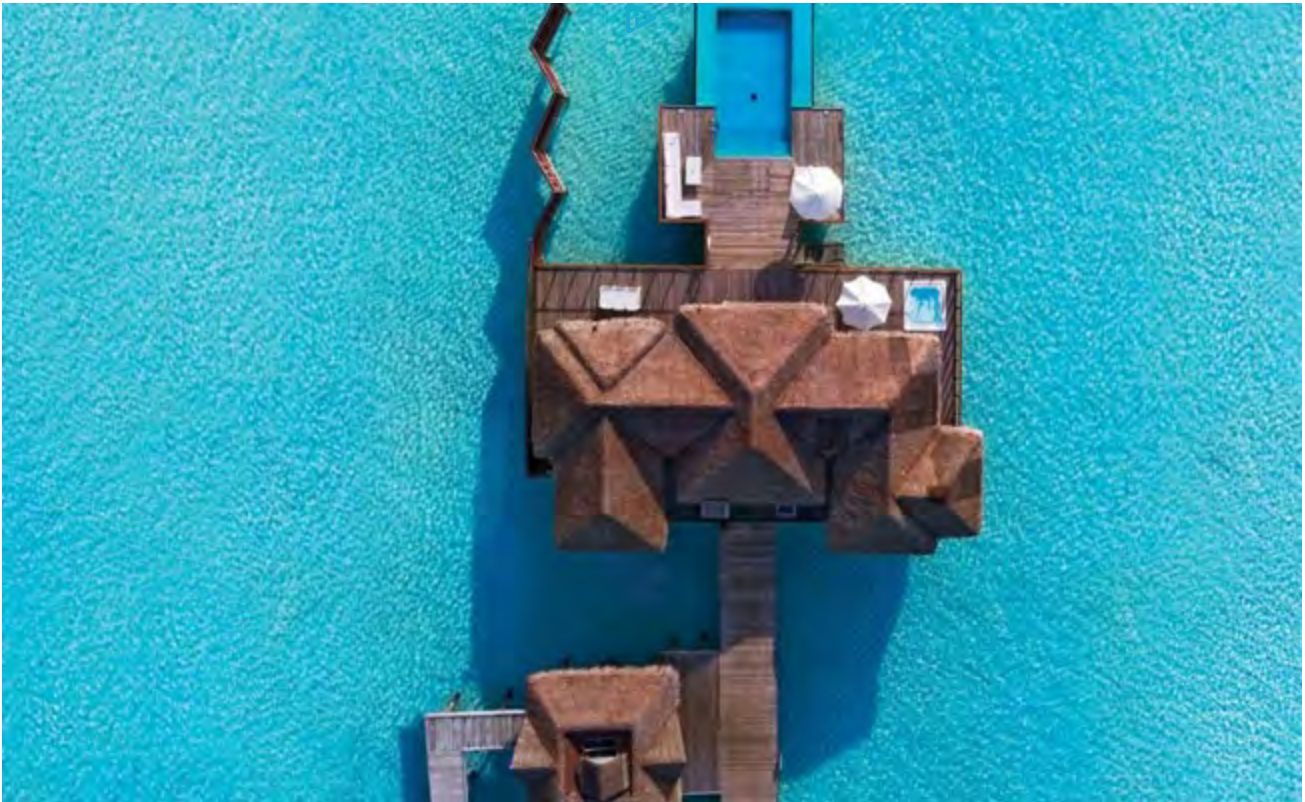
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The state's largest electric utility, based in Juno Beach, had been relying on paper to record contractors' time worked and expenses paid.

As a result, commissioners also agreed to \$1.3 billion the utility says it spent to recover from 2017's Hurricane Irma. Tuesday's decision to approve the agreement avoids further review of FPL's Irma expenses, the commission staff said.

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Commissioners didn't go through a detailed review of the expenses, relying on the Office of Public Counsel's **settlement with FPL** struck in June.

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Public Counsel J.R. Kelly said new processes will help save money for electric utility customers. "The most important to us is what we believe are tremendous improvements in

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Florida Power & Light will keep rates stable despite high costs of hurricane restoration

Published on July 11, 2019 by [Dave Kovaleski](#)

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) approved an agreement with Florida Power & Light Company that will not result in rates hikes stemming from Hurricane Irma restoration costs.

Hurricane Irma caused more than 4.4 million FPL customers to lose power when it hit Florida on Sept. 10, 2017. The cost to do so was around \$1.375 billion. The PSC allowed FPL to use savings from the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to replenish a utility account tapped to pay for Hurricane Irma recovery costs. This, in turn, will allow them to keep rates stable and avoid a surcharge on customer bills.

The agreement sets new guidelines and promotes the use of technology to track storm expenses and monitor costs paid to contractors.

“This agreement benefits the public interest. FPL customer bills will not increase to cover Hurricane Irma costs,” PSC Chairman Art Graham said. “Customers will also benefit from FPL’s new storm cost tracking app. With closer monitoring, future restoration costs will be reduced.”



Workers from 30 states and Canada helped FPL restore electricity in the region after Irma. Tracking storm restoration expenses is often difficult because of the large number of contractors that are required to quickly restore power after these types of storms. To remedy this, FPL will start using a smart-phone app to record the time and expenses of all crews.

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