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June 21, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Adam J. Teitzman
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 20210015-EI - Petition for rate increase by Florida Power Light & Company.

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

On behalf of Intervenor Florida Rising, I have enclosed the testimony of Juanita Alvarez. Please file these documents in Docket No. 20210015-EI. Please contact me if there are any questions regarding this filing.

/s/ Bradley Marshall

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy and correct copy of the foregoing was served on this 21st day of June 2021, via electronic mail on:

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DATED this 21st day of June, 2021.

/s/ Bradley Marshall
Attorney

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase)
 by Florida Power & Light) **DOCKET NO. 20210015-EI**
 Company)

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JUANITA ALVAREZ
ON BEHALF OF
FLORIDA RISING

June 21, 2021

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 A. Juanita Alvarez.

3 **Q. Where do you live?**

4 A. 1865 NW 24th St, Apt. 3, Miami, FL 33142.

5 **Q. What organization are you a member of and for how long?**

6 A. I am a member of Florida Rising and I have been a member for 2 years. I was also
7 member of the New Florida Majority, now Florida Rising, for many years.

8 **Q. What is your source of income?**

9 A. Social security benefits.

10 **Q. Are you a customer of FPL? If so, for how long?**

11 A. Yes, I have been a customer for a very long time as I've lived in this area for a long time.
12 I have lived in my current home, serviced by FPL, for 4 years.

13 **Q. What do you think of FPL?**

14 A. I think FPL is very expensive. My family and friends will tell me how their bills go up
15 constantly. Miami is becoming hotter every year so people cannot wait to go inside to their
16 air conditioners. Many people I know tell me their bills are sometimes over \$200 because of
17 this. The rent in this area is already so high, so an increase in an FPL bill is too much. How
18 can this rate increase happen even with COVID-19 and wide-spread unemployment?

19 **Q. How is your current utility service?**

20 A. It is a high bill for just one person. When it increases, I go crazy and I have to get an
21 inspector to come out to check my meter.

22 **Q. How much does your FPL bill usually cost each month?**

23 A. It costs around \$80-85 a month. I try to prevent it from going up by really controlling my
24 air conditioner. However, it should be lower because I don't use as much and I live by
25 myself.

1 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, the base rate for electricity is projected to**
2 **increase by about 20%. How would this rate increase impact you?**

3 **A.** I cannot do this. It worries me because, if it goes higher than what it is now, how can I
4 possibly pay? I cannot live without electricity, but my income is not increasing along with
5 this. The cost of living is already so high, and there are so many people living under bridges
6 in Miami because of this. I cannot, along with my family and neighbors, afford to pay more
7 than what I am paying now for the electric bill.

8 **Q. As a Floridian, are you concerned about climate change?**

9 **A.** Yes. I, along with others, went to speak to Mayor of Miami a few years ago to talk about
10 climate change We go to the Everglades and see the water is so low, yet the streets of Miami
11 flood constantly, both when it rains and when it is sunny. On one instance, the streets started
12 to flood when I was driving and the water was so high it almost came up into my car. The
13 City spent so much time and money working to repair a road in Little Havana yet it still
14 floods. I have noticed an increase in this flooding and heat over the past few years.

15 **Q: Based on information provided by FPL, part of this rate increase will pay for new or**
16 **upgraded methane gas power plants. Do you believe this will have an impact on the**
17 **climate?**

18 **A.** Yes. We should not be using or building things that are going to make our planet hotter.
19 They aren't helping the families by doing this, but instead are hurting them in the future.

20 **Q: In light of that, how do you feel about contributing your own money to those**
21 **projects, through your FPL bill?**

22 **A.** I don't think that is good at all. This is not protecting the community or human beings in
23 general. Where is the justice and dignity? I receive only so much in Social Security and then
24 they are going to use my money for that? That is not fair. The extra money is not going to
25 helping the community, but instead is going to hurt the community. We are forced into an

1 ultimatum where we either have to stop using air conditioning or pay the high bill.

2 **Q. What is the mission of your organization?**

3 **A.** We fight for justice and dignity. We help people in our community with housing, assisting
4 women and immigrants, and focus on climate change. All of these things are directly tied to
5 justice and dignity. Our main goal is to help the human being.

6 **Q. How is the purpose of your organization being served by participating in this**
7 **proceeding?**

8 **A.** Not raising rates will help the community. Neighborhoods like Little Havana and
9 Allapattah are really suffering. Since we are not getting the help and assistance we need, we
10 have to fight for it. When we all get together, we can make a difference. We cannot allow
11 this to go on without our voices being heard.

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