



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 Noemi Salvador. 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 NOEMI SALVADOR**  
**ON BEHALF OF**  
**FLORIDA RISING**

June 21, 2021

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

2 A. Noemi Salvador.

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

4 A. 4 West Las Olas Blvd., Apt. 311, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

5 **Q. What organization are you a member of?**

6 A. Florida Rising.

7 **Q. How long have you been a member?**

8 A. I have been a member for a little less than a year.

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

10 A. I work for Florida Rising. Also, as a midwife student, I get paid for attending births.

11 **Q. What is your position in the organization?**

12 A. I am a Climate Justice Organizer.

13 **Q. What are your duties in that position?**

14 A. I work with indigenous communities (I am a member of the Kichwa Nation) to ensure  
15 food sovereignty, rebuild indigenous food pathways, reclaim land, protect sacred sites, and  
16 hold oil corporations accountable, among many other types of projects. This work is  
17 grounded in the principle that the well-being of land is attached to well-being of people.

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

19 A. Yes. I have been a customer for about a year and a half.

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

21 A. FPL operates from a colonial standard. It is either delusional about its long-term impact or  
22 doesn't care. FPL embodies the toxic and extractive attitude we work against. FPL is not  
23 willing to work with customers and doesn't listen to what they are going through. As a multi-  
24 billion-dollar utility company providing an essential good, FPL should not be allowing its  
25 customers to choose between acquiring debt or getting the lights shut off. At Florida Rising,

1 we run phone banks, and many members tell us that they struggle to afford basic human  
2 necessities, like electricity. It is cruel to financially burden customers for such a necessary  
3 good.

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

5 A. It usually costs about \$20.

6 **Q. How do you feel about the current price you are paying for your utilities?**

7 A. I barely use electricity, as I often use candles for light. Also, fortunately my apartment is  
8 relatively energy efficient because it is newer.

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

11 A. The rate increase would force me to adjust my budget and spend less on other things I  
12 need, like food.

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

14 A. Yes. I think about it every day. Climate change disproportionately harms Black, Brown,  
15 and Indigenous communities in South Florida, who are already facing a myriad of issues,  
16 including the following: the inaccessibility of food for some Black communities in Broward,  
17 the exploitation of industrial farming in Homestead, the tourism industry's destruction of the  
18 shoreline, and oil extraction and toxic dumps near reservations. The effects of climate change  
19 are happening right now. It is the beginning of hurricane season, and we already seeing the  
20 formation of storms.

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

24 A. The chemical shape of methane is brutally effective at trapping heat and therefore  
25 a contributor of the climate crisis. Methane exposure is also linked to reproductive issues.

1 Carbon dioxide emissions from such plants will contribute to the climate crisis and affect the  
2 health of members, as they compromise the immune system. The Trump administration  
3 butchered methane emission regulations, meaning that the gas industry has emitted much  
4 more methane than it should have. By operating its existing plants and even building new  
5 ones, FPL is adding to the demand for methane and further encouraging the reckless gas  
6 industry. Besides, using methane gas is an inefficient and outdated energy method of energy  
7 production.

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

10 A. I feel so sad because I am essentially paying to increase health hazards for the  
11 communities Florida Rising represents. Investment in these gas plants decreases our chances  
12 of building an energy system that's efficient and safe for the land and our people. FPL needs  
13 to think of the bigger picture rather than focus on the short-term goals of accumulating  
14 money and pleasing its shareholders.

15 **Q. How would FPL's proposed rate increase impact the members of your organization?**  
16 **How do you know?**

17 A. We are experiencing two global crises: COVID-19 and climate change. Limiting access to  
18 electricity and water increases one's chances of getting COVID-19. These are extremely  
19 difficult times for the communities that Florida Rising represents, and the rate increase would  
20 cause further distress. Mental health issues have been on the rise during the pandemic, as  
21 many are in survival mode struggling to get by. Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities  
22 have to fight all the time to protect their livelihoods, and those same communities are  
23 presenting the solutions to the systemic problems that harm them. The rate increase will be  
24 another stressor in our members' already stressful lives. I know that FPL's rate increase will  
25 place a significant financial burden on our members because we talk with them on a regular

1 basis. The rate increase was not a consensual decision with FPL customers. The money for  
2 fossil fuel generation should not come out of our members' pockets. FPL's decision to raise  
3 its base rate shows its lack of empathy with low-income customers, who often don't know if  
4 they will be able to pay their bills every month.

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

6 A. The mission of Florida Rising is to build broader multiracial movements with individuals  
7 from historically marginalized communities to seize power and govern to advance social,  
8 economic, and racial justice.

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

11 A. In this proceeding, we are advancing social, economic, and racial justice for our members  
12 by fighting to prevent FPL from overcharging our members for a necessary good and from  
13 causing further climate change, which disproportionately impacts the communities we  
14 represent. We strive to do what's best for our members. The rate increase is a temporary fix  
15 for providing what FPL calls "clean" energy. FPL's decision to increase the base rate is not  
16 sustainable or compatible with goals of the communities we represent. Florida Rising wants  
17 to fix the root of the issue of climate change. At the same time, we need to ensure that our  
18 members have their basic needs met so that they can live a decent life.

19 **Q. Will a substantial number of your organization's members be substantially affected**  
20 **by the Commission's decision in this proceeding? How do you know?**

21 A. Yes. The majority of our members would not be able to easily afford their power bill if  
22 FPL increased the base rate. I know because I communicate with members regularly.

23 **Q. How is the subject matter of this proceeding within your organization's general**  
24 **scope of interest and activity?**

25 A. Whenever corporations abuse our members, we would want to get involved whether such



1 abuse relates to oil, lead, or other energy industries. Florida Rising is not new to confronting  
2 issues relating to the energy system. We aim to act in the best interest of our members, and it  
3 is our role as community organizers to intervene when powerful actors try to take advantage  
4 of them. FPL's rate increase is a form of oppression, and wherever there is oppression, there  
5 has to be resistance.

6 **Q. Why is the relief requested in this proceeding appropriate for your organization to**  
7 **receive on behalf of its members?**

8 A. By preventing the rate increase and discouraging FPL from building even more polluting  
9 fossil plants, Florida Rising would be supporting the wellbeing of all its members, the  
10 majority of whom come from low-income communities. We have had grants that allow us to  
11 help members get necessary goods and services, like food or light. We look for ways to give  
12 back to the community and sustain their way of life.

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