

Jacob Veagh

From: Jacob Veagh on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 8:52 AM
To: 'Diana Cowans'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Comments on Docket No. 20210015-EI, FPL Rate Hike Request

Good Morning, Diana Cowans

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20210015 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veagh

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From: Diana Cowans <cognitas@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:44 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Comments on Docket No. 20210015-EI, FPL Rate Hike Request

Dear Sirs/Madams;

I am writing to protest FPL's request to raise their rates by 20%, which is being reviewed under Docket No. 20210015-EI.. There are many reasons to oppose this rate hike, especially in light of FPL's recent marketing campaign that brags about their having such low rates. As is usual with corporations, the face they present to the public does not match what is actually happening behind the scenes. FPL has acted out of greed, to the detriment of our environment and the health and financial welfare of the people. And they have the nerve to come asking for more money, when they will do little to make themselves more responsible. For this reason and for the reasons I list below, which are not all of those I could list, I request that the PSC deny FPL's rate hike request.

Why should the PSC deny FPL's rate hike request?

- We're just starting to come out of a pandemic and I'm still working hard to help the many people who cannot pay their electric bills now. Raising the rates will further push them into debt. And FPL started closing accounts in the second wave of the pandemic.
- Without the pandemic issues, low-income people have trouble paying their bills, which are already higher than those that more affluent people pay. Which causes people to have to decide on which bills they'll pay – rent, utilities, food??

- Communities of color bear the brunt of the pollution from FPL's continued use of fossil fuels, since corporations believe that it is acceptable to build polluting facilities near Black and Brown neighborhoods. Not only should we not be building polluting facilities, we should not be devaluing the lives of people of color. And we are poisoning ourselves with the use of fossil fuels. What living creatures would deliberately poison themselves?
- The climate crisis is causing more days where the heat index is higher than is safe for humans and other life. This heat requires people, especially those with health issues, to use electricity to cool their homes. And heat is the deadliest of all weather-related hazards, per ongoing research. Yet too many people are unable to afford the electricity now. With a rate increase, they would be forced to choose between their utility bills, their health and their ability to pay their other bills.
- FPL is fiscally irresponsible. They have the 7th highest IOU rate in the nation, so they are not the lowest cost provider as they would have us believe, and the ACEEE ranks FPL 51st out of 52 major utility companies on Energy Efficiency. Instead of raising rates, they should reduce their costs. However, FPL won't act to be more energy efficient and they work to make it more difficult for customers to reduce their own bills.

Regards,

Diana Cowans

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Secretary - **Manatee Clean Energy Alliance**

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