

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 2:36 PM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20210015  
**Attachments:** FW FPL Minimum base bill implementation; Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

See attached customer correspondence and reply for Docket No. 20210015.

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Governor's Office of Citizen Services <EOGCitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 2:13 PM  
**To:** EOG-Referral  
**Subject:** FW: FPL Minimum base bill implementation

Please find attached email received by the Governor's Office of Citizen Services. This email is forwarded to your office for review and any response or action appropriate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martha Lynn  
Office of Citizen Services  
Executive Office of the Governor

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**From:** Alan Copeland <alan\_m\_copeland@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:30 PM  
**To:** GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com  
**Cc:** Alan Copeland <alan\_m\_copeland@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** FPL Minimum base bill implementation

Dear Sir,

I would like to start by saying thank you and applauding you for vetoing the net metering bill that came to your desk.

I am certain, as a result of that, starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, FPL has instituted a minimum use charge on all users that don't consume more than 239 KWh per billing cycle. I reached out to them to discuss this. Their response to my questions is that they need to spread the expenses of producing power evenly among all their customers. We already pay a base charge on our bill which I thought was for that purpose. I was also informed that the State of Florida's Utility commission approved this move. How are minimum usage bills justified and allowed by the utility companies. Other entities or companies aren't allowed to conduct business this way. Image going to a gas station and your car only holds 8 gallons but the operator tells you that if they turn on the pump they have to charge you for 10 gallons. Would that behavior work or be tolerated?

Our water bill from Charlotte county is the same, regardless your usage, you will get billed for at least 3000 gallons. I will give you an example where this policy is, in my opinion, theft. My neighbor is an 87 year old, single widower. He never uses 3000 gallons of water in a month but still gets charged for it. They also charge a customer charge which has no bearing on usage. How is this not stealing money from this senior citizen each month? My point is that minimum usage charges are not a good policy as it, at a minimum, doesn't encourage conservation.

If the utility companies need to raise more money to operate, I would suggest that they charge the customers actually using the power additional to compensate for that need. Charging certain customers extra for something they don't get or use to supplement or subsidize the cost for customers that are using the product is simply socialism. If we were able to choose which utility companies service our address it might be different as we could shop around. That unfortunately is not the case, FPL has a monopoly servicing the power in our area.

I implore you to investigate this policy and correct it. Thank you for your time and consideration of this concern.

Very Respectfully,

Alan Copeland

6227 Grandeur St

Englewood, FL 34224

(850) 982-2799

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Shonna McCray  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** 'alan\_m\_copeland@yahoo.com'  
**Cc:** Ellen Plendl  
**Subject:** Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

Mr. Alan Copeland  
alan\_m\_copeland@yahoo.com

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1398298C

Dear Mr. Copeland:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Florida Power & Light Company's (FPL) minimum bill charge to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC). The FPSC regulates investor-owned electric, and natural gas utilities throughout the state, and investor-owned water and wastewater utilities in those counties which have opted to transfer jurisdiction to the FPSC. The FPSC has authority in the telephone industry which is limited to the Lifeline Assistance Program, Florida Relay Service, and pay telephone service. We appreciate the opportunity to respond directly to you.

The Florida Public Service Commission approved Florida Power & Light Company's general base rate settlement agreement in Order No. PSC-2021-0446-S-EI, issued on December 2, 2021, in Docket No. 20210015-EI. The settlement agreement was entered into by FPL and various parties representing consumers, including the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) who advocates on behalf of Florida consumers. The settlement agreement includes numerous provisions with regards to FPL's base rates through the end of 2025.

The agreement also contains a provision that will raise the minimum bill charge to \$25 for all residential and general service non-demand customers. The minimum bill provision went into effect in June 2022. FPL was to notify its customers of the new minimum bill in bill inserts 30 days prior to implementation.

The minimum monthly bill does not replace the existing customer charge; instead, FPL will only charge the minimum bill when a customer's total monthly bill does not exceed \$25, excluding any taxes or other additional charges.

FPL explained that the minimum bill provision was included in the settlement agreement to ensure that all residential and general service non-demand customers contribute towards fixed costs of maintaining the electric system, costs which exist as a result of serving even limited amounts of energy to customers. The Commission approved the settlement agreement as being in the public interest when taken as a whole, and providing a comprehensive and balanced resolution to FPL's original petition for a base rate increase that provides rate stability for FPL's customers.

We have added your concerns to our files as a protest to the FPL's Rate Case, docket 20210015.

You also expressed concern about Charlotte County Utilities. Governmentally-owned utilities are exempted from Commission regulation by Florida Statute. You may contact the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners regarding your billing concern by using the following information:

Chairman Bill Truex  
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners  
18500 Murdock Circle, Suite #536  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Telephone: 941-743-1300

Email: [Bill.Truex@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:Bill.Truex@CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

Website: <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/dept/commissionoffice/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

Shonna McCray

Regulatory Program Administrator

Florida Public Service Commission