# CORRESPONDENCE 8/19/2022 DOCUMENT NO. 05531-2022

# **Antonia Hover**

From: Ellen Plendl

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 11:11 AM **To:** Consumer Correspondence

Subject: Docket No. 20210015

Attachments: FW Minimum Base Bills are WRONG; FW Minimum Bills and taking surplus kwh from

solar customers; Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company; FW Message from CSBizhub1; Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company; FW Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company; mary-I-webb-response-letter-0819.pdf

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

From: Governor's Office of Citizen Services <EOGCitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:53 PM

**To:** EOG-Referral

**Subject:** FW: Minimum Base Bills are WRONG

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

From: Stasha French <seadragon22@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:56 AM **To:** GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com **Subject:** Minimum Base Bills are WRONG

Dear Govenor DeSantis,

I received my FPL bill in June and was outraged at this new "Minimum Base Bill". I put Solar panels on my home in June of last year to help myself financially in the future, help FPL to keep up with all the growth in Florida, to continue to support their desire to use Solar and to Support the Climate Change movement of reducing carbon emissions.

Your Florida Public Service Commissioners voted to allow power companies to charge their Solar Homeowners for power they don't use, a burden we don't put on their grid and Solar power we are providing them to sell to their customers at a higher price than they need to purchase it from us, should we not use it by years end. How about thanking the Solar Homeowners for investing their own hard earned money instead of punishing them?

I'm efficiently generating power for my home. I have a monthly bill to pay for my Solar panels. The additional money added each month to my FPL bill for electricity I do not consume is to squash the consumer and reward the monopoly. When I use my surplus credits/net metered bank to reduce my bill and FPL increases my bill by charging me a minimum of \$25, that is called double-dipping and stealing from my investment.

What are you doing to help this Earth and the citizens that live in your state? Florida residents struggle to afford housing, gas & food right now and it's your commissions bright idea to increase their utility bills to hurt them further. People can't choose the electric company with the best price and they can't choose to go without electricity if they don't like what they are offered. We are at the mercy of our area power company to charge us as they wish with no protection being provided by you.

Please advocate for these new fees to be reconsidered by the Public Service Commission and help loosen the financial noose around the necks of Florida residents.

Stasha, Martin County / Voter / 31 year resident of Florida

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.

**From:** Governor's Office of Citizen Services <EOGCitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:28 PM

**To:** EOG-Referral

**Subject:** FW: Minimum Bills and taking surplus kwh from solar customers

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

From: Jim Correa <jmcorreaml@yahoo.com> Sent: Monday, July 25, 2022 12:09 PM

To: GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com

Subject: Minimum Bills and taking surplus kwh from solar customers

#### Hi Governor Ron Desantis,

I want to make you aware of a loophole that was included in the Florida legislation that was passed by the commission in August of 2021 to impose minimum bills, which is targeted to solar customers generating more kwh's than kwh's used.

My base bill of \$12.45 for the connection fee is now a \$30 minimum bill if the kwh's used plus the connection fee is less than \$30. Apparently included this ridiculous legislation is a loophole allowing the utility companies to also deduct kwh's from the kwh balance from monthly bills when kwh's used is more than kwh's generated and still charge a \$30 bill.

For example, my recent bill I used 34 kwh from the utility. They deducted the 34 kwh from my balance and still charged me the minimum \$30. The are effectively taking/stealing from the kwh balance with no benefit to me in either a credit for energy used or as a payment at the end of the year if there is a positive year-end balance.

To close this loophole, the kwh's should only be deducted when the kwh's used makes the bill greater than the minimum. If the kwh's used is less than the minimum bill than no kwh's should be deducted from the balance.

Thank you for your attention to closing this loophole and for all the work you do for the citizens of Florida and for home solar customers with your recent veto of the electric utilities wanting to get rid of net metering.

Jim Correa

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.

From: Shonna McCray

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 8:09 AM **To:** 'jmcorreaml@yahoo.com'

Cc: Ellen Plendl

Subject: Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

Mr. Jim Correa

jmcorreaml@yahoo.com

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1401939C

Dear Mr. Correa:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Duke Energy Florida (DEF) and the 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.

Under Rule 25-6.065, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), net metering is defined as "a metering and billing methodology whereby customer-owned renewable generation is allowed to offset the customer's electricity consumption on-site." The rule states that "[d]uring any billing cycle, excess customer-owned renewable generation delivered to the investor-owned utility's electric grid *shall* be credited to the customer's energy consumption for the next month's billing cycle" (Rule 25-6.065(8)(e), F.A.C., emphasis added). Further, excess energy credits produced by the customer "*shall* accumulate and be used to offset the customer's energy usage in subsequent months" (Rule 25-6.065(8)(f), F.A.C., emphasis added).

The net metering rule requires utilities to offset customer energy consumption during each billing cycle with excess renewable energy credits accumulated by that customer. For some customers, the requirement on the utility to offset the customers' energy consumption with accumulated credits may result in a monthly bill that falls below \$30. If that is the case, the new minimum monthly bill charge will be applied to bring the monthly bill up to \$30. Some customers have suggested that the utility only offset consumption to the point that they stay at or above a \$30 monthly bill, thereby reserving the credits that would bring them below the minimum bill. However, the net metering rule does not provide the utility with discretion to offset "some" of the customer's energy consumption in order to not go below \$30. The utility is required to apply energy credits to the customer's consumption until either the credits or the consumption reach zero.

The FPSC approved DEF's general base rate settlement agreement in Order No. PSC-2021-0202-AS-EI, issued on June 4, 2021, in Docket No. 20210016-EI, and effective on January 1, 2022. The settlement agreement was entered into by Duke 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 Duke's base rates through the end of 2024. The agreement also contains a provision that will raise the minimum bill charge to \$30 for all residential and small commercial customers.

Duke's net metering program will continue to function as it always has. Credits for kWhs delivered to the grid, compared to the kWhs taken from the grid will be calculated as they have been historically. The only change is that customers who have a bill under \$30 after net metering in any given month will now receive the minimum bill of \$30.

Duke 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 DEF's original petition for a base rate increase that provides rate stability for Duke's customers.

We have added your concerns to our files as a protest to the DEF's Rate Case, docket 20210016.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552.

Sincerely,

From: Cimmino-Lynn, Martha <Martha.Cimmino-Lynn@eog.myflorida.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 8:14 AM

**To:** EOG-Referral

**Subject:** FW: Message from CSBizhub1

**Attachments:** 921648-WEBB.pdf; 921648-WebbPSC-Draft1.docx

Please find attached email received and responded to 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

From: CSBizhub1@eog.myflorida.com <CSBizhub1@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:39 PM

To: Cimmino-Lynn, Martha < Martha. Cimmino-Lynn@eog.myflorida.com>

Subject: Message from CSBizhub1

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.

Keith & Mary Webb 19 Maple St Flagler Beach, FL 32136 Utilities Marty

July 22, 2022

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis State of Florida Capital 400 S Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We are permanent, year round residents of Florida. We saved and put aside money to afford solar panels for our retirement years knowing we would be on a fixed income. We had been paying \$9.23 per month to FPL for a base charge. The Public Service Commission recently made changes raising our bill to \$25.66 a month that we must pay even though we are generating our own electricity. We can understand the fee is necessary for part time Florida residents but feel we are being penalized for having solar panels.

We respectfully request that an exception be made for year round residents with solar panels and the additional base fee be removed. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly,

Mary L Webb

Keith & Mary Webb 19 Maple St Flagler Beach, Fl 32136 ORLANDO FL 328
22 JUL 2022 PM 4 L

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis State of Florida Capital SI:E Hd 4-9NY 2707 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

# August 19, 2022

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Webb 19 Maples Street Flagler Beach, Florida 32136

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Webb:

Thank you for contacting Governor Ron DeSantis. We are sorry to hear of your difficulties and appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter.

The Public Service Commission is an arm of the legislative branch of government and regulates certain public utilities in Florida. To assist you, I forwarded a copy of your letter to PSC for their review. If you want to contact PSC directly, please use the information provided below. Enclosed is a brochure which explains what the PSC regulates.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists households that have incomes below 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines who need assistance in paying their utility bills. To qualify you must apply in the county in which you live.

Thank you again for contacting Governor Ron DeSantis.

Sincerely,

Martha Lynn Office of Citizen Services Executive Office of the Governor

ML/cas Enclosure

CC:

Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850 Telephone: (850) 413-6100

From: Shonna McCray

**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 8:16 AM **To:** 'seadragon22@comcast.net'

Cc: Ellen Plendl

**Subject:** Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

Ms. Stasha French

seadragon22@comcast.net

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1401946E

Dear Ms. French:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and the 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.

Under Rule 25-6.065, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), net metering is defined as "a metering and billing methodology whereby customer-owned renewable generation is allowed to offset the customer's electricity consumption on-site." The rule states that "[d]uring any billing cycle, excess customer-owned renewable generation delivered to the investor-owned utility's electric grid *shall* be credited to the customer's energy consumption for the next month's billing cycle" (Rule 25-6.065(8)(e), F.A.C., emphasis added). Further, excess energy credits produced by the customer "*shall* accumulate and be used to offset the customer's energy usage in subsequent months" (Rule 25-6.065(8)(f), F.A.C., emphasis added).

The net metering rule requires utilities to offset customer energy consumption during each billing cycle with excess renewable energy credits accumulated by that customer. For some customers, the requirement on the utility to offset the customers' energy consumption with accumulated credits may result in a monthly bill that falls below \$25. If that is the case, the new minimum monthly bill charge will be applied to bring the monthly bill up to \$25. Some customers have suggested that the utility only offset consumption to the point that they stay at or above a \$25 monthly bill, thereby reserving the credits that would bring them below the minimum bill. However, the net metering rule does not provide the utility with discretion to offset "some" of the customer's energy consumption in order to not go below \$25. The utility is required to apply energy credits to the customer's consumption until either the credits or the consumption reach zero.

The Florida Public Service Commission approved Florida Power & Light Company's (FPL) 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.

FPL's net metering program will continue to function as it always has. Credits for kWhs delivered to the grid, compared to the kWhs taken from the grid will be calculated as they have been historically. The only change is that customers who have a bill under \$25 after net metering in any given month will now receive the minimum bill of \$25. Commission staff has confirmed that FPL continues to implement net metering practices pursuant to the requirements of the net metering rule.

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.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552.

Sincerely,

Shonna McCray Regulatory Program Administrator Florida Public Service Commission

From: Shonna McCray

Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 8:21 AM

To: Ellen Plendl

**Subject:** FW: Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

From: SBPhilips <sally.b.philips@gmail.com> Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 6:38 PM

To: Shonna McCray <SMcCray@PSC.STATE.FL.US>

Subject: Re: Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

Oh, I know FP&L is within their legal right. But I do not like the laws that "govern" this near monopoly. And, if you read my letter thoroughly, that is what it said.

# - Sally Philips

Hello Ellen,

Additional information for 1401859C.

On Thu, Aug 18, 2022 at 1:01 PM Shonna McCray < SMcCray@psc.state.fl.us > wrote:

Ms. Sally B. Philips

sally.b.philips@gmail.com

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1401859C

Dear Ms. Phillips:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and the 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.

Under Rule 25-6.065, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), net metering is defined as "a metering and billing methodology whereby customer-owned renewable generation is allowed to offset the customer's electricity consumption on-site." The rule states that "[d]uring any billing cycle, excess customer-owned renewable generation delivered to the investor-owned utility's electric grid *shall* be credited to the customer's energy consumption for the next month's billing cycle" (Rule 25-6.065(8)(e), F.A.C., emphasis added). Further, excess energy credits produced by the customer "*shall* accumulate and be used to offset the customer's energy usage in subsequent months" (Rule 25-6.065(8)(f), F.A.C., emphasis added).

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FPL's net metering program will continue to function as it always has. Credits for kWhs delivered to the grid, compared to the kWhs taken from the grid will be calculated as they have been historically. The only change is that customers who have a bill under \$25 after net metering in any given month will now receive the minimum bill of \$25. Commission staff has confirmed that FPL continues to implement net metering practices pursuant to the requirements of the net metering rule.

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.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552.

Sincerely,

Shonna McCray

Regulatory Program Administrator

Florida Public Service Commission

# STATE OF FLORIDA

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OFFICE OF
CONSUMER ASSISTANCE & OUTREACH
CYNTHIA L. MUIR
DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6482

# **Public Service Commission**

August 19, 2022

Mrs. Mary L. Webb 19 Maple Street Flagler Beach, FL 32136

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1401952C

Dear Ms. Webb:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your correspondence regarding Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and the minimum billing 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 (FPL) 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.

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Mrs. Mary L. Webb Page 2 August 19, 2022

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

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

Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach

SM:mep