

Iris Rollins

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: Excessive Duke Energy rate increases in 2022

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached email in Docket No. 20210016 and 20220001.

Hannah E. Branum
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
[2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.](#)
[Tallahassee, FL 32399](#)
(850) 413-6004

Iris Rollins

From: Belmont Zephyrhills Board of Directors <belmontzhillsboard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 3:45 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman Fay; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Subject: Excessive Duke Energy rate increases in 2022

Dear Florida Public Service Commissioners:

I'm writing to you today on behalf of the Belmont at Ryals Chase Condominium Association. Belmont is a 224-unit residential condominium community located in Zephyrhills, Florida.

Belmont has 30 separate **Duke Energy** accounts, representing various types of energy usage in common areas, such as exterior lighting and clubhouse power. Each year, we draft the annual budget based on historical data and the updated Duke Energy rate sheet, which is typically updated in September. Historically, the total Duke Energy expense has increased by about 1 to 2 percent per year.

In recent months we became concerned about **our total Duke Energy bills increasing by about 25 percent compared to 2021**. After spending considerable time and effort to understand the detailed invoices and complex rate structure, we learned that several component rates had increased dramatically, beginning in January 2022. The increased rates included Energy Charge, Fuel Charge, Fixture Charge and Pole Charge. The Pole Charge alone increased by 60%. Additionally, Belmont has about 24 accounts that were subject to the new and particularly egregious "**Minimum Bill Adjustment**," which assesses an additional fee to reach an **arbitrary \$30 minimum bill amount**.

These rate increases resulted in an overall 25 percent increased expense that was not anticipated, not budgeted, not reasonable and not remotely aligned with the previous decade of annual increases. These thousands of dollars of increased expenses will ultimately be paid by hardworking Florida families, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet because of soaring inflation.

Duke Energy will continue to petition the Florida Public Service Commission – you - for additional rate hikes, but *you* are the decision maker. As public servants, you must do more to prioritize the best interests of Florida consumers above the wants of the industry.

On behalf of the Belmont unit owners and residents, please record my official protest of these dramatically increased rates and inadequate public review process. I urge you to reconsider your decision concerning these exorbitant rate increases and to adopt a more transparent and accountable public review process going forward. We would appreciate a response from you regarding this issue. I can be reached at BelmontZhillsBoard@gmail.com or 303-530-6918

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Gibbs
President, Belmont at Ryals Chase Condominium Association