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June 19, 2023

Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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COMMISSION
CLERK

RE: Docket # 20230023-GU TECO

This increase of 32% on most items seems excessive and TECO's statements seem to be misleading. Three of Teco's misleading statements in the attached notice are below:

1. "in the past 15 years we have raised rate only once"

But that omits the fact that the increase was in 2021 only two years ago AND that increase was a 32% increase WOW.

2. "Florida population growth has been remarkable, resulting in more new home and commercial construction"

But that omits fact that TECO charges for all the new installations and it adds to their profitable customer base as their business expands.

3. "People's Gas must invest in new – and upgraded existing – infrastructure to serve this demand as well as hire additional team members"

But again, that omits the fact that they will have many new customers who will be paying them for the service and the installations. Which, again, adds to their profitable customer base.

Sincerely,


Donald Spencer

Encl: TECO notice copy

How the Proposed Changes in Rates and Charges May Impact Your Bill

The following tables show how the proposed rates and service charges compare with what you pay today.

Rate Class	Annual Therm Usage	Current Monthly Rates		Proposed Monthly Rates		Increase %
		Customer Charge	Base Rate	Customer Charge	Base Rate	
RS-1	0 - 99	\$ 15.10	\$ 0.27011	\$ 19.95	\$ 0.36738	32%
RS-2	100 - 249	\$ 18.10	\$ 0.27011	\$ 25.50	\$ 0.36738	41%
RS-3	250 - 1,999	\$ 24.60	\$ 0.27011	\$ 32.95	\$ 0.36738	34%
RS-GHP	N/A	\$ 24.60	\$ 0.09598	\$ 32.95	\$ 0.12950	34%
RSG (Residential Standby Generator)	< 19 therms	\$ 23.91	\$ 0.00000	\$ 32.95	\$ 0.29500	38%
	> 20 therms	\$ 23.91	\$ 0.27011	\$ 32.95	\$ 0.29500	38%

Miscellaneous Service Charges	Current	Proposed
Residential Meter Turn On	\$63.00 (\$29.00 per additional meter)	\$78.00 (\$34.00 per additional meter)
Residential Meter Reconnect	\$87.00 (\$28.00 per additional meter)	\$104.00 (\$33.00 per additional meter)
Account Opening	\$24.00	\$33.00
Temporary Turn-off Charge	\$30.00 per meter	\$33.00 per meter
Failed Trip Charge	\$25.00	\$25.00
Trip Charge/Premise Collection	\$25.00	\$29.00

If approved, the proposed rates and service charges would be effective in January 2024.

The rates do not reflect the Purchased Gas Adjustment, which is passed through from gas and major pipeline suppliers and can fluctuate monthly based on the price of natural gas.

Rate schedules are subject to gross receipts taxes, city and state taxes and franchise fees, where applicable.

Base rates are part of the Customer Charge and Distribution Charge line items on your bill. The Distribution Charge is a grouping of several costs, including your base rate, a charge for energy conservation programs, legacy pipeline replacement and other costs.



PeoplesGas.com/rates

Notice of Rate Request and Customer Service Hearings

On April 4, 2023, Peoples Gas System filed a request (Docket 20230023-GU) with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) requesting a future increase in base rates. If approved as filed, the increase will vary by customer rate class and would likely take effect in January 2024.

Florida's population growth has been remarkable, resulting in more new home and commercial construction, more businesses, stores and restaurants, new and expanded infrastructure including roadways, and more electricity generation fueled by natural gas.

While we have managed our business prudently, Peoples Gas must invest in new – and upgrade existing – infrastructure to serve this demand, as well as hire additional team members to operate and maintain the expanding system.

Hearings

The PSC has scheduled the following in-person and virtual public hearings to provide customers an opportunity to express their views on quality of service and the impact of the requested rate increase:

In-Person Hearings:

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 2 p.m.
Charles F. Dodge Center
601 City Center Way Pembroke Pines, FL 33025

Thursday, June 29, 2023 at 2 p.m.
Hillsborough Community College – Brandon Campus
10451 Nancy Watkins Drive Tampa, FL 33619

Virtual Hearings:

Monday, July 10 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Tuesday, July 11 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

If you would like to testify before the PSC by phone at one of the virtual customer service hearings, you must sign up by contacting the PSC by calling **1-850-413-7080** or emailing speakersignup@psc.state.fl.us.

Resources

An overview of the rate request and copies of the complete filing are available online at www.FloridaPSC.com and www.PeoplesGas.com/rates.

If you would like to share your comments with the PSC regarding the proposed changes in rates, please write to the PSC at the following address and reference Docket No. 20230023-GU:

Office of the Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

And, like other businesses, we have been impacted by higher-than-expected inflation, labor market challenges, supply chain disruptions and rising interest rates.

The decision to raise rates is not an easy one for us; in the past 15 years, we have raised rates only once. Since our last increase, we have: invested in and deployed critical technology to help us operate more efficiently; connected thousands of customers to ways to save energy and money through our free energy audit and conservation programs; invested in the safety of the public and our system; and continued to provide an award-winning customer experience.

We are committed to delivering reliable and environmentally responsible natural gas, while making safety and top-tier customer service our priorities.

Once you sign up, you will be provided further instructions on how to participate, including the call-in number. The order in which customers testify is based upon the order in which they sign up. If attending in person, please arrive early. For virtual hearings, please sign up as soon as possible, but at least two business days prior to the service hearing you plan to attend. If you have questions about the sign-up process, please call **1-850-413-7080**.

On Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, 2023, the PSC will conduct a technical hearing to allow Peoples Gas and other parties to the proceeding to present testimony and relevant evidence regarding the rate request.

To watch either the customer service hearings or the technical hearing live, visit www.FloridaPSC.com and click on the "Watch Live" link. If you do not have access to the internet, you may call **1-850-413-7999** to listen to the hearings. If you are hearing or speech impaired, you may contact the PSC by using the Florida Relay Service at **1-800-955-8771** (TDD).

To submit comments regarding your utility service, please contact the PSC's Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach by calling **1-800-342-3552**.

At any time during this process, you may contact the Office of Public Counsel (OPC). The OPC was established by the Florida Legislature to represent you and the other utility consumers before the PSC.

The Public Counsel is independent from the PSC and can be reached at **1-800-342-0222** or www.FloridaOPC.gov.

Please view the tables on the following page to understand how the proposed changes in rates and charges may impact your bill.
Visit www.PeoplesGas.com/rates for more information.

