

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

Docket # 20230023-GU

Comments to share with the PSC regarding TECO proposed rate hikes.

information received from TECO shows the following increases:

RS1 32.1%  
RS2 40.8%  
RS3, RS4, RS GHP, RSG, each 33.9%

Miscellaneous Service Charges:

Residential meter turn on 23.8%  
Residential meter reconnect 19.5%  
Account opening 37.5%  
Temporary turn off 10%  
Failed trip charge 0%  
Trip charge/premise collection 16%

TECO states in opening of communication, reasoning for increases:  
paraphrased -

population growth resulting in new home/commercial construction, businesses, etc....  
investing in new/upgraded infrastructure and personnel.

1. Well, welcome to real economics! Does not the increase in business generate additional revenues and profits? And does this not cover costs of supplying a service? To expect customers to pay for a company to add infrastructure and personnel to service an expanded customer base who then must pay monthly bills for the same service is somewhat absurd.

Most companies would be ecstatic about an expanded base, generating more revenue and profits; especially when the increase in accounts was provided by an outside (state of Florida providing an excellent environment, natural and governmental for people moving here at no cost to TECO) agency without any direct cost to the company for procuring them i.e., advertising etc....!

These needs are for essentially all private businesses, a cost of doing business, and one would be hard pressed to site a company for sending its customers a bill-think medical practices, automotive repair, retail stores, grocery stores and many others.

2. TECO does note impact from inflation, labor, supply chain, and interest rates, reasonable points.

All these are cyclical, going up at times, and down others; business cycles that all companies and individuals experience. Rarely, does one see a request for a rate DECREASE when these points lower.....still, some coverage of these may be justified

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but not for what I see as exorbitant increases  
-32.1% to 40.8% for Rate Class, and 10%-37.5% for Miscellaneous Service, excluding  
Failed Trip Charge which arguably should not change if even exist!

Please consider these comments in responding with only reasonable changes to the  
points noted in #2, and disregard increases requested in #1.

Sincerely,  
A concerned Florida resident

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