

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023 10:22 AM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket Nos. 20230001 & 20230019  
**Attachments:** Consumer Inquiry - Tampa Electric Company; FW Rising costs of rent, electric, and insurance is out of control

See attached customer correspondence and reply for Docket Nos. 20230001 & 20230019

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:48 AM  
**To:** 'tlarussa@hotmail.com'  
**Subject:** Consumer Inquiry - Tampa Electric Company

Ms. Traci LaRussa  
tlarussa@hotmail.com

RE: FPSC Inquiry 14302316C

Dear Ms. LaRussa:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Tampa Electric Company (TECO) 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.

You expressed a concern about recent rate increases. On March 7, 2023, the FPSC approved a mid-course correction to the fuel factors and granted preliminary interim storm restoration charge for TECO.

The adjusted fuel factors reflect unrecovered fuel costs incurred in 2022. The interim storm restoration recovery charges are costs associated with named storms and will replenish each utility's storm reserve fund. Interim storm restoration charges are approved for a 12-month recovery period and are subject to refund, with interest, pending further review once the total actual costs are known for each utility.

Utilities do not earn a profit on fuel charges. The fuel and capacity cost component of customers' bills is set for each calendar year, but mid-course corrections are used when a utility's costs increase or decrease significantly in the interim. Under Commission rules, a utility must notify the PSC when it expects an under- or over-recovery greater than 10 percent.

TECO's approved charges include the new fuel factor and the preliminary approval for recovery of \$131 million in interim storm restoration costs associated with Hurricanes Dorian, Elsa, Ian, Nicole, and Tropical Storms Alberto, Nestor, and Eta.

We appreciate you sharing your views and will add your correspondence to both Dockets 20230001 and 20230019 regarding the mid-course correction and the storm restoration recovery, respectively.

Customers who are experiencing difficulty in providing payment on their account can contact the following resources for financial assistance:

\* Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program --- <https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/community-services/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program/find-your-local-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-provider-for-help>

\* Elderly Electric Assistance (EHEAP), which provides assistance for home-energy emergencies to qualified, low-income households with at least one person 60 years of age or older. To find out about qualifications, you may contact your county's local EHEAP agency, or by calling 1-800-963-5337.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

Ellen Plendl  
Regulatory Analyst IV  
Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach  
1-800-342-3552 (phone)  
1-800-511-0809 (fax)

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Governor's Office of Citizen Services <EOGCitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:41 AM  
**To:** Ellen Plendl  
**Subject:** FW: Rising costs of rent, electric, and insurance is out of control

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

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. FYI

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martha Lynn  
Office of Citizen Services  
Executive Office of the Governor

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**From:** Traci LaRussa <tlarussa@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 24, 2023 11:59 AM  
**To:** GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com  
**Subject:** Rising costs of rent, electric, and insurance is out of control

Constituent message:

1. **Name**  
Traci LaRussa
2. **Email Address**  
[tlarussa@hotmail.com](mailto:tlarussa@hotmail.com)
3. **Phone Number**  
81309909728
4. **Subject**  
Rising costs of rent, electric, and insurance is out of control
5. **Message**  
Hello,

I doubt you will receive this message. I've sent quite a few. I support you in what you are doing. However, you must address the rent, electric, and insurance costs that are out of control and making it impossible to make ends meet. The people would want to hear how you plan to address these issues. Electric bills that were less than \$200. are now up over 300. I have many friends getting electric bills for over 700.00 for a normal size house. Rent for tiny studios in halfway decent areas are exceeding 1300.00 in the Tampa Bay area. Insurance that once cost me 100 as a good driver, now with lesser insurance is 336.00. Food is also out of control.

I realize much of this is do to the policies coming out of Washington, the shutdowns, the horrible economic turn which feels purposeful by many in power. But please address these issues with the people who are feeling its weight and on the brink of losing their ability to make ends meet. Thank you!

6. **Attach file (optional)**
7. **User IP Address**  
65.33.66.236
8. **HTTP User Agent**  
Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10\_15\_7) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/116.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
9. **Date Submitted**  
24/09/2023
10. **Time Submitted**  
11:58:30 am, EDT

This message was sent from <https://www.flgov.com>.

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.