

**Charlie Smith**

**From:** John Plescow  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence; Consina Griffin-Greaux  
**Subject:** FW: TECO Proposed storm recovery rate increase

Please, add to docket 20240172.

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**From:** Consina Griffin-Greaux <CGriffin@psc.state.fl.us> **On Behalf Of** Consumer Contact  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 3:15 PM  
**To:** John Plescow <JPlescow@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Subject:** FW: TECO Proposed storm recovery rate increase

John,  
Please forward to clerk's office.  
CGriffin

**From:** James Hacman <[jameshacman@gmail.com](mailto:jameshacman@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 19, 2025 10:24 PM  
**To:** Consumer Contact <[Contact@PSC.STATE.FL.US](mailto:Contact@PSC.STATE.FL.US)>  
**Subject:** TECO Proposed storm recovery rate increase

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There is an old saying: "What goes up must come down." However, as a resident of the TECO service area for the past 12 years, I have observed a consistent trend of rising rates with little, if any, relief. TECO consumers have no alternative provider for their energy needs, placing them in a position of dependency. This reality underscores the critical role of the Public Service Commission (PSC) in advocating for the middle class, which continues to face rising costs across all aspects of life. The PSC must prioritize consumer interests and work diligently to ensure energy rates remain fair and reasonable for all.

The financial burden of "hardening" the electrical grid should not fall solely on consumers. The responsibility for maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure lies primarily with the utility companies that own and operate these systems. Grid hardening—improving resilience against extreme weather and other disruptions—is undoubtedly crucial for long-term reliability and safety. However, since these upgrades directly benefit the utilities' operations and profitability, it is only fair that they absorb the associated costs rather than shifting them onto their customers. Infrastructure improvements are an inherent part of utility operations, and asking consumers to fund these projects constitutes an unfair transfer of operational expenses. Providing a resilient and reliable grid is a fundamental obligation of energy providers, and they must bear the financial responsibility for these necessary upgrades.

As highlighted in a recent Palm Beach Post article (source below), grid repairs often fail to result in adequate storm-hardening of infrastructure. This raises an important questions: How are TECO and other utilities held accountable for these shortcomings? Are they assessed through superficial reports and polished presentations? The people of Florida deserve more rigorous oversight from the PSC, especially regarding rate increases and

infrastructure improvements. Electricity is not a luxury—it is a fundamental necessity. Floridians require transparent, justifiable, and equitable pricing for this essential service.

Source: <https://www.palmbeachpost.com/story/opinion/columns/2025/01/16/florida-power-light-electric-rate-hikes-hit-customers/77716485007/>

Your's truly and respectfully,

James Hacman

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