



June 9, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Adam J. Teitzman
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket Nos. 20250011-EI, Petition by Florida Power & Light Company for Base Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

On behalf of Intervenor League of United Latin American Citizens ("LULAC"), I have enclosed the testimony of Mari Corugedo. Please file these documents in Docket No. 20250011-EI. Please contact me if there are any questions regarding this filing.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy and correct copy of the foregoing was served on this 9th day of June, 2025, via electronic mail on:

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DATED this 9th day of June, 2025.

/s/ Bradley Marshall
Attorney

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Florida)
Power & Light Company)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 20250011-EI

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

MARI CORUGEDO

ON BEHALF OF

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

JUNE 9, 2025

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 **A. Mari Corugedo.**

3 **Q. Where do you live?**

4 **A. 6041 SW 159th Court, Miami, FL 33193.**

5 **Q. What organization are you a member of?**

6 **A. League of United Latin American Citizens.**

7 **Q. How long have you been a member?**

8 **A. I have been a member for about 14 years.**

9 **Q. What is your position in the organization?**

10 **A. I am a member of LULAC Florida and was previously the State Director for**
11 **LULAC Florida. For LULAC’s national board of directors, I am also the current**
12 **National Vice President for the Southeast.**

13 **Q. What is your source of income?**

14 **A. I am an elementary school teacher.**

15 **Q. Are you a customer of FPL? If so, for how long?**

16 **A. Yes. I’ve been a customer for about 34 years.**

17 **Q. What do you think of FPL?**

18 **A. FPL’s prices have been increasing at an unreasonable rate over the years, and the**
19 **wages in Florida haven’t kept up with the price of electricity. Paying FPL for**
20 **electricity is expensive. The price of utilities keeps increasing when wages**
21 **haven’t and when affordable health care isn’t an option for most people.**

22 **Q. How much does your FPL bill usually cost each month?**

23 **A. It costs about \$300.**

24 **Q. How do you feel about the current price you are paying for your utilities?**

25 **A. The price I pay for electricity is expensive.**

1 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, the base rate for electricity is**
2 **projected to increase by about 30% over the next 4 years. How would this**
3 **rate increase impact you?**

4 **A.** My FPL bill is already expensive as is. I wouldn't be able to afford it increasing
5 without having to spend less on other necessary goods and services.

6 **Q. As a Floridian, are you concerned about climate change?**

7 **A.** Yes. Florida is one of the areas in our country that will be most negatively
8 affected by climate change due to hurricane risk and extremely hot temperatures.
9 Our nation and state have not adequately prioritized how to combat climate
10 change. Our government leaders need to base their policies on what the science
11 clearly shows: climate change is a danger to our future in South Florida. That
12 means we need all of our public agencies to be making decisions with the climate
13 in mind, including when it comes to the electricity system.

14 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, part of this rate increase will pay**
15 **for upgrades or capitalized maintenance on methane gas fueled power**
16 **plants. Do you believe this will have an impact on the climate?**

17 **A.** FPL should be investing only in renewable energy because that is the way of the
18 future. Investing in gas plants that significantly emit greenhouse gases will hurt
19 communities of color in the end, who are most harmed by environmental
20 hazards, such as climate change impacts.

21 **Q. In light of that, how do you feel about contributing your own money to those**
22 **projects, through your FPL bill?**

23 **A.** I don't want to pay more so that FPL can invest in gas plants, which contribute to
24 climate change. I don't want to pay more so that climate change can further

1 harm the communities I represent, especially since this is a company that is
2 forced upon us.

3 **Q. Are you aware that the majority of FPL's capital investments in this case**
4 **are for solar generation and battery storage? Does that change your answer**
5 **about utility spending decisions and climate change?**

6 **A.** Yes I am aware, but that does not change my answer. It is true that we need to
7 transition to a clean energy system and reduce the carbon emissions that are
8 driving climate change. But it is also true that the transition to clean power needs
9 to happen fairly, in a way that doesn't hammer the people who are already
10 struggling to get by. It's my understanding that FPL doesn't even need all the
11 solar and batteries it's proposing in this case because it already has so many extra
12 power plants. It seems like FPL could make its system cleaner just by relying
13 more on the solar plants it already has and burning less fossil fuels, without
14 making our bills go up so much to pay for extra new solar plants that it doesn't
15 actually need.

16 **Q. What organization are you speaking on behalf of?**

17 **A.** The Florida chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

18 **Q. Where is your organization located?**

19 **A.** LULAC Florida's business address is 100 South Belcher Road, #4752
20 Clearwater, FL 33765.

21 **Q. How many members does your organization have?**

22 **A.** LULAC Florida has over 140 members.

23 **Q. Approximately how many members are FPL customers? How do you know?**

24 **A.** About one-third of our members are FPL customers. All of our south and
25 southwest Florida members, including all members of our chapters in Sarasota

1 and in the metro Miami area, have FPL for their electricity provider. We know
2 this because FPL is the power company for this area.

3 **Q. How does your organization view FPL?**

4 **A.** We don't necessarily have a negative view of their service, but we feel that the
5 trend has been that FPL has the power to make decisions and, overall, these
6 decisions hurt their customers. This is especially true for those customers that
7 don't have the means to advocate for themselves. For that reason, and for the
8 disproportionate effects from energy burden and pollution from power plants,
9 LULAC's mission has required our organization to grow more involved in
10 energy advocacy on behalf of our membership, as we have by providing
11 comments or formally intervening in numerous energy dockets over several
12 years. The energy system affects our members deeply, from their health to their
13 checkbooks to their futures. As an organization working to advance the well-
14 being of the Hispanic community, LULAC must protect our community by
15 pushing back against power companies like FPL that continue to make decisions
16 that put our community in a disadvantage economically and health wise.

17 **Q. How would FPL's proposed rate increase impact your organization?**

18 **A.** LULAC always looks to advance economic conditions for our members, and this
19 would really put our members in an economic disadvantage. We need to bring
20 equity to the decisions they make for communities of color, particularly our
21 Hispanic communities. Instead, FPL is seeking to raise rates by 30%, even
22 though this will particularly harm the Hispanic community and other
23 communities of color that already suffer disproportionate energy burdens in
24 Florida. Therefore, FPL's rate increase would impact LULAC Florida because
25 the organization will have to spend extra time advocating for better energy policy

1 and economic conditions for our members, taking away time and resources from
2 other important LULAC campaigns, such as improving education and bilingual
3 access.

4 **Q. How would FPL's proposed rate increase impact the members of your**
5 **organization? How do you know?**

6 **A.** I live and work in FPL's territory, so I experience the effects of their bills first
7 hand and know what's happening with other LULAC members in my area. The
8 high cost of living, especially in South Florida, is already affecting our members
9 a lot. Rent, insurance, groceries, healthcare, and medication costs leave many
10 LULAC members without much or any extra money as it is. Many people,
11 including our members, are struggling just to keep the lights on in their homes,
12 and keep the food on their tables. They don't have money to put up their own
13 solar panels or buy expensive new appliances to save energy. Increasing rates is
14 not the way to help them.

15 **Q. Is your organization concerned about climate change?**

16 **A.** Yes, very concerned. We see that communities of color and specifically our
17 members are underrepresented when it comes to decision-making regarding
18 climate issues. There are no positive effects of climate change and lots of places
19 where you see these negative issues, such as air pollution, are in communities of
20 color. This is not a partisan-issue, this is a time for us to understand the crisis we
21 are in.

22 **Q. Does your organization believe that FPL's plan to keep burning methane gas**
23 **for most of its power generation and to spend hundreds of millions of dollars**
24 **for maintaining and upgrading gas plants will have an impact on the**
25 **climate?**

1 **A.** Yes, this will definitely have a very negative effect on our communities and
2 cities. It is not the way to move forward because increased emissions will lead to
3 more air pollution and contribute to climate change, the impacts of which
4 disproportionately harm communities of color. FPL may say gas is clean
5 burning, but only solar panels have zero harmful emissions for the people living
6 around them. FPL needs to understand that we need to start looking at science.
7 FPL should not be relying so much on gas plants and should be working to phase
8 them out. At the same time, they have so much extra power they shouldn't be
9 making us pay for solar plants that they don't really need either.

10 **Q. What is the mission of your organization?**

11 **A.** The mission of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational
12 attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic
13 population of the United States.

14 **Q. How is the purpose of your organization being served by participating in**
15 **this proceeding?**

16 **A.** We are interested in community advocacy. LULAC understands that we must
17 not stay silent during this proceeding. We must take a stand and make our
18 companies understand that they are putting profit before people LULAC's
19 intention is to create a pause, to have them understand how vital it is to make the
20 correct decisions, especially where we find ourselves economically and with our
21 climate. Unfortunately, we won't get to have a voice at the table unless we
22 participate in this proceeding. FPL's decision to increase rates and invest in
23 fossil-fuel generation will have a very negative effect on our communities and
24 our state.

1 **Q. Will a substantial number of your organization’s members be substantially**
2 **affected by the Commission’s decision in this proceeding? How do you**
3 **know?**

4 **A.** Yes, our members in South Florida and Sarasota certainly will be affected by the
5 rising rates. However, whether they are FPL members or not, all of our members
6 will be affected because other companies may emulate what FPL is doing. We
7 are a grassroots organization; people volunteer their time to make sure we have
8 these conversations. The communities we advocate for will be affected and they
9 are our mission.

10 **Q. How is the subject matter of this proceeding within your organization’s**
11 **general scope of interest and activity?**

12 **A.** It is in the interest of the community and anything that has an ill effect on the
13 community is in our interest. This will put our communities at a disadvantage.
14 The implications of this proceeding are relevant to LULAC’s mission. Because it
15 seeks to improve the economic condition of its members, LULAC wants to
16 decrease members’ energy burdens. Because it aims to improve the health of its
17 members, LULAC wants to prevent excess greenhouse gas emissions from gas
18 power plants. In advancing the housing conditions of its members, LULAC seeks
19 to prevent further climate change, which is causing more destructive hurricanes
20 and sea level rise, both of which pose risks to members’ homes. Because it aims
21 to protect its members’ civil rights, LULAC intends to give its members a voice
22 in the decision-making process of the energy system, which directly affects
23 members in the ways listed above. Ultimately it is the mission of LULAC to
24 advance the condition of the Hispanic community, and we have frequently
25 fulfilled this mission by advocating at the Public Service Commission for the

1 well-being of our members and the broader Hispanic community. Our
2 involvement in this rate case, to seek equitable rates and a transition away from
3 harmful fossil-fuel powered generation, is no different.

4 **Q. Why is the relief requested in this proceeding appropriate for your**
5 **organization to receive on behalf of its members?**

6 **A.** Everybody is just struggling right now with everything else, but here the
7 Commission actually has the ability to do something for our members and other
8 Floridians to help during the affordability crisis we're having, instead of just
9 piling on more costs. By rejecting FPL's unneeded rate increase, the
10 Commission can deliver real relief to our members and all Floridians. The
11 Hispanic community is disproportionately energy burdened and keeping their
12 bills from going up even more directly aligns with LULAC's mission to advance
13 the well-being of this community.

14 **Q. How has your organization engaged with utility matters in the past?**

15 **A.** We have been involved in other cases surrounding electricity, including FPL's
16 2021 rate case and in setting its energy efficiency goals in 2019 and 2024 in the
17 FEECA proceeding. In total, we have intervened or been involved in the
18 following PSC matters: *In re: Petition for rate increase by Tampa Electric*
19 *Company*, Docket No. 20240026-EI, (2024); *In re: Petition for rate increase by*
20 *Duke Energy Florida, LLC*, Docket No. 20240025-EI (2024); *In re: Commission*
21 *review of numeric conservation goals*, Docket Nos. 20240012-EG, 20240013-
22 EG, 20240014-EG, 20240012-EG (2024); *In re: Petition for rate increase by*
23 *Florida Power & Light Company*, Docket No. 20210015-EI (2021); *In re:*
24 *Proposed amendment of Rule 25-17.0021, F.A.C., Goals for Electric Utilities*,
25 Docket No. 202000181-EU (2020); *In re: Petition to initiate emergency*

1 *rulemaking to prevent electric utility shutdowns, by League of United Latin*
2 *American Citizens, Zoraida Santana, and Jesse Moody* Docket No. 20200219-EI
3 (2020); *In re: Petition for approval of demand-side management plan*, Docket
4 Nos. 20200053-EG, 20200054-EG, 20200055-EG, 20200056-EG (2020); and *In*
5 *re: Commission review of numeric conservation goals* Docket Nos. 20190015-
6 EG, 20190016-EG, 20190018-EG, 20190020-EG, 20190021-EG (2019).
7 LULAC is also an appellant in three cases pending before the Florida Supreme
8 Court related to Commission orders on electric regulation, including the order
9 approving the settlement agreement in FPL's 2021 rate case.

10 **Q. Why has LULAC engaged in these cases?**

11 **A.** We want to make sure that we advocate in the community and ensure that we
12 don't put people at a disadvantage for profit. Decisions made at the Public
13 Service Commission have huge impacts on our membership and the Hispanic
14 community. In order to fulfill our mission to advance the condition of our
15 community, we have at times determined it was important to participate in utility
16 or energy matters at the Commission and beyond.

17 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

18 **A.** Yes, it does.