

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

In re:

DOCKET NO. 20250011-EI

Petition for rate increase by
Florida Power & Light Company.

PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING:

CHAIRMAN MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

DATE: Thursday, May 29, 2025

TIME: Commenced: 6:00 p.m.
Concluded: 8:30 p.m.

PLACE: Solid Waste Authority
7501 N. Jog Road
West Palm Beach, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 JOHN BURNETT, and MONICA BARNES, ESQUIRES, 700
3 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420; appearing
4 on behalf of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).

5 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL, OFFICE OF
6 PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 West
7 Madison Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400,
8 appearing on behalf of the Citizens of the State of
9 Florida (OPC).

10 BRADLEY MARSHALL and JORDAN LUEBKEMANN,
11 ESQUIRES, Earthjustice, 111 S. Martin Luther King Jr.
12 Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301; DANIELLE McMANAMON,
13 ESQUIRE, Earthjustice, 4500 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite
14 201, Miami, FL 33137; appearing on behalf of Florida
15 Rising, Inc. (Florida Rising), League of United Latin
16 American Citizens of Florida (LULAC), and Environmental
17 Confederation of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ECOSWF).

18 TIMOTHY SPARKS, ESQUIRE, FPSC General
19 Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,
20 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the
21 Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

WITNESS:	PAGE
THOMAS TURKIN PUBLIC COMMENT	16
ELIZABETH OCAMONDO PUBLIC COMMENT	18
GEORGE GENTILE PUBLIC COMMENT	21
JAVIER BERNOL PUBLIC COMMENT	25
DON DUFRESNE PUBLIC COMMENT	28
ELLEN COHEN PUBLIC COMMENT	30
TANYA McCONNELL PUBLIC COMMENT	33
NEI SILVA FILHO PUBLIC COMMENT	34
MATT ROCCO PUBLIC COMMENT	35
MICHAEL WOOD PUBLIC COMMENT	38
VINCENT CUOMO PUBLIC COMMENT	39
LORI VINIKOOR PUBLIC COMMENT	42
REX KIRBY PUBLIC COMMENT	45
DAVID RICKS PUBLIC COMMENT	48
CHRIS KELDIE PUBLIC COMMENT	51
CHRIS SHEA PUBLIC COMMENT	53
ALEX LARSON PUBLIC COMMENT	54
TERESA WEST PUBLIC COMMENT	57
CINDE MARTIN PUBLIC COMMENT	59
FRED ANGELO PUBLIC COMMENT	62
RICK REIKENIS PUBLIC COMMENT	65
DAVID MARKARIAN PUBLIC COMMENT	67
JORDAN RATHLEV PUBLIC COMMENT	71
JOHN CARR PUBLIC COMMENT	74
DAVID ABERS PUBLIC COMMENT	77
DEBBIE MURPHY PUBLIC COMMENT	79
LOUISE SHERMAN PUBLIC COMMENT	80
PAUL CATALANO PUBLIC COMMENT	81
RABBI FEDER PUBLIC COMMENT	84
WESLEY McCURRY PUBLIC COMMENT	87
DONNA BEAN PUBLIC COMMENT	90
MIKE DAHLSTROM PUBLIC COMMENT	93
MARK ELHILOW PUBLIC COMMENT	96
STACEY JONES PUBLIC COMMENT	98
HADLEY DOYLE-GONZALEZ PUBLIC COMMENT	101
CURT BROWN PUBLIC COMMENT	105
DENNIS GRADY PUBLIC COMMENT	107

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Good evening, everybody.
3 Hopefully you guys can hear me. Yep, loud and
4 clear. Awesome. Awesome.

5 Well, good evening, and thank you for
6 attending this customer service hearing. This is
7 part of the review for the Florida Power & Light
8 Company request for a rate adjustment. Today's
9 service hearing is an important part of the
10 process, and dedicated to hearing from you, the
11 customer, and your experience with FPL.

12 My name is Mike La Rosa. I have the privilege
13 of serving as the Chair of the Florida Public
14 Service Commission. With me is my fellow
15 Commissioners, and I will allow them for a quick
16 introduction, starting with Commissioner Clark.

17 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 My name is Gary Clark. I would like to say
19 welcome to everyone that came out tonight. We look
20 forward to hearing your testimony. We appreciate
21 you taking time out of your schedule to be here.
22 We know that sometimes it's an inconvenience this
23 late in the evening to get away from family and
24 family time to do things like this, but it is a
25 very important part of the process that we take

1 very seriously, and we look forward to hearing your
2 testimony tonight.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH SMITH: Hello,
5 everyone. My name is Gabriella Passidomo Smith.
6 It's really an honor to be here and hear from all
7 of you tonight.

8 One thing I always want to kind of say during
9 these things, especially if, you know, we've -- a
10 lot of these have gone really long, which is
11 amazing. We are really -- it's great to see so
12 many people showing up, but, you know, sometimes
13 you might not be able to get all of your comments
14 out, or your neighbors or friends or family aren't
15 able to be here. So if you can let them know, they
16 are more than welcome to submit written comments to
17 us, to our Commission Clerk. Those will go to our
18 offices, and we read them just like you were -- I
19 have already -- my office has already received
20 many, and we will continue to receive more. We
21 read them just as if you were here testifying in
22 person. So please know that those -- your
23 opportunity to continue submitting comments will
24 continue on through the rest of this case and
25 through the technical hearing, so thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Good evening. My name
2 is Art Graham, and I am a Commissioner here at the
3 Florida Public Service Commission, and I say ditto
4 to what my colleagues just said.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Awesome. Well, thank you,
6 Commissioners.

7 And to the customers, you will see that
8 everything that we are saying up here is being
9 transcribed in Spanish. Hopefully it's accurate.
10 If you are reading it, then you will see there on
11 the screen to my right and to my left.

12 Let's go ahead and officially kick this off
13 and, staff, will you please read the notice?

14 MR. SPARKS: By notice issued May 14th, 2025,
15 this time and place has been set for a customer
16 service hearing in Docket No. 20250011-EI. The
17 purpose of the service hearing is set forth more
18 fully in the notice.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent.

20 Let's go ahead and start by taking
21 appearances. I know we have got some folks a
22 little bit scattered. We will start with Florida
23 Power & Light.

24 MS. BARNES: Good evening. Monica Barnes
25 appearing --

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: It might not be on, no.

2 MS. BARNES: There it is. Can you hear me
3 now? Okay.

4 Monica Barnes, appearing on behalf of Florida
5 Power & Light Company. And I would also like to
6 enter an appearance for John Burnett, General
7 Counsel.

8 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.
9 Office of Public Counsel.

10 MR. TRIERWEILER: Walt Trierweiler for the
11 Office of Public Counsel.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great.
13 LULAC.

14 MS. McMANAMON: Danielle -- can you hear me?

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yes.

16 MS. McMANAMON: Danielle McManamon on behalf
17 of Florida Rising, League of United Latin American
18 Citizens and Environmental Confederation of
19 Southwest Florida. And I would also like to enter
20 an appearance for Jordan Luebke and Bradley
21 Marshall.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you, Counsel.
23 Again, thank you all for participating today
24 and allowing us to hear your experience in quality
25 of service with FPL.

1 In August there will be a more technical
2 hearing. The Commission will hear from witnesses,
3 we will hear evidence in the case. I encourage you
4 to watch the case through our website. You will
5 get a better understanding how the process works,
6 and ultimately then how we make decisions as a
7 commission.

8 In addition to sharing your comments here, you
9 can also provide written comments and additional
10 information through paper mail or email, as
11 Commissioner Passidomo Smith has mentioned. In the
12 rate case overview, which is the green paper that
13 was handed out as you walked in, that has further
14 instructions on ultimately how to do that. If for
15 some reason you don't get a chance to share all of
16 your comments while you are speaking today, you can
17 always continue to add more comments that way as
18 well. So certainly utilize it if you feel it's
19 necessary.

20 If you have any specific billing issues, FPL
21 has employees that are here that can assist you.
22 If you have any questions for the rate case
23 process, we also have Commission staff from the
24 agency that is here to help you answer any general
25 questions.

1 Let's go ahead and move forward with opening
2 statements. I will allow each of the parties a
3 three-minute opening statement, and we will start
4 with Ms. Barnes. And I haven't forgotten about you
5 like I did earlier today, but, Madam, you are
6 recognized.

7 MS. BARNES: Thanks.

8 Monica Barnes, again, appearing on behalf of
9 FPL. I would like to introduce Dawn Nichols,
10 Vice-President of Customer Service, who will
11 deliver remarks.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

13 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
14 Commissioners.

15 My name is Dawn Nichols. I am Vice-President
16 of Customer Service for Florida Power & Light
17 Company.

18 Let me begin by thanking our customers who
19 have taken the time to be with us today and provide
20 your feedback. We are honored to serve you. We
21 are here because we have asked the Public Service
22 Commission for new base rates beginning in 2026.

23 I am proud to be among the 9,000 FPL employees
24 who work hard every day to serve you, and to
25 provide you with the nation's best combination of

1 high reliability, resiliency and low bills, but we
2 can always be better, which is why your feedback is
3 so important.

4 FPL's mission is to deliver reliable
5 electricity every day while keeping bills as low as
6 possible. Today it FPL's service is 59 percent
7 more reliable than the national average, and our
8 typical residential bills is lower than it was two
9 decades ago, when adjusted for inflation. This is
10 a result of smart investments and a culture of
11 continuous improvement.

12 Our team works relentlessly to improve our
13 service to you. By operating the most efficient
14 utility in America, we save the typical customer
15 roughly \$24 a month. We have also saved customers
16 more than 16 billion in fuel costs by modernizing
17 our power plant fleet, which includes natural gas,
18 nuclear and solar generation.

19 Our investments in smart grid technology
20 helped avoid 2.7 million outages last year,
21 including more than 800,000 during Hurricanes
22 Debby, Helene and Milton. That's what our rate
23 request is about, continuing the smart investments
24 to deliver reliable service while enhancing
25 resiliency and keeping bills as low as possible.

1 It's been four years since our last rate
2 request, and Florida is growing fast. Meeting
3 Florida's growing demand for power, making our grid
4 resilient to severe weather and delivering the
5 outstanding service our customers expect and
6 deserve will require significant new investment.
7 Even with the proposed increase, typical FPL bills
8 are expected to stay well below the national
9 average.

10 While we work hard to keep bills low, we
11 recognize some customers face challenges. My team
12 and I are always here to help. Customer advocates
13 are on site today to help you with any concerns,
14 including the many programs we have for energy
15 efficiency and bill assistance.

16 At FPL, customers always come first. We have
17 let our customers know about these service hearings
18 so they can share their experiences with the
19 company. We want to hear what we do well, but more
20 importantly we want to hear where we can improve.

21 So thank you for participating, and thank you
22 for the opportunity to serve you.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

24 Office of Public Counsel.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Good evening. My name is

1 Walt Trierweiler and I am the Public Counsel for
2 the State of Florida. My office, the Office of
3 Public Counsel, was created 51 years ago by the
4 Florida Legislature to give Florida's customers a
5 voice in these proceedings. My office serves the
6 citizens of the state of Florida as an effective
7 consumer advocate in utility cases that originally
8 are brought before the Florida Public Service
9 Commission.

10 Today I want you to know that the Office of
11 Public Counsel actively opposes the increases FPL
12 has proposed in 2026 and again in 2027. Our theme
13 affordability, and we argue with the help of eight
14 nationally recognized and respected expert
15 witnesses against all aspects of FPL's two rate
16 increases, as well as the Tax Adjustment Mechanism.
17 We assert that these increases, and the proposed
18 tax adjustment mechanism will result in unfair,
19 unjust and unreasonable rates for you.

20 I am not going to take the time today to talk
21 about all the things that we are doing up in
22 Tallahassee to resolve this case in your favor, but
23 I do want you to be confident in the extensive
24 discovery our office has conducted with FPL, the
25 hours my team has devoted to studying thousands of

1 pages of documents and responses from FPL, and the
2 depositions that we have conducted of FPL witnesses
3 to identify reductions that should be made in FPL's
4 request.

5 I also want you to be confident that your
6 voice is a valuable part of this proceeding. These
7 rate increases have not yet been decided, and these
8 Commissioners who are traveling from Miami to
9 Pensacola are here to listen to you. Please share
10 you are thoughts as clearly and persuasively as you
11 can, because your sworn testimony will be
12 considered by the Commission and the parties, both
13 tonight and in the future, when the Commission
14 examines all of the evidence in this case before
15 them, to approve only that portion of FPL's rate
16 increases that are reasonable, prudent and in the
17 public interest.

18 I invite you to share details of your
19 experiences as a customer of FPL, and to share the
20 personal impacts that the FPL's proposed rates
21 increases will have upon you, your family, your
22 friends, your employees and your business. Do be
23 mindful of the time that so that your neighbors
24 here may also have an opportunity to speak.

25 Thank you again for being here tonight. We

1 look forward to hearing from you.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

3 Florida Rising/LULAC.

4 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 I appreciate the opportunity to speak to y'all
6 tonight. My name is Danielle McManamon, and I am
7 here on behalf of Florida Rising, the League of
8 United Latin American Citizens of Florida and the
9 Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida.,
10 better known as LULAC and ECOSWF.

11 Florida Rising, LULAC and ECOSWF are
12 associations of mostly residential customers, and
13 they are in this proceeding because they cannot
14 afford FPL's \$9.8 billion requested rate hike. Too
15 many Floridians are already unable to afford their
16 electric bills, especially following FPL's previous
17 huge rate increase in 2021. Access to affordable
18 electricity becomes more and more crucial every
19 year as climate change continues to drive up
20 Florida's already brutal summer temperatures.

21 In 2023, the latest year with complete data,
22 FPL's average residential monthly bill was about
23 \$170 per month, which is around \$40 higher than the
24 national average monthly bill, and about \$450
25 higher than the national average for the year.

1 These numbers made FPL the tenth highest bill in
2 the country for large investor-owned electric
3 utilities. Today, even as FPL asks for this rate
4 increase, preliminary data shows that the average
5 FPL customer is already paying \$400 more per year
6 for electricity than in 2021.

7 We agree with the Office of Public Counsel,
8 that FPL has not shown a need for their requested
9 increase, and we believe that this case is not
10 about a real need for these projects, but about
11 increasing profits.

12 As Floridians, storm recovery is extremely
13 important to all of us, and some may believe that
14 this rate increase will aid FPL in getting the
15 lights back on sooner after a storm, but the
16 investment that FPL has made in recent years in
17 shortening storm outages is almost entirely from
18 money awarded in a separate storm planning
19 proceeding, so you don't need to support this rate
20 increase in order to continue seeing those
21 improvements following a storm.

22 And finally, just as a quick note, we know
23 that some of you here may have been asked by FPL to
24 come today and support this rate increase, or you
25 may have affiliations with them, or serve on

1 boards. If you have any of those connections, we
2 just ask that you please note that in your
3 testimony just because it's relevant information
4 for the record, and it will help us have an
5 efficient hearing if that is noted up front.

6 So with that, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
7 look forward to hearing everybody's testimony.

8 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

9 Are there any elected officials in the room?
10 I normally like to start with elected officials to
11 start us off.

12 So, yeah, if you don't mind making your way up
13 to either one of the podiums, since you do plan to
14 speak. State your name and if you have signed up
15 to speak or not, so we can make sure we cover your
16 time. So any elected officials either, or just
17 when it's your time to state your full name, so we
18 will start here on the right.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

20 COMMISSIONER TURKIN: Perfect. Thank you so
21 much. My name is Thomas Turkin.

22 I just want to start off by saying thank you
23 all for your public service. It is truly a
24 thankless job, so thank you for your commitment to
25 your communities.

1 While I cannot support a rate increase, not
2 just with FPL, I think with most things, during
3 what we are seeing right now, I do want to talk
4 about the customer service with FPL. They have
5 been a great partner with the City through a lot of
6 sponsorship efforts, a lot of constituent concerns,
7 you know, our representative Amy Kemp has been
8 great with dealing with anything that comes up,
9 right?

10 And historically, I have not been a big
11 advocate for FPL -- sorry, guys -- but since Amy
12 has gotten involved, she's been a great testament
13 on what customer service should be, and so, you
14 know, I just want to go on the record and say, you
15 know, you guys have definitely improved your
16 customer service, and it's all about the people
17 that work in your organization.

18 And so, you know, again, I think, you know,
19 for me, FPL has been a great partner with not just
20 my constituency, but also the City of Boynton as a
21 whole, and, you know, again, I can't -- you know, I
22 have my reservations about any rate increase, but I
23 did want to come here on the record and highlight
24 and commend them for their exceptional customer
25 service.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

3 Commissioner or councilman?

4 COMMISSIONER TURKIN: Commissioner.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you, Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER TURKIN: Thank you, thank you
7 guys again.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MS. OCAMONDO: Good evening. Thank you,
10 Chairman, Commissioners, staff. I am Elizabeth
11 Ocamondo. I am the President of the Board of
12 Supervisors of the Indian Trail Improvement
13 District. And as an improvement district, we deal
14 a lot with FPL. They are doing a lot of
15 undergrounding out in the Exurban Tier, and they
16 have been very good partners and very responsive to
17 any concerns that our residents have.

18 However, I am not here tonight as an elected
19 official. I am here as a resident and a neighbor
20 to the Sabal Palm Solar Facility. That was built
21 directly across the street from me, and needless to
22 say I was happy not to see another housing
23 development creating undue traffic that our roads
24 can't handle.

25 Since the development of the solar field, it

1 was a little rough going in the middle -- excuse
2 me, in the beginning -- but as we started going
3 forward, they were very responsive to any issues
4 that my small community out in the rural tiers, had
5 and they made a very nice space. It's very nice to
6 look at, and it provides space for the animals to
7 return to, which is very unusual when we are seeing
8 development, as we know.

9 I would like specifically to speak on the
10 reliability that we have seen in the past few
11 years. Being in a rural tier, our lines were very
12 old, there is only 70 of us, some are on a line
13 with nine, and we were the first to go out and the
14 last to come back on for many years out there. But
15 since the hardening was done, it's improved so
16 greatly, and quite often, they don't even have to
17 come out. They can restore us from the office.
18 When they do have to come out, it's timely. We are
19 no longer waiting hours for them to come out.

20 And of course, nobody wants a rate increase,
21 right. We are all suffering in this state, pretty
22 much around the country. However, we need reliable
23 power, and I know, from my experience, that the
24 work that they put into our community specifically
25 has provided us that. We are getting turned back

1 on much quicker after a storm, and we are not
2 seeing the flickering and the constant outages that
3 we were seeing almost on a daily basis. So I have
4 to give them props for doing that. There has been
5 much improvement in the past several years. So if
6 that is related to the rate increase, fantastic.
7 It's doing its job.

8 I hope to see that the solar farms that they
9 are building will get us on-line and get those
10 rates reduced, but we have to get there, and I
11 completely understand that.

12 So bottom line is they have been a good
13 neighbor. We need reliable power. We need it to
14 come back on. There is people that might be
15 infirm that cannot live without power.

16 We have an animal rescue, and I have got
17 several buildings. When the power goes out in the
18 summer and there is no AC, how do you handle that?
19 And we are on wells, so if would he have no power
20 we have no the water. So our power is crucial to
21 us.

22 So thank you, and I hope that you take into
23 consideration the customer service, and not only
24 the way they deal with government agencies and the
25 support they give to the communities, but really

1 how they take care of their residents in their
2 district.

3 So thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

6 COMMISSIONER GENTILE: Good evening. Can you
7 hear me?

8 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Nope.

9 COMMISSIONER GENTILE: There we go. How is
10 that? Better?

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yep.

12 COMMISSIONER GENTILE: Thank you. Mr. Chair
13 and Commissioners, again, thank you for being here.

14 My name is George Gentile. I am the current
15 Chair and Commissioner on the Jupiter Inlet
16 District, which is Florida's, southeast Florida's
17 old else special district set up by the Legislature
18 in 1921.

19 I too am not here for the district, although,
20 as Chairman, we know that we definitely rely on a
21 lot of the service from FPL for that district. But
22 I am here as a resident at 9438 Southern Oak Lane,
23 Jupiter, Florida, which is in the rural area of
24 Jupiter Farms, in the western portion of the north
25 end of Palm Beach County.

1 I have been a customer of FPL since 1973, and
2 the reason I know that is my wife and I were
3 married May 27th, 1973, and so we have been
4 customers for 51 years.

5 We live in an area that is damaged -- has had
6 a lot of damage over the years by storm events.
7 And while we know that there is no control over the
8 damage that those storm events do, we have had a
9 tremendous effort by FPL in the last two years to
10 harden that area substantially, even after we just
11 had the tornadoes that came through there in the
12 last 12 months.

13 We have had -- they have come into our
14 neighborhood, underground wires. They have taken
15 to the wires down, taken poles out. They have
16 restored the poles in the entire Farms area, and I
17 think that with that effort, I think that they
18 deserve to have some increase that will help them
19 continue to provide the service that they are, and
20 to harden other areas of state, because we will be
21 seeing a tremendous amount of storm events, and we
22 know that that's happening because of all the
23 conditions that are happening in our environment.

24 I am an environmental consultant. I am a
25 landscape architect and planner. I know what's

1 going on out there in the environment, and I think
2 we are going to see substantial storm events that
3 are going to create havoc with a lot of our utility
4 systems, not only for FPL, but others. And I think
5 that it will be important to make sure that they
6 are able to provide the quality services and get us
7 back up and running.

8 And I thank you for the time being here. I
9 support the increase. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER GENTILE: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Not seeing any
13 other elected officials, we can move on now to
14 customer testimony.

15 Your comments today will become part of the
16 official record. That means that you may be
17 subject to cross-examination. That's not intended,
18 by any means, for intimidation. It's just intended
19 so that we are just trying to clarify what you may
20 be saying. That could come from us as
21 Commissioners or, of course, one of parties that
22 are here today.

23 So if you plan on testifying, you have signed
24 up today, if you don't mind, if we can just take a
25 quick oath by standing up and raising your right

1 hand.

2 (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the
3 oath.)

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent, thank you. You
5 may have a seat.

6 To make sure that you and your neighbors have
7 equal opportunity to provide input. Please limit
8 your comments to three minutes. Of course, we have
9 got a timer here that everybody can see. Be
10 mindful as the time is starting to tick down.

11 And if you heard something that you are going
12 to say, you wanted to say ditto or reference to it,
13 please feel free to do so. Again, we want to make
14 sure that everybody that's come out tonight has an
15 opportunity to speak, and we want to hear from
16 them.

17 The Public Counsel, Mr. Trierweiler, will be
18 helping me today. He will be calling the names
19 that have signed up. It's a little bit unique for
20 us, right, we have got two locations, right. So if
21 you want to maybe -- Walt, I'm just going to make
22 the executive decision -- stand either on the right
23 or stand either on the left, I think we will be
24 able to move through folks relatively quickly and
25 not have to have them waiting. If somebody is

1 waiting at that podium, just feel to have a seat
2 and just kind of be on standby.

3 But if we are ready to go, I think I will pass
4 it over to you and start calling the first few
5 names.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right, Chairman.

7 Javier Bernol will be first up, whichever is
8 closer for you. Don Dufresne will be next. Ellen
9 Cohen will be after that, and Tanya McConnell will
10 be the fourth speaker.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Mr. Bernol, let's start
12 with you. You are recognized.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

14 MR. BERNOL: All right. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: We can hear you, but not
16 through the microphone. The green button, hold it
17 for a little bit.

18 MR. BERNOL: See if it works. I don't know.

19 Okay. Thank you so much, and thank you for
20 having me here tonight. My name is Javier Bernol.
21 I am an FPL customer since 2000, the year 2000.

22 I am an engineer, and I own a company,
23 consulting company, and I provide service to local
24 companies, you know, companies in the United States
25 outside the United States if they want to do

1 business here in the U.S., companies established
2 here who wants to sell products to any part of the
3 world, you know, Europe, South Asia, Australia,
4 South America. And the idea behind this is to
5 provide the technical support for them to obtain
6 certification, electrical certification, safety
7 certification, electromagnetic compatibility in all
8 fashion.

9 And since my experience working in many areas,
10 many countries and many regions in the United
11 States, I can tell that the one part of my support
12 to them is let them know how the energy is managed
13 here in the United States. And that gave me a lot
14 of experience and idea what's going on in other
15 parts of the United States in cooperation where I
16 live.

17 Part of this job is traveling, and there is no
18 more satisfaction to be outside the United States
19 and see that a storm is coming, and my family is
20 here and I am in Chile, or in Australia, or another
21 country, and when it's a hurricane class one or
22 two, I say, well, the worst case is the power is
23 going to be gone. But the time that that's
24 happening, you know, I can see, you know, trucks
25 coming all over the place. I see a lot of moving,

1 in I really appreciate FPL to do that.

2 I know that there are many areas for
3 improvement. It's part of the process. I truly
4 believe that what you guys are doing is excellent
5 job. It feels okay. I feel very confident in the
6 professional way that you guys are doing.

7 Another big part important is how you guys are
8 trying to implement new technologies in using many
9 case ways of obtaining energy, that's a very smart
10 way to do. Not just only your generation in coal
11 or gas or solar, you know, panels, that area is
12 something that is very smart, and from my
13 engineering point of view, is something that
14 creates various strong way to provide service.

15 So I truly support what you guys are doing. I
16 appreciate your service, the work and the peace of
17 mind that you guys give me when, you know, as a
18 father, or as an engineer, I have to provide
19 support to companies and explain how that works
20 here.

21 The energy you guys provide is clean from
22 the -- areas and for the frequencies you guys are
23 providing, so that's something really good. In
24 corporations with other regions in the United
25 States, or not even talking about outside the

1 United States.

2 So thank you very much for what you guys are
3 doing. I support the increase because this is the
4 money that's going to come back to me and to my
5 family and to the community, so thank you so much
6 for doing what you guys are doing, and I really
7 appreciate your job.

8 Thank you.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT

10 MR. DUFRESNE: Good evening, Commissioners,
11 my. My name is Don Dufresne. I am an attorney
12 here in Palm Beach County. My family has been in
13 Palm Beach County since 1955. We have got some --
14 a long history with FPL. I live in Wellington,
15 2592 Muirfield Court, Wellington, Florida.

16 I want to share some of my experiences with
17 FPL as a real estate lawyer. Many times during
18 development and redevelopment, we have a
19 significant number of issues with relocating power
20 lines, adding boxes, meters, et cetera. It does
21 delay development and delay -- every development
22 delay costs money.

23 FPL has been extraordinarily responsive every
24 time I have made a request to get a relocate, to
25 get a disconnect, to get a meter placed, they have

1 been reliable on timing. They have been able to --
2 I have been able to tell my clients they will be
3 here on such and such a date, and they will be
4 there on that date and provide to the service
5 needed. So from my experience as a real estate
6 lawyer with a lot of clients in the western
7 communities, it's very, very helpful, and they have
8 been great.

9 I am actively involved in the community. Many
10 people here are tonight, and I would say is that
11 FPL is a very consistent presence in our community
12 with whether it's charitable, business
13 organizations, chambers, and so they are here in
14 the community, and we appreciate that as well.

15 And I know we are here to talk about rates,
16 and you have got a thankless job, I know, but in my
17 view, rates come down to -- are a reflection of
18 infrastructure, operational costs and storm
19 preparedness, and nothing happens without money.
20 So I heard the comment about hardening the system
21 being a different rate. That's fine. But
22 preparedness, having boots on the ground. When you
23 are getting ready for a storm and you are driving
24 down Southern Boulevard and you see the Fair
25 Grounds parking lot filled with utility trucks,

1 it's a comforting feeling to know that if power
2 goes out that they are ready to show up and get the
3 job done.

4 All of that costs money, and I think it's
5 unreasonable for anyone to expect zero increase in
6 rates while expecting the same reliable service,
7 hardening, improvement of old infrastructure,
8 developing new infrastructure and developing new
9 technologies.

10 So I would ask the Commission to give fair
11 consideration to the requested rate increase, and
12 hopefully FPL will continue to receive, and the
13 customers will continue to receive safe, reliable
14 and storm protected service.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT

18 MS. COHEN: Good evening. My name is Ellen
19 Cohen, and I am also an attorney, but I am not here
20 in my capacity as an attorney. I am an FPL
21 customer and a member of the AARP. And I want to
22 talk to you about some of my concerns regarding the
23 proposed rate increase.

24 You know, many seniors are currently juggling
25 rising costs of food, medicine and housing, and

1 while FPL's service may be wonderful, it affects
2 their pocketbook, and they can ill afford to pay
3 the increased rates that are being requested.

4 What FPL is requesting really amounts to
5 corporate greed. They are asking for a return on
6 equity of 11.9 percent, which is far above the
7 national average. That's pure profit.

8 I urge the Commission to reject the request
9 and to consider the impact on seniors like me and
10 on other consumers to ensure that the rate increase
11 is fair and reasonable.

12 As we know, FPL is a monopoly in many areas of
13 Florida. As a result, the folks that have FPL for
14 services don't have a choice in who to get as their
15 provider. They can't seek better rates. We are a
16 captive group of consumers.

17 I live down in Boca Raton, and the only
18 provider is FPL. This fact makes this rate
19 increase a priority that everyday Floridians who
20 are merely trying to keep their heads above water.

21 In 2024, the CEO of NextEra, the corporate
22 owner of FPL, took home a pay package of over \$21
23 million. The FPL Chair took home a pay package of
24 over \$11 million.

25 According to FPL's 2025 -- January 25, 2025

1 press release, on an adjusted basis, NextEra
2 Energy's full year 2024 earnings were \$7.063
3 billion, or \$3.43 per share, compared to 6.441
4 billion, or \$3.17 per share in 2023. That
5 represented a year-over-year growth in adjusted
6 earnings per share of approximately 8.2 percent.

7 FPL's earnings represent approximately 68
8 percent of NextEra's earnings. FPL's net income
9 for 2024 was \$4.543 billion, or two point -- or
10 \$2.21 per share, while in 2023, their profits were
11 \$4.251 billion, or \$2.09 per share.

12 Every customer, regardless of whether they use
13 energy from FPL, must pay \$25 a month plus taxes
14 just to be hooked up to the grid. I know that,
15 because I have solar power and have to pay them
16 every month, and that amounts to \$29 and change a
17 month.

18 This is an obscene request for a rate
19 increase, and will make the highest rate increase
20 request in the country. We urge you to reject this
21 request.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
23 testimony.

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: We are going to hear from
25 Tanya McConnell next, but I would like to let Nei

1 Silva Filho, Matt Rocco and Michael Wood know that
2 you will be the next speakers after Tanya.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Ms. McConnell, you are
4 recognized.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

6 MS. McCONNELL: Good evening. I am Tanya
7 McConnell. I am the senior development of manager
8 for Avenir Development, which is a 4,000-unit
9 development with clubhouses, a town center, medical
10 and all associated roads, both public and private.

11 We are responsible for making sure
12 infrastructure is in place for over -- is in place
13 on time for over a dozen builders. FPL is part of
14 our process. They are an integral part of our
15 process. From the very beginning, with
16 construction trailers ride through to delivery to
17 our builders and tenants, timing is critical for
18 our delivery to these builders, and so close
19 coordination and cooperation is needed with FPL.

20 I have worked with FPL for many, many years.
21 It's not always perfect. That's the nature of our
22 business. The good part is that there is always
23 someone that we can call to help resolve those
24 issues. The better part is that the response to
25 those calls is immediate, which is invaluable to

1 us.

2 No one wants higher rates, but at least we
3 know that we are getting exemplary service for our
4 money. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT

8 MR. FILHO: Good afternoon, everybody. My
9 name is Nei Silva, and I am proud to stand here
10 before you as a customer of FPL for many years, but
11 as also first responder paramedic and rescue diver,
12 and someone who puts their life on the line every
13 time I go to work.

14 I have -- I love what I do, and I believe in
15 service in commitment, and in doing what it takes
16 to protect and support others, especially when
17 times are tough. That's why I am here today. I do
18 know that nobody wants an increase, but I have to
19 say that FPL does an exemplary job.

20 I see firsthand what FPL linemen and crews do
21 before, during and after storm. They sometimes are
22 shoulder to shoulder to us working a scene, or
23 working whatever needs to be working on. They are
24 out there in the toughest conditions just like we
25 are, risking their lives to restore power, ensure

1 safety and bring communities back to life after
2 disaster strikes. I can relate to that kind of
3 dedication, I understand the risk they take and the
4 sacrifices they make, and I want to thank them,
5 every lineman and woman and crew member for doing
6 what they do for all of us. Their courage and work
7 ethics deserves recognition.

8 I have been a customer of FPL, and I have
9 never had an issue from multiple homes that I lived
10 in, and from multiple rental places that I actually
11 been at. I hope this commission understand and
12 acknowledge the exceptional quality of services
13 that FPL provides. It's not just about power.
14 It's about people. And from what I have seen FPL
15 delivers both excellence, customer service.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

18 MR. TRIERWEILER: Matt?

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

20 MR. ROCCO: Yes, sir. Can y'all hear me?

21 MR. TRIERWEILER: Matt Rocco?

22 MR. ROCCO: Yes, Matt Rocco. Thank you.

23 Good evening, Mr. Chair, fellow Commissioners.

24 I am Matt Rocco, President of the South Florida

25 Manufacturers Association. I do want to disclose

1 that FPL is on our board. They have been on our
2 board for -- a 1961 founding member, and we do have
3 our board Chair will be speaking later tonight, so
4 I just wanted to point that out to everybody.

5 I really come here tonight to speak to you all
6 from the business community perspective. FPL has
7 been not only a trusted partner and resource for
8 the South Florida Manufacturers Association, but
9 the level of service, the reliability, the
10 swiftness, we have had numerous manufacturers and
11 other businesses that really have been in a tight
12 squeeze and have needed FPL. And when we have
13 reached out, they have jumped, they have done
14 whatever they could do and needed to do to make
15 sure that businesses are operating efficiently.

16 And we have heard a lot tonight about certain
17 things, but what I wanted to share and reiterate is
18 really, you know, as the world is changing, energy
19 is changing, business is changing, really
20 consistent investment in technology and
21 modernization is absolutely positively necessary.

22 The energy -- as mentioned, the energy
23 landscape is really evolving quite rapidly, and
24 with it, the demands placed on FPL is really
25 increasing, especially as data centers are coming

1 into our communities, advanced manufacturing is
2 growing, and really other high load of industries
3 continue to expand all across the state of Florida.

4 We have heard it. Nobody likes to pay more.
5 Nobody likes an increase. We all want to pay the
6 lowest we can. But when you think about what this
7 can do for the community, continue to do for the
8 community, you know, even with the adjustment, you
9 know, FPL has proven to be one of the most reliable
10 energy companies, and very proud to have them in
11 the state of Florida as one of the most reliable
12 energy providers in the country.

13 In favor of the rate increase, and really
14 supporting it means that Florida's continued
15 economic growth will continue. It really ensures
16 that FPL is going to stay on the forefront in the
17 continued of the challenges, whether it's, we've
18 heard grid hardening earlier tonight, or really
19 meeting all of the energy demands that are placed
20 upon our community. So from the business
21 community, and really manufacturing sector, and
22 really Florida's competitiveness, this is an
23 investment worth spent.

24 I appreciate your time tonight. Thank you so
25 much. I appreciate all you do.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. We are going to
3 hear next from Michael Wood, and then we would like
4 to hear from Vincent Cuomo, Dr. Lori Vinikoor and
5 Rex Kirby.

6 Michael.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT

8 MR. WOOD: Mr. Commissioner, Commissioners.
9 My name is Michael Wood. I live in West Boca
10 Raton, Florida, and I have been an FPL customer for
11 over 20 years.

12 I run a permit business here in south Florida,
13 and I want you to know that I can speak to the
14 service and the level of service that we receive
15 from FPL and its field people.

16 I heard the Boca -- Boynton Commissioner speak
17 about Amy Kemp. That's just one person in the list
18 -- litany of characters that are out there for FPL.
19 You have of Elan. You have Taylor. You have
20 Roger. I have probably worked with everyone
21 between Vero and Miami in the FPL field dealing
22 with power and power installation, moving
23 pedestals.

24 To give you some idea of how I come and speak
25 to this and my background, our company is presently

1 doing over \$2 billion in capital improvement
2 permitting here in South Florida from the Olara
3 project over 500 million in West Palm to the
4 Boynton Hospital in Boca Raton that's over \$1
5 billion. We are doing major projects that we
6 couldn't do without the exemplary service we have
7 been getting from FPL and its people. Their
8 Engineering people are Johnny-on-the-spot providing
9 alternatives that lower cost for the ability to
10 serve and give us power.

11 So I am here tonight to tell you that that
12 group of people, they need a round applause for the
13 effort they put in. I worked in Virginia, with
14 Virginia Power and Dominion Resources for many
15 years before coming here as an attorney, and I can
16 tell you the level of service here is bar none the
17 best I have ever seen.

18 Thank you for your time and your service, and
19 I appreciate the opportunity to be here to speak.

20 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
21 testimony.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT

23 MR. CUOMO: Good evening, Commissioners. I am
24 Vinny Cuomo. I will try to be as fast as I
25 possibly can, I am not going to take the full three

1 minutes.

2 I wanted to let you know that I have been a
3 resident of Palm Beach County for 38 years. I am a
4 business owner, and I have come here to talk to you
5 about the rate hike and how at this feel. I know a
6 lot of citizens you are going to hear from are
7 possibly against it, and I wanted to let you know
8 there is also some citizens just like myself, who
9 have been here for a very long time that thought it
10 through and weighed all our decisions and came to
11 the point that we think it's something that you
12 should move forward with. Hopefully you will hear
13 me out and look in favor of my words.

14 As a business owner, I understand the cost of
15 business. And when I look around at the rest of
16 the state and nationally, I know there should be a
17 few things that should be taken into consideration
18 with this request. Let's start with inflation.

19 As all you have probably heard, and over time,
20 inflation has been really crazy. I have been doing
21 this for 29 years in the finance world, never seen
22 inflation like this ever before. That being the
23 case, it costs a lot more money for me to employ
24 people. It costs me a lot more money to buy
25 materials. It costs a lot more money for

1 insurance, and that goes for FPL also.

2 I have personally watched as FPL has
3 strengthened their power grid locally. I have seen
4 them make mass improvements regarding changing out
5 wood poles to cement, burying lines, and also
6 cutting back foliage and trees around my area.
7 That's probably cost that company hundreds of
8 millions of dollars to do.

9 Now when a hurricane comes, they reach out to
10 other utilities like people have brought out, and
11 they have those utilities bring their employees in.
12 They also ask their own employees to work overtime
13 to get the power back as on soon as possible, and I
14 have been astounded how quick they have been doing
15 that over the last couple of years.

16 They overly -- last year also consistently has
17 been one of the reliable utilities in the nation.
18 Here is this giant company, and as they grow, they
19 don't change their focus. They try to keep the
20 lowest cost for the consumer in the nation. These
21 are all facts that we have heard and we know.

22 If you want to compare them, why don't you try
23 to compare them to the other major utilities out in
24 the other three larger states, California, Texas
25 and New York. I am originally from New York. We

1 know what those utilities look like and all their
2 major problems. There is nothing but mismanagement
3 in those companies. And here we are with this
4 large corporation, who has been managed in a way I
5 think that has been respectful.

6 When you look around, you will see that FPL is
7 actually a very well run company that tries to do
8 its best for its -- and the best interest in the
9 eyes of the consumer. Sure, you will have people
10 tell you their one-off stories of this happened or
11 that happened, but by and far, I can't fault FPL at
12 all.

13 I understand it's a business, and most
14 important, if you want to keep them reliable and
15 efficient, then we need to spend a little bit more
16 money in this inflationary environment. And for
17 those reasons, I am fully behind the rate hike. No
18 one likes it, but I think it is necessary.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
21 testimony.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT

23 DR. VINIKOOR: I am next. Good evening, Chair
24 and Commissioners. I am Lori Vinikoor, President
25 of the Alliance of Delray Residential Association

1 and a resident and farmer in the Agricultural
2 Reserve. Wow, 100 years from delivering ice to
3 delivering power. I was asked to speak of my
4 experience with FPL. And 25 years ago on my farm
5 we had -- we had electric run water -- well water,
6 and when there was a hurricane or extended outages
7 in the afternoons, they went on for hours. This
8 was 25 years ago. But the worst part was during
9 hurricanes when the horses had to be allowed to
10 drink out of the lake. And the problem is horses
11 swim, so we would find them in the Everglades,
12 because they couldn't -- the wells weren't working
13 because we didn't have electricity. So since then,
14 the service has improved exponentially to, just
15 moments of power outages once in a while the way
16 you describe it in one of your brochures there. It
17 really is excellent.

18 And when the -- there is a little extended
19 outage, the artificial intelligence, the computer
20 system, I get messages on my phone and phone calls.
21 That's very good to update information to the
22 people. That helps so much when you allow people
23 to know what is going on and your expected recovery
24 of your electricity. That is really an excellent
25 process there.

1 As President of the Alliance of Delray
2 Residential Association, it is a civic organization
3 made up of more than 100 communities between the
4 Everglades and the ocean in Delray Beach. Most
5 issues from our communities mostly come around
6 Wednesday it's a storm time and hurricane time.
7 But when they -- we do have some during the year
8 that there are issues, but the external affairs
9 manager, especially, like the gentleman said
10 before, Amy Kemp, and others before, I have known
11 many of them over the years. They have efficiently
12 connected with the community, so that really is
13 excellent. But if there is a way that FPL can
14 expand, like, any assistance programs to -- for the
15 senior population, because we have the epicenter of
16 the senior community in Delray Beach, and even
17 probably in Palm Beach County, even probably in
18 Florida here, we are the epicenter of 55 and older
19 communities, and they have really been hit hard
20 with assessments because of the -- which have
21 increased dramatically since the Surfside
22 condominium collapse, so people are hurting in that
23 respect, but there can be some expansion of some
24 assistance programs, that might be helpful. But we
25 really, the service is excellent.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

3 MR. TRIERWEILER: Mr. Kirby, if you give me a
4 second to go ahead and get David Ricks, Chris
5 Keldie and Chris Shea on deck, please. Thank you.

6 MR. KIRBY: Ready for me?

7 THE WITNESS: Yeah, Mr. Kirby, you are
8 recognized.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT

10 MR. KIRBY: My name is Rex Kirby. I am have
11 the founder and CEO of Verdex Construction. We are
12 one of the largest contractors in South Florida,
13 headquartered in Palm Beach. We have projects that
14 we work out of this office all the way from north
15 Miami up into the Stuart Port St. Lucie area. We
16 also have a Tampa office, where we service
17 Tampa/Sarasota market. And we have an office up in
18 Gainesville as well. Our biggest client is the
19 University of Florida up there, so we cover a
20 pretty good area of the state. So you might ask
21 why I am here.

22 So our job as a contractor is to not only
23 deliver a project for apprise, but also deliver IT
24 by a time certain time. We are building everything
25 from apartments, to student housing, to assisted

1 living, and all of these, the only way our clients
2 get revenue is having heads on beds, and so getting
3 these jobs done on time is imperative.

4 In order for us to complete a project on time
5 we have to be able to get power to that building by
6 a certain stage of the construction or we are just
7 not going to make it. And the worst part about
8 that is not only the damages that we receive and
9 the cost for us staying on site, but the worst is
10 just the relationship that is destroyed with the
11 client by not getting that project done on time.

12 So, hey, listen with the growth we have had in
13 Florida, all businesses and organizations are
14 stretched. Sometimes the world is not perfect, but
15 we have been able to find ways to reach out to FPL
16 when we do have a problem and we are not getting
17 our power as needed, and they have been able to get
18 us in touch with people that found out, hey, they
19 are not crying wolf. We do need to find a way to
20 get their power to them, and they have been able to
21 a help us. And I got to tell you, you know, that
22 kind of service is just indispensable for a company
23 like mine, where we got to get these projects done
24 on time.

25 FPL is a huge company, but the fact that they

1 have these resources in place that you can reach
2 out to that can help, I think, is something is that
3 is I reviewed replaceable as far as being able to
4 serve a client for a company that size.

5 Now, I find my cell phone, I am usually up
6 here saying no more taxes, no more rate hikes, but
7 I got to tell you we are -- as a contractor, 2021,
8 2022, we went through the absolute worst bout of
9 escalation on construction prices I have ever seen
10 in my career of 40 years. We had price increases
11 over that two-year stretch as much as 35 percent
12 across the board.

13 Now, I know we couldn't do anything to control
14 that, and I know that even as big as FPL is, they
15 probably were faced with some of the same price
16 increases. So I think it is reasonable to allow
17 FPL to adjust their prices, you know, to let's keep
18 up with the current environment, and also to,
19 again, be able to continue that level of service
20 that I think we all the need to do our jobs and
21 deliver our jobs on time.

22 So thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

24 MS. McMANAMON: I have a quick question.

25 Sorry.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yes, Mr. Kirby, if you
2 don't mind answering a question.

3 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you.

4 Do you have any affiliation with the Palm
5 Beaches Chamber of Commerce?

6 MR. KIRBY: Yes, I do.

7 MS. McMANAMON: What is your role?

8 MR. KIRBY: I am a recently added board
9 member.

10 MS. McMANAMON: Are you aware of anyone at FPL
11 also on the board?

12 MR. KIRBY: I am aware of FPL on almost every
13 board in Palm Beach County with their headquarters
14 here. It's hard to go out in the business
15 community without running into people that are
16 involved with FPL.

17 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you.

18 MR. KIRBY: Thank you.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

20 MR. RICKS: Good evening, Chair, members of
21 the Commission. Thank you for this opportunity.

22 I am David Ricks. I am representing Palm
23 Beach County in my role. I am the County Engineer.
24 As the County Engineer, I am responsible for the
25 transportation infrastructure for the County, which

1 means about 3,600 lane miles, about 1,300 traffic
2 intersections, basically all the intersections
3 that's within our geographic perimeter, excluding
4 the town of Palm Beach and town of Boca Raton,
5 including all the DOT intersections.

6 So why is that important? Well, FPL is
7 basically integral in terms of the success of our
8 transportation infrastructure. And so on a regular
9 basis -- now, we have, in the past year, we have
10 got, you know, 10 to 12 different ongoing
11 construction projects, road widening our
12 intersections, and those require coordination with
13 FPL serve is critical.

14 And then in the pipeline, we have got over 100
15 projects in the pipeline, about \$300 million worth
16 of projects that we are coordinating with all the
17 utility issues with all different utility
18 providers, and FPL is one of them.

19 But for FPL in particular, especially for
20 emergencies, and people talk about emergency.
21 Well, we prep for emergencies like all utilities
22 and all the major public entities. Well, FPL is
23 actually in our Emergency Operations Center, and
24 part of me as the -- in terms of the County
25 Engineer, they have provided, you know, basically

1 dedicated crews when power -- when the storm passes
2 to go out with our road and bridge folks to make
3 sure the power is secure so we can clear the road
4 for basically getting the roads open, and that is
5 critical.

6 But the other piece of that is looking at the
7 1,300 traffic signals, they require power. And so
8 without having power reliability, when a signal is
9 out for a major intersection, you can't have cops
10 everywhere. And so they have provided reliable
11 service getting those intersections back on power
12 in a short period of time. So I would -- you know,
13 this is really talking about the quality of
14 service, but I would highly recommend taking a hard
15 look at -- in terms of what FPL needs to provide
16 that reliable infrastructure in the future, because
17 it's not cheap. And even as far as road costs has
18 gone up, like the gentleman indicated with the
19 construction costs.

20 But, again, FPL has been a valuable partner
21 for the County in terms of providing ongoing
22 projects, and also emergency services, which has
23 been critical for us and successful. They are a
24 critical partner for us.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
2 testimony.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 MR. KELDIE: Now can you hear me? Yeah. My
5 name is Chris Keldie. I am the owner of CK
6 Renovation. I did want to mention that I worked at
7 FPL Energy Services from 2010 to 2014.

8 My company is a project management company
9 based in Palm Beach County, primarily focused on
10 renovations, additions, new builds and historic
11 renovations as well. I am here in support of FPL
12 and to speak to the good working relationship that
13 I have with the utility.

14 I work with FPL on new service connections and
15 also existing accounts as well. So being in
16 construction, I appreciate what FPL does to prepare
17 for storms. I know it's a major undertaking for me
18 getting job sites ready before a storm and then
19 what we have to do afterwards. For my clients, and
20 for me personally, my -- our service has always
21 been excellent reliability as well. In my
22 business, reliability has never been more
23 important.

24 Custom homes have added features, advancements
25 in home automation and nearly every job that I have

1 has an EV charger. I understand what FPL has to
2 put in to their system, and this is a huge growth
3 period in Florida.

4 10 years ago, most of my jobs were seasonal
5 second homes and currently, these are primary
6 residents. And I am sure everybody here knows how
7 many people are moving down to Florida permanently.
8 So, you know, my clients rely on me to complete
9 projects on time with attention to detail, and I
10 have a network of subcontractors that rely on me to
11 get new jobs. And frankly, it's been a challenge
12 to bid jobs with how much costs have gone up; you
13 know, it's materials, equipment, labor. And, you
14 know, I don't think anybody wants higher rates, but
15 I don't really see a way to avoid it. So I do
16 support the rate increase, and just from the
17 quality of service that I have received.

18 So thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
20 testimony.

21 MR. TRIERWEILER: We are going to hear next
22 from Chris Shea, but I want to get Alex Larson,
23 Teresa West and Cinde Martin on deck.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Mr. Shea, you are
25 recognized.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MR. SHEA: Good evening. Chris Shea. I am a
3 35-year resident of Singer Island. Most
4 importantly, on the south end Palm Beach Shores,
5 approximately five years ago, FPL came in and we
6 discussed hardening of our infrastructure.
7 Thankfully the town voted to go underground. Since
8 then the quality of life and reliability of our
9 services has greatly improved.

10 Prior to that, being a coastal community, we
11 would have outages any given time a tropical storm
12 or any type of wind events kicked up. Since then,
13 we have had none. We haven't tested the
14 infrastructure yet due to a storm, and thankfully,
15 hopefully, we don't have to. So for that reason
16 alone, I am in favor of the rate increase, and I
17 hope that they will consider doing that to the rest
18 of the island.

19 And it's no secret that there is large
20 construction projects in Riviera Beach, Lake Park
21 and the rest of the coastal community moving north,
22 and, FPL, I hope you are considering the
23 beautification, because our island, not only is it
24 reliable, but it's a much more beautiful place to
25 live when you don't have to look at power lines.

1 So if that's a possibility, the infrastructure, US
2 1, in my corridor that I travel every single day, I
3 would love to see that happen as well.

4 So I also am a property and casualty insurance
5 salesperson, so I am no stranger to rate increases.
6 I deliver them on a daily basis. Nobody likes to
7 see it, but it's the fact of what we have to do
8 living in Florida. So I am in favor of the rate
9 increase, and thank you for your time.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: Ms. Larson?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

13 MS. LARSON: How are you? I have always been
14 fighting with the Public Service Commission. I
15 have been fighting with FPL since 1983, and I am
16 not going to tell you how old I am.

17 I thought it was really funny you didn't swear
18 in the elected officials. We swore in after they
19 spoke. That's always interesting to me. But, FPL,
20 to ask for rate increase in such hard times is very
21 tough to watch. I know I heard the insurance guy
22 say we have -- yeah, well, insurance is a crime
23 too. Crime scene tape everywhere in the state of
24 Florida. We pay more for insurance than anywhere
25 else in the United State. A friend of mine

1 downsized, her insurance went from 4,000 to 8,000.
2 Don't even get me started on that one.

3 But, FPL, as far as -- making \$21 million, 6.6
4 billion in profit. That's enough. When is enough
5 enough? That's my question always. When is enough
6 enough? How much money do people have to make
7 before their heads explode? Because that's -- it's
8 ridiculous. They shouldn't have to make those
9 insane salaries.

10 Back in '89-'90, they fired 10,000 service
11 workers at FPL and then we got Andrew. People
12 didn't have power until December. Andrew was
13 August 24th, 1992. My assistant had one wall
14 standing in her house. Her kids thought she could
15 fix that.

16 Some things can't be fixed, but rate increases
17 can, because it is -- each rate increase is more
18 and more and more on top, and hopefully, one day,
19 the Public Service Commission will say uncle,
20 because I have done -- Art knows me, a couple of
21 you know me. I have done this. I have done it as
22 a lay person.

23 I remember I fought for a rebate because of
24 something that didn't happen at FPL. And guess
25 what, it took them 10 years to give the rebate back

1 to the customers, 25 percent. It shouldn't be that
2 way. It should be quickly, and financially sound,
3 like it is with their stuff.

4 Their rate increases are every four years.
5 They do this every four years. It's without fail.
6 And we do need better timing, better things going
7 on right now because our country is in a flux, and
8 it is as far as money goes, I know the one thing
9 that I get approached for every day is how hard it
10 is for everyone to live, and I am nobody. I am a
11 housewife. I am not an elected official. I am not
12 going to fight for a rate to increase. I want it
13 to either stay the same or go lower, because I
14 think \$6.6 billion, when they don't even have
15 their, you know, their -- the people who do
16 investments, they won't even have the meeting here
17 anymore. FPL meets in Texas, and we have five
18 million people here that are customers, and off of
19 that, they are making \$6.6 billion. Do the math,
20 Commissioners. Maybe give them a little bit less,
21 just a little.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
24 testimony.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Teresa West.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT

2 MS. WEST: Good evening. My name is Teresa
3 West. I am speaking on behalf of the Education
4 Foundation of Palm Beach County, and I am here to
5 say that when most people think of Florida Power &
6 Light, they think of power, electricity, but I am
7 here to tell you that FPL is much more than a power
8 company. They are a company that empowers the
9 community, and through creativity, innovation and a
10 deep commitment to excellence, not just in
11 business, but also how they show up for people.
12 FPL has become a model for meaningful community
13 engagement. And here is just a few examples:

14 Creativity. FPL invests in professional
15 learning communities. So where STEM teachers able
16 to, across the district, are able to come together,
17 collaborate and share best practices and grow.
18 They don't just support the idea, they remove
19 barriers by having substitute teachers come into
20 the classroom so those teachers with attend the
21 trainings. Their forward-thinking and support is
22 in action.

23 Also innovation. FPL powers equity through
24 STEM classroom make over grants just recently,
25 giving students across all backgrounds access to

1 first class learning environments and a brighter
2 future.

3 Third is excellent. The team at FPL and
4 NextEra don't just give, they show up. From
5 volunteering at our Red Apple Supply Free Teacher
6 Resource Store to mentoring students, and
7 supporting hands-on STEM projects in local
8 classrooms, they lead by example offering their
9 time, talent and treasure.

10 And for decades, FPL has been the driving
11 force of our board of directors, modeling what
12 long-term strategic leadership looks like. Their
13 commitment has inspired others to follow their lead
14 and invest in our mission.

15 And now the part why we are all here today, to
16 talk about the FPL's filing for new rates, and
17 let's be honest, no one wants to pay more, but what
18 stands out to me most, even while managing those
19 changes, is FPL continues to invest in our
20 community, especially in public education. Their
21 support hasn't wavered, and that speaks volumes.

22 So while rate increases are never easy, I
23 understand it, because I see firsthand that FPL
24 gives back. Their impact reaches beyond power
25 lines into classrooms, into future careers, and

1 into the lives of students who are better prepared
2 because of their support. Partnerships like this
3 aren't just helpful, they are essential. And in
4 Palm Beach County, no partner shows up better than
5 Florida Power & Light, more consistently,
6 generously and impactful. Their commitment to
7 equity, educational and empowerment isn't just an
8 initiative, it's in their DNA.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
11 testimony.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

13 MS. MARTINEZ: Hello, and thank you, Chairman
14 and Commissioners and everyone, for your time
15 tonight. All the people here, thank you very much.

16 My name is Cinde Martin. I have been a
17 customer of FPL since 1985. I reside in 1966
18 Emilio Lane in West Palm Beach, and I own property
19 at 1654 C Road Loxahatchee Groves.

20 FPL reached out to me because they know my
21 interest in this subject. I serve many different
22 community events, and volunteer a lot, and am a
23 marketing consultant. And over the years since I
24 have worked with FPL, since I have been an FPL
25 customer, I have worked with many FPL employees and

1 seen what they do for the community. I echo and
2 ditto everything everyone said supporting the rate
3 increase. I also want to just bring in a little
4 bit more down to the bottom line.

5 When I pull up to my home tonight after
6 testifying, I will push my electronic garage door
7 opener. I will walk into my house, and I will be
8 hot from all day, and the air conditioning will be
9 on. My ceiling fans will be on. My family will be
10 eating dinner that they made on our microwave and
11 electric stove. They will be enjoying each other's
12 company, music may be on, the TV may be on, all of
13 these things that we don't think about that we take
14 for granted every day. Modern day conveniences
15 that were at one time luxuries are now what we
16 expect.

17 When I look at my bill from FPL, I figure out
18 what it costs to take care of my 2,000 square-foot
19 home for me and my husband who live there. Our
20 children don't live with us any longer. Our bill
21 runs between \$180 and \$260 a month, depending if
22 it's season and we don't have the air conditioning
23 on in January and February, or if it's summer.
24 When I do the calculation for that, that's less
25 than a cup of coffee per day for me and my husband

1 to live with all these modern day conveniences and
2 luxuries. This is a bargain, I think.

3 We -- nobody wants to pay more, as everyone
4 said, but the cost of everything is going up, and
5 we have to support the companies and conveniences
6 and luxuries that we expect that support us.

7 FPL invests in the infrastructure, the grid,
8 equipment, technology, and as the last speaker just
9 said, the community endlessly. We need to support
10 them as well. They employ many, many people, and
11 those people all add to our economic churn here in
12 Palm Beach County. Not only do they employ a lot
13 of people, they seem to employ exemplary employees,
14 who are smart and wise, and care about this
15 community. That's what we should want to support.

16 There is certainty in billing for the next
17 four years, and we know that there is reliable
18 power. I just encourage everyone to support this.
19 And anyone who deals with any menopausal woman,
20 which is everyone in this room, should support FPL
21 because of the air conditioning. That alone.

22 Thank you all. Thank you for your time.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
24 testimony.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Our next speaker is going to

1 be Fred Angelo, and then we will hear from Rick
2 Reikenis, David Markarian and Jordan Rathlev, and
3 that will take us to halfway through our list.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great.

5 Mr. Angelo, you are recognized.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT

7 MR. ANGELO: All right. I am not used to
8 being halfway through the list, but that's a good
9 thing for you guys.

10 First of all, thank you guys for coming to
11 Palm Beach. You have a nice sunny day today if you
12 got outside.

13 I would just like to mention, FPL is
14 everywhere in this community. I have been a
15 28-year fireman here, you can't go from north
16 county to south county, from Belle Glade to the
17 coast, and somebody not be there. So there is
18 going to be a lot of people here who are friends
19 with FPL, for sure.

20 But in my capacity as a 28-year fireman, I
21 have been dispatched all over the county, but also
22 all over the country. And it doesn't take but one
23 second for me to remember Katrina. And I don't
24 know how many of you made it to Katrina or watched
25 it on TV, but you didn't get to smell the smell.

1 You didn't get to see the devastation. But more
2 importantly, what never mailed the news was not one
3 utility worker from that community showed up. Not
4 one fireman. Not one policeman. Not one teacher,
5 because they weren't getting paid. Their rates
6 were too low. They weren't trained.

7 All the things we are talking about start in
8 the very beginning with training, professional
9 training. Being ready. Having a professional
10 response.

11 You know, we are in Florida we are talking
12 about hurricanes, but what about cyber attacks?
13 Nobody said one thing about a cyber attack. Every
14 single day, Palm Beach County is hit with about
15 80,000, 30,000 to 80,000 people trying to enter the
16 system. I know DMV has more than that. They got
17 to prepare for this. AI, they are going to just
18 write a program, be stronger on the next program.
19 They got to be prepared.

20 If we are here complaining about rates, we are
21 in trouble. We are in trouble. You never cut your
22 way to success. That's one thing for sure. If you
23 are going after cutting rates, or even holding
24 steady while everybody else in this world is
25 advancing, we are falling behind, and at 20

1 something percent, I think my wife said 28 percent
2 pay raise this last year as a nurse because they
3 didn't keep up, so in one year they had to give
4 them five, six, seven, eight years worth of raises,
5 right. Where are we going here?

6 Nobody wants to have rate increases. My
7 insurance goes you every single year, not my
8 homeowners, my health insurance. Why? Because it
9 costs more. These employees want raises. They are
10 not going to sit home and be, like, hey, hopefully
11 I can make it to the movies this week. I will
12 watch Netflix again.

13 We got to take care of people. And if we are
14 turning our backs on our utility workers, here we
15 come, six months, every year, six months of Florida
16 could be a disaster, or it could be the funest time
17 every. But we can't stand to sit back and say,
18 hey, when is the next Katrina coming? We will fund
19 it then, you know.

20 So let's talk about what's real. We got to be
21 prepared with professional people. I am a
22 professional EMS, firefighter, technical rescue.
23 It didn't come in a minute. It didn't come in five
24 days. It took 15 years to train me to be able to
25 do the perfect way to save the right people, and we

1 are counting on you guys to make the tough
2 decision. The people aren't going to come here and
3 say, yeah, let's have a big raise, but that's
4 what's needed.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
7 testimony.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MR. REIKENIS: Mr. Chairman, member of the
10 Commission, my name is Rick Reikenis. I am a
11 resident at 830 Biscayne Drive in West Palm Beach.
12 I have been a resident of West Palm Beach in Palm
13 Beach County since 1978. I have lived through at
14 least five hurricanes where the eyes hit across our
15 house.

16 I am also an engineer in private practice here
17 in Palm Beach County, but my career, in addition to
18 what I do in Palm Beach County and West Palm Beach,
19 my career, over the past 40, almost 50 years, has
20 taken me to large infrastructure projects in
21 Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, Central and
22 South America and the Near East. And the one thing
23 I have learned is that unless you have reliable and
24 affordable power, it's very difficult to get
25 anything done.

1 With reliable power, and affordable power,
2 what you can have is you can power your
3 universities and schools. You can power hospitals
4 if. You can have successful and consistent
5 industry that employs people, agriculture. You
6 have water and wastewater treatment plants that can
7 operate and provide essential safe drinking water
8 and wastewater service to communities. Without
9 that, it becomes very difficult and very expensive
10 to do much of anything else.

11 I have done countless projects here in Palm
12 Beach County over the past decades. Every single
13 one of them involves some sort of interface with
14 FPL at one time or another. Although, I am the
15 civil engineer, water and wastewater drainage, we
16 still deal with FPL because they have got to set
17 transformers, they have to bring in lines and that
18 kind of thing. Their responsiveness has been
19 absolutely fantastic.

20 I will echo the same thing. Ditto. Nobody
21 wants to say a rate increase, but I tend to think
22 that as an engineer, I tend to look at costs. I
23 look at the value of the dollar.

24 My 2016 Subaru with 210,000 miles on it, last
25 week decided to retire on me, right. And so what

1 did I do? I went and bought a new car. I paid --
2 holy cow, what did I pay for a car? And, you know,
3 all things considered, yes, do I love the new car
4 and the new car smell? I do, but that was a lot of
5 money. That was a huge increase over the last six
6 years from when I bought that 2016 Subaru.

7 All things considered, I think FPL does an
8 amazing job. When I worked with other power
9 providers in those other developing countries and
10 those emerging markets, this is just, like, really
11 nice. Really nice. I don't have power -- we don't
12 have power going out every two or three hours and
13 still paying 35, 40 cents a kilowatt, you know.
14 It's a pleasure to do work here with FPL.

15 And I was asked to come here and speak, and
16 had I not wanted to, I would have made up an
17 excuse. But the fact is, I think these guys do a
18 really good job. And all things considered, we are
19 really well off and should be grateful to have them
20 here.

21 Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
23 testimony.

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: David Markarian.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT

1 MR. MARKARIAN: Hi, Chairman. Hello, Chairman
2 La Rosa.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: How are you?

4 MR. MARKARIAN: Commissioners, I am great, and
5 staff, and all those representing competing
6 interests, welcome to south Florida. I read you
7 were somewhere else yesterday. I am imaging you
8 are somewhere else tomorrow. And I am a little
9 built in awe when I walked in and saw all of you
10 here. And, you know, the best decisions get made
11 in collaboration and with reflection, so I
12 appreciate y'all being here and the reporter is
13 probably working the hardest of all of us.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: She is for sure.

15 MR. MARKARIAN: I am Dave Markarian. I did
16 work, not for Florida Power & Light, but for the
17 competitive company NextEra Energy, about a quarter
18 century ago, but I haven't had any employment or
19 financial ties, or no stock ownership or anything
20 for, you know, well over a decade. But I am in
21 this community for about 10 years as a ratepayer, a
22 dad, a husband, business owner, but also in my
23 time, I have owned homes and been a ratepayer in
24 Washington, DC, had a home in North Carolina and
25 Tallahassee. And comparing those three experiences

1 to, you know, which were frequent outages, very,
2 very high rates, especially in Tallahassee and
3 Washington, DC, you compare it to what we are
4 dealing with here, and our bills are low, and there
5 has been a shift towards fuel diversity that
6 eliminates reliance on the Venezuelan oil and, you
7 know, coal, and things that are really bad, in my
8 opinion, for the earth, and that's the reason I am
9 here tonight, because of this company's commitment
10 to clean and renewable energy. It's not so much
11 what they do, but how they do it that I think is
12 important.

13 I am a native of Florida. I am a native of
14 Miami, actually Hialeah, and I say that proudly,
15 because you might laugh if you visit Hialeah or
16 Miami today, we grew up environmentally conscious.
17 We were constantly outdoors. We were on Biscayne
18 Bay. We cared about clean water and clean air,
19 because that's what we did. And the way you are
20 raised is the way you are. That's how you are set
21 up.

22 And so how we treat the earth and how we
23 generate electricity, to me, is really important,
24 because I do believe that when we release not just
25 fumes into the environment, over time that has an

1 impact on the earth. And the more we can do to
2 minimize that, I just think that's the right thing
3 to do. How we treat the earth is really, really,
4 really important, and I am okay, I am okay paying a
5 little more to do things the right way.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
8 testimony.

9 Sir, quick question.

10 MR. MARKARIAN: Of course.

11 MS. McMANAMON: Hello. Hi.

12 MR. MARKARIAN: Hi.

13 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you for staying.

14 MR. MARKARIAN: I am glad your here.

15 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you.

16 You testified that the Tallahassee rates are
17 much higher bills?

18 MR. MARKARIAN: Yes.

19 MS. McMANAMON: Would it surprise you to learn
20 that, in 2023, FPL's average monthly residential
21 bill was \$170, and in Tallahassee it was 122?

22 MR. MARKARIAN: So I don't know that, because
23 I didn't have a house in 2023. However, I was able
24 to compare, I had a house here in Palm Beach
25 County, which was much bigger than the house in

1 Tallahassee, and it was twice as expensive, so I
2 don't -- I am assuming some of you are from
3 Tallahassee, and I would rather be here.

4 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Before we hear from Jordan.
7 Chairman, do we want to break or push through?

8 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: No, I think we are good for
9 a few more minutes. Are you good? You sure? All
10 right.

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. After we hear
12 from Jordan, let's hear from John Call, David Aden
13 and Debbie Murphy, please.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: You are recognized, sir.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT

16 MR. RATHLEV: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and
17 Commissioners. Again, thank you for you time.

18 My name is Jordan Rathlev, and I am here
19 before you as both a resident of West Palm Beach
20 and in customer and also as Executive
21 Vice-President of Related Ross, one of the largest
22 private developers and owners of commercial real
23 estate in Palm Beach County.

24 We currently own a portfolio of over two
25 million square feet, and have a development

1 pipeline in excess of \$5 million focused in West
2 Palm Beach and broader Palm Beach County.

3 From a personal perspective, I relocated to
4 West Palm Beach nearly eight years ago, and into an
5 area that is prone to natural disasters. I don't
6 think that's any secret. But I am comforted by the
7 fact that FPL has and continues to make such a
8 significant investment in the area, including
9 resiliency of their network, and this includes
10 undergrounding and hardening lines. And there is
11 no question having power on in one of those most
12 unfortunate situations that may arise is never a
13 question for me and my family.

14 Investment, not only in key infrastructure,
15 but also in key customer facing technology,
16 provides an ease of access for customers to
17 directly interface with FPL and allows for
18 expedited response times from technicians that I
19 never witnessed in any other market that I have
20 lived or worked in within the country.

21 Given the continued commitment to key
22 investment, I can honestly say I am never concerned
23 about having to face one of the rolling blackouts
24 or extended prolonged periods of time without
25 service that you read about in countless other

1 markets around the country.

2 From a professional standpoint, I know that
3 Related Ross has seen the benefit of FPL's
4 long-term approach to not only investing in the
5 keel infrastructure, but a compliment to the
6 investment in its own people.

7 From a long-term planning approach that
8 accounts for the growth of the region, to the
9 upfront investment in key personnel that help
10 provide support on some of our key and larger
11 development projects, I can say that we all benefit
12 from such a well run organization.

13 When we were out in California and New York,
14 or even Texas, pitching companies in residents to
15 either relocate here or move here, one of the first
16 topics that we cover is the resiliency and the
17 reliability of our electrical services provided by
18 FPL. There is no other part of the country that I
19 think can honestly say we have one of the most
20 forward-thinking, innovative and low cost utilities
21 ever seen.

22 And when discussing a region known for severe
23 weather, there can be no better case study than
24 what we see with FPL here in south Florida. What
25 they have been able to accomplish in this region in

1 terms of resiliency and service, particularly
2 during times of emergency, is unparalleled. Having
3 reliable, low cost electricity has proven to be one
4 of the -- part of the key winning formula that we
5 have had in attracting these new companies and
6 residents to the region.

7 By supporting a company that is committed to
8 continued investment in key infrastructure and
9 delivering key high quality reliable service, we
10 are providing the opportunity for all in this
11 region benefit.

12 The proposed rate increase will allow for
13 those investments to continue, and we believe has
14 the ability to lower customer bills due to improved
15 efficiency and lower fuel costs in the long-term.
16 That means reduced customer bills, and I think for
17 this region, that's clearly something we, and me
18 personally, can support.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
21 testimony.

22 You are recognized.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT

24 MR. CARR: I just want to make sure and
25 clarify, was that John Carr or John Call?

1 MR. TRIERWEILER: I -- it could be either one.

2 MR. CARR: I am sorry about the handwriting.

3 Good evening, everyone. I appreciate you
4 being here tonight and hearing us.

5 As a resident of Palm Beach County for over 50
6 years, there has been one company that is still
7 here, I still see that envelope come in from when I
8 was a kid, till today -- well, maybe not the
9 envelopes anymore, but the envelopes of FPL making
10 sure that I have power in my home and am able to
11 provide for my family.

12 As a business owner of a locally owned and
13 operated roofing and restoration company, we
14 specialize in disaster response. And one of the
15 things that's important for us when a disaster
16 strikes, I lead my disaster team all over the
17 state, sometimes all over the country, but mostly
18 all over the state to provide services to make sure
19 peoples homes are either safe or not inhabitable.
20 We have to get them out of the home or building.
21 There has been one constant to me in any of the
22 areas that FPL has been servicing, I have been able
23 to call them and ask them for help to provide
24 safety for my team when they are on the roof or
25 safety for the people that are in their home. They

1 have always been there for us.

2 I have been all over the country doing this,
3 and I can tell you one thing, the commitment that
4 FPL has has been second to none. Whether it's
5 through the disaster response team or giving back
6 to the community.

7 The other thing is, I did have a place in New
8 Smyrna Beach for a period of time, and we had a
9 different utility. And when it rained, the power
10 went out, when it rained. That's all it took.
11 Didn't even need to be lightning, and the rates
12 were higher, and it was a small little apartment
13 compared to my small little home that I have here.

14 So to keep providing these services, great
15 services throughout their service area, this takes
16 money, and also it takes money to run businesses.
17 In my business, it's normal for my company to have
18 a 10-percent price increase every single year,
19 sometimes a couple times a year just on material.

20 I want you to think about this for one moment.
21 For me to hire a project manager today is double
22 what it was three years ago. Today, it costs me
23 close to \$10 more an hour to hire just regular
24 labor work for my job sites. So this takes money
25 in order for FPL to provide the services, and the

1 great service that they provide. The only way I
2 can provide great service is I have to pay it.

3 So as you can tell, I am here to support the
4 rate increase. I think it's good for their family.
5 I think it's good for the community to make sure
6 that they continue to provide the great services
7 that they do.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
10 testimony.

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: Our next customer is David
12 Anders. I would like to have Debbie Murphy on
13 deck, Louise Sherman and Paul Catalano, please.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT

15 MR. ABERS: David Abers. I guess my
16 handwriting is equally as poor as the prior
17 gentleman.

18 I am the Vice-President of Residential NADG,
19 and I also serve on the Boca Raton Affordable
20 Housing Advisory Committee.

21 Firstly, shout out to the Florida Panthers for
22 making their third consecutive Stanley Cup. We are
23 a West Palm Beach -- there you go. We are a West
24 Palm Beach headquartered 50-year-old company that
25 has developed thousands of units across Florida on

1 four million square feet of retail, and will
2 develop an additional 2,000 units over the next few
3 years. Our relationship with FPL is truly a
4 partnership.

5 I am never into personal many shout-outs, but
6 Amy Kemp, Don Kay, Ragan Reeves, Rihanna Holloway,
7 Tom Estes, among others, have all allowed us to be
8 successful over these years.

9 Nobody likes paying more for anything whatever
10 it may be. Costs are up significantly since the
11 last increase that FPL put out a few years ago.
12 Rex Kirby, who I think no longer is here, but spoke
13 earlier, is likely to build a project for us in
14 West Delray that has 119 workforce housing units.
15 I wish my pricing with Rex was the same today as it
16 was in 2021, but that is not reality.

17 Am I going to say that I want to pay more for
18 my utility bill? Of course not, but at the same
19 time, I understand the increase. FPL has been a
20 greater provider, and the last thing anybody wants
21 is a decrease in the quality of service. You
22 always get what you pay for in life.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

25 Walt, after this group, we will take a break.

1 MR. TRIERWEILER: Debbie.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MS. MURPHY: Good evening, Chair and
4 Commissioners. My name is Debbie Murphy. I am the
5 first Vice-President of the Coalition of Boynton
6 West Residential Associations, otherwise known as
7 COBWRA.

8 We are an all volunteer led nonpartisan civic
9 organization that was founded in 1981, and
10 represents 106 member communities with
11 approximately 130,000 residents in a 55 square mile
12 area in the unincorporated area of West Boynton
13 Beach.

14 One of COBWRA's goals is to advocate for the
15 member communities, which includes expressing our
16 views in Tallahassee with our state legislators and
17 with the County, on the County level, with our
18 County Commissioners. So when FPL informed COBWRA
19 of the Commission hearings tonight, we felt that we
20 should share with you our experiences.

21 Over the several years, COBWRA has enjoyed a
22 very strong working relationship with south
23 Florida -- with FPL's South Florida External
24 Affairs group, and I will once again mention Amy
25 Kemp's name. They have made several presentations

1 at our monthly delegates meetings, along with
2 presentations at individual communities to educate
3 our residents on the history and inner workings of
4 FPL, along with answering questions and addressing
5 their individual issues.

6 We have developed a channel through which HOA
7 boards have contact information for their power
8 related questions. We look forward to continuing
9 that relationship as it is a major benefit to our
10 member communities. And I thank you for your time.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
12 testimony.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

14 MS. SHERMAN: Good evening, everyone. Louise
15 Sherman. I am a Palm Beach County resident --

16 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Pull that mic down.

17 MS. SHERMAN: For the short people. Can you
18 hear me now?

19 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

20 MS. SHERMAN: Thank you.

21 Louise Sherman. I am a fairly new Palm Beach
22 County resident. I relocated in 2023. I am here
23 tonight just to talk about my experience as a
24 customer.

25 Moving into Palm Beach County, getting set up,

1 was such an easy transition. I think the most
2 important thing that I have heard a few times
3 tonight is being in south Florida, one of the more
4 scary things for me is hurricane season, and the
5 weather that we have experienced. I can tell you
6 as a customer, I have never lost power, and I think
7 that's paramount. That's certainly worth sharing
8 with everyone.

9 So as a customer, in terms of if I have a
10 problem reaching out, getting a quick response, and
11 then like I said, more importantly, never losing
12 power in really, really, really difficult weather
13 has been important for me. So just sharing my
14 experience as a customer relative to the rate hike,
15 you know, I know decisions will be made, but as a
16 customer, I am very fond of FPL.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
18 testimony.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

20 MR. CATALANO: Good evening. This is a long
21 couple for me because I am not usually a public
22 speaker.

23 My name is Paul Catalano. I live in Aberdeen
24 East, specifically the Isles of Aberdeen. The
25 reason I am here is because of Amy Kemp. She's a

1 life saver, but she doesn't have any idea what I am
2 going to say.

3 The reason I even got in touch with Amy is I
4 have a thankless job. I am the President of the
5 HOA. And one of our residents had a light that was
6 flickering, strobing right into his bedroom.
7 Numerous phone calls to FPL being told that pole
8 doesn't exist. There is no light at that address.
9 There is no markings on the pole. Whatever.
10 Whatever. Whatever.

11 I got involved, I made a phone call to the
12 County Commissioner, who put me in touch with Amy.
13 Within 24 hours, that light was fixed. It's just a
14 matter of getting in touch with the right people.
15 It should be easier than what it was.

16 And since then, I have dealt with Amy on a
17 couple of other things, and it's quick response now
18 that I have the correct contact.

19 One other time I had a dealing with FPL was
20 when I lived in a different community, lost power.
21 It was 95 degrees in the middle of the night.
22 Within two hours, they had three crews out there
23 replacing the transformer in the middle of the
24 night. I don't think we were without power more
25 than three hours. And that says a lot. It takes a

1 lot of commitment from the workers to do that, and
2 from the company.

3 I also worked with FPL when I was a technician
4 for the phone company during the hurricanes. We
5 had to wait it for FPL to clear the areas before we
6 went in. They worked their butts, especially
7 during hurricanes and storm outages.

8 I am not here to speak for or against the rate
9 increase. That's your job. I am not paid for
10 that. You are, so -- but if anything FPL could do
11 is make it easier for the customer to report a
12 problem instead of having to get to the extremes
13 that got me involved. That's the only thing that I
14 have to say, and thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
16 testimony.

17 I think that's the entire group.

18 MR. TRIERWEILER: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Let's go ahead
20 and take at that 10-minute break. It's 7:35.
21 Let's reconvene at 7:45.

22 Thank you.

23 (Brief recess.)

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. I think we are
25 ready to go. Sorry a little bit of overdue.

1 I am looking out as the audience has thinned
2 out a little bit. There is a few folks that came
3 in a little bit late that did not get sworn in
4 initially. So if you did not get sworn in, do you
5 mind standing and raising your right hand, and
6 planning on speaking? So everyone has been sworn
7 in?

8 Okay. All right. Let's go ahead and move
9 forward, Walt, if that's okay. But if Rabbi Feder,
10 if you don't mind maybe starting us off, and then
11 we will go slightly out of order if that's all
12 right.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

14 RABBI FEDER: First off, I just want to thank
15 the Commissioners and the whole team. I realized,
16 looking at this, they are all over the state, you
17 know, just coming out, south, north, driving a lot,
18 so thank you.

19 I will share with you a quick story, so it was
20 right before Yom Kippur, and we are having a
21 program. I run the Jewish Outreach Center in Boca
22 Raton, Florida. We have high school kids, college
23 kids, young professionals, all ages, and, you know,
24 we lose power, and there was some sort of storm,
25 and I reached out to Amy Kemp, who is a real

1 mensch. She's a good person. And she called us
2 and she had someone out there fixing the issue
3 immediately.

4 You know, we have some state-of-the-art
5 security that the federal government gave us
6 funding for, and all of a sudden when the fencing
7 goes down, the cameras go down, the electricity
8 goes down, it's really pretty worthless without the
9 electricity, so I thank you for taking care of
10 that.

11 And she had another conversation that we don't
12 have a regular association where I live, and so
13 sometimes people have overgrown parts that no one
14 pays any attention to. There is no association
15 trimming it back. And she said, you know, when
16 things calm down, we should really see if any of
17 your neighbors and people in the community -- I
18 founded the synagogue candidate, it's by
19 brother-in-law -- but just reach out to the
20 synagogue to see if there is anyone else who needs
21 help taking a look if things are needed to be
22 trimmed back off the power lines, and she helped us
23 with that as well.

24 I got a call last week, of the addresses that
25 the people said please check it out, they decided

1 was a problem, the next big storm they are going to
2 lose power, so they are trimming it back. And they
3 said, do you know the address offhand of this and
4 this address? I said, no, it's one of the people
5 who reached out to me and said we need to check it
6 out. Okay. We are going to -- we need to shut off
7 the power for, like, four hours and fix everything.
8 I said, go for it. They are like, you don't live
9 there, right? And I said. No. No. It's Brian,
10 you can shut off the power.

11 But the reason I share that as an illustration
12 also the people who they hire, they really care.
13 And they said, no. No. We need to call Brian. We
14 need to coordinate with him and some of his
15 neighbors and let them know ahead of time we are
16 going to knock out power for four hours, what's the
17 best time in the day? So they really care. They
18 are attentive, and I applaud them for doing a great
19 job.

20 That's all I wanted to share with you guys.
21 Thank you so much.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
23 testimony.

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right, next we would
25 like to hear from Wesley McCurry and then Donna

1 Bean and Mike Dahlstrom.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MR. McCURRY: Good evening, Chairman and
4 Commissioners. For the record, I am Wes McCurry,
5 Senior Vice-President with the Economic Development
6 Council of St. Lucie County.

7 First, we want to sincerely acknowledge FPL's
8 longstanding leadership empowering Florida, and its
9 strong, ongoing commitment to supporting economic
10 development in the communities they serve.

11 In St. Lucie County, we have experienced
12 firsthand the value of working closely with FPL.
13 From infrastructure planning, to site readiness, to
14 timely support during key recruitment efforts, that
15 partnership has helped us land meaningful projects,
16 attract investment and create high quality jobs.
17 We are proud of that track record, and we see a
18 major opportunity to build on that success.

19 Looking ahead, one of the most promising areas
20 for growth is the data center sector, and the
21 broader AI and digital industries that rely on it.
22 These facilities represent multi-billion dollar
23 investments. They create high wage technical jobs,
24 and they strengthen the digital infrastructure that
25 supports nearly every modern industry.

1 Attracting these types of projects is a top
2 strategic priority for our region. Historically,
3 Florida hasn't been on the radar for large-scale
4 data center development. A key reason has been the
5 perceived vulnerability to hurricanes and
6 associated down time, but that narrative is
7 changing, thanks in large part to FPL.

8 Through years of strategic investment in grid
9 resiliency, FPL has dramatically reduced storm
10 related risk. Today, FPL operates one of the most
11 reliable electric distribution networks in the
12 country. That's a tremendous asset, one that we
13 can and should leverage to compete for data
14 centers.

15 Equally important is affordability. FPL has
16 maintained electricity rates that are nationally
17 competitive. That balance of reliability and
18 cost-effectiveness is vital. For data centers,
19 energy is often the single largest operating
20 expense. In fact, energy pricing and reliability
21 are the two top factors influencing data center
22 location decisions. Communities that offer both,
23 strong reliability and competitive rates are the
24 ones that will attract these high impact
25 investments.

1 The benefits of doing so are substantial. We
2 are talking about long-term job creation,
3 large-scale capital investment and a stronger tax
4 base. This is exactly the kind of growth that
5 positions Florida for long-term economic
6 competitiveness.

7 As you continue to shape Florida's energy
8 policy, we respectfully ask that you keep these
9 considerations in mind. Please ensure that our
10 electricity rates and rate structures remain fair
11 for customers, but also competitive enough to
12 attract data centers and the economic growth they
13 can bring to Florida.

14 We are supportive of FPL and the great work
15 done in hardening the infrastructure transmission
16 network, as it's that work that has helped create
17 the opportunity for the potential to attract data
18 centers. We look forward to continuing our
19 successful partnership with FPL, and working
20 together to make Florida a designation of choice
21 for data center infrastructure and innovation.

22 Thank you for your time and the opportunity to
23 speak here on this important topic.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
25 testimony.

1 MS. McMANAMON: I am sorry, I have a quick
2 question, if that's okay.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: You are recognized.

4 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you.

5 You mentioned you are the Senior VP at
6 Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County?

7 MR. McCURRY: That's correct.

8 MS. McMANAMON: And are you aware if FPL has
9 anyone on your board of directors?

10 MR. McCURRY: They do.

11 MS. McMANAMON: And is FPL listed as an
12 investor on your website?

13 MR. McCURRY: They are.

14 MS. McMANAMON: That you. That's all.

15 MR. McCURRY: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: You are recognized.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT

18 MS. BEAN: Good evening, and thank you for
19 your service. My name is Donna Bean, and I am, in
20 all transparency, the Chairperson of South Florida
21 Manufacturers Association, and FPL is on our board,
22 and -- but I am also here as a employee of a
23 medical device manufacturer in Broward County.

24 I couldn't make it to the meeting down this
25 morning, so I drove an hour up here to talk

1 tonight, and I just wanted to share my experience
2 with FPL. I realize that FPL has been on South
3 Florida Manufacturers Association for many years,
4 and it's really opened up my eyes and understood
5 what they have done for the community.

6 And as was mentioned earlier in all these
7 other testimonies, is that they are intimately
8 involved in all these community activities and
9 events, and I learned all the technology that they
10 are doing, the innovative technology that they are
11 developing. And as a medical device manufacturer,
12 working for them, I realized that I need to -- our
13 technology at our company, we need to continue to
14 innovate to advance, because when you are in a
15 medical device environment, everyone wants it to be
16 easier, convenient and better technology, and make
17 us feel like we are important, and I think FPL does
18 the same thing. And in order to do that, they need
19 the money to invest to be able to continue to
20 improve the technology, to improve their
21 innovation.

22 I was totally shocked when I had an
23 opportunity to hear one of the FPL people talk,
24 that they actually had drones all throughout the
25 whole state of Florida, so when there is a

1 hurricane, they open up the box, the drone pops up,
2 checks out the, you know, as soon as the storm is
3 over, what type of damage is done and what they
4 need to do to get that community up and running
5 again.

6 That type of technology is fairly new, and as
7 we all know, it wasn't that long ago that we have
8 all experienced a huge increase in costs in the
9 last few years, and it's not going to get any
10 easier. It's not going to get any faster. It's
11 not going to get any -- you know, our costs are not
12 going to go down. They are only going go to up.
13 And if we are expecting FPL to do the things that
14 we want them to do, they need to be able to
15 innovate, and the only way to innovate is to
16 invest.

17 So that's what I would like to say. Thank you
18 very much.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
20 testimony.

21 MR. TRIERWEILER: Mike Dahlstrom, before we --
22 who is our next speaker, before we hear from you,
23 though, let me go ahead and put some people on
24 deck, mark Elhilow, Stacey Jones and Hadley
25 Doyle-Gonzalez, please.

1 Go ahead, Mike.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MR. DAHLSTROM: Good evening. Mike Dahlstrom.
4 I am a 13-year resident of Palm Beach County,
5 Operator of Palm Beach National Golf Club, and I
6 can say maybe this is a compliment to FPL, but for
7 the first 12 years, I frankly didn't even know who
8 FPL was. I set up an account and set up direct
9 deposit, and not really think about it a whole lot
10 because there really were no outages or reason to
11 give them a call. So for their reliability factor,
12 that may be a complement.

13 But in the last year, we built -- building and
14 finishing now a new clubhouse, it's a
15 state-of-the-art high tech driving range with a
16 full bar and restaurant, so our power needs are
17 going to be different. They are going to be a lot
18 larger than it was prior.

19 That being said, I was so grateful we had an
20 advocate or a liaison with FPL to help us
21 coordinate with the engineering team at FPL and the
22 frontline service team to expedite the process.

23 As far as a utility, it was easy, streamlined,
24 punctual, and very grateful for that in our
25 experience, and that was just very recently.

1 As a consumer, or a customer of FPL, I can
2 maybe say this is the norm or maybe I am just
3 naive, but I set up direct deposit, and I haven't
4 looked at an FPL bill for -- I don't even know what
5 my last bill was. So maybe that's a testament to
6 their affordability, the fact I don't know. And I
7 am certainly not rich. I sell golf for a living,
8 so I am not well off. We are, you know -- so --
9 but I do believe that, you know, rate increases
10 will affect a percentage of people, therefore, like
11 when you were sharing about programs and
12 assistance, to make those broad and easy for the
13 consumer to sign up and qualify for that will need
14 that help I think is essential to having a
15 community that we can all enjoy in that.

16 And certainly, golf, you know, selling golf,
17 it's a discretionary item. You can wake up in the
18 morning and decide that you want to go play it.
19 You can decide what you want to spend on it. You
20 can decide where you want to go to play it.
21 Electricity and power is a little bit more
22 essential. It's, you know, to the civilization,
23 it's kind of right up there with oxygen.

24 So that being said, I am just grateful that
25 you host things like this to hear our feedback, but

1 I can see that it's going to be a well-thought-out
2 and very careful decision by those that are leading
3 the state, and that's why I am proud to say I am a
4 Florida resident in Palm Beach County.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
7 testimony.

8 MS. DOYLE-GONZALEZ: I believe there was
9 somebody before me.

10 MR. TRIERWEILER: Yes, I don't see Mark. Is
11 Mark Elhilow here?

12 MR. ELHILOW: He is here. Sorry about that.

13 MR. TRIERWEILER: Do you mind if Stacey goes
14 first?

15 MR. ELHILOW: No, please.

16 MS. DOYLE-GONZALEZ: I am not Stacey either.

17 MR. TRIERWEILER: Oh, you are not Stacey, you
18 are Hadley.

19 MS. DOYLE-GONZALEZ: Yes, I am.

20 MR. TRIERWEILER: So we don't -- do we have
21 Stacey Jones?

22 MS. JONES: I am here.

23 MR. TRIERWEILER: Okay. I don't want to get
24 -- now before someone gets on me about going out
25 of -- Mark, we will go with you, if you -- so that

1 someone on my right doesn't give me a hard time.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: I just wanted to see you
3 mediate the fight if there became one.

4 MR. TRIERWEILER: Yeah, between the court
5 reporter and our administrative staff, I don't want
6 to get crossways with them, so we will stick to the
7 program and go with you, Mark.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MR. ELHILOW: Okay. Thank you, sir. Thank
10 you all for your service.

11 Perhaps one of the benefits of being one of
12 the last speakers is I could take a lot of what
13 everybody said in favor of FPL, and that's both
14 civic, service oriented, investments in the grid,
15 corporate citizenry, and I have a number of stories
16 personally that I could tell about my experience as
17 a citizen in West Palm Beach.

18 My family homesteaded here over 100 years ago,
19 so I have multigenerational perspective and
20 feedback, agricultural, manufacturing, real estate,
21 et cetera.

22 In my volunteer time, I also serve on the
23 Economic Council of Palm Beach County, and I
24 believe FPL is a member of the council, along with
25 a number of our other flagship corporate citizens.

1 So the growth we have had here, in no small
2 part, has been predicated on the investments that
3 FPL has made to make that possible, and I have
4 heard a lot of speakers, respectfully so, come in
5 and talk about their rates and the impact on the
6 citizens and their communities. Their communities
7 wouldn't be here if they didn't have -- the
8 developers didn't have the confidence to make those
9 investments and take those risks, so it's kind of a
10 double-edge sword.

11 Percentage experience-wise, I had a pole go
12 astray in our back yard in West Palm Beach about
13 two years ago, and we thought it would be a
14 nightmare to, my wife and I to, you know, go
15 through the bureaucracy of getting it done, and we
16 had an extraordinary experience with first class
17 people, best-in-class communication, expediting
18 coordination with the neighbors that fly on a pole,
19 a crane, so favorable experiences all around.

20 And like I say, we need the FPL type quality
21 service to continue the growth here we have had in
22 Palm Beach, and so I understand that we are
23 probably one of the premier places to move in the
24 entire country.

25 I have a second home and property in other

1 counties in Florida that are not serviced,
2 regretfully, by FPL, and been through hurricanes in
3 all those locations, and power outages. And I will
4 tell you what, they are a fine organization with
5 fine people, boots on the ground, and that rate
6 increase perhaps will pay a lot of dividends for
7 this community, and I am in favor of it very much.

8 Thank you all.

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
10 testimony.

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: Stacey?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

13 MS. JONES: Hi. Good evening. It's truly an
14 honor to stand here before you today as a longtime
15 mentor, educator and community member, to speak
16 about our partnership that not only partner --
17 powers our homes, but also helped power our
18 futures.

19 For the past 28 years, I have had the
20 privilege of mentoring students through the First
21 Robotics Program. From a colorful world of First
22 Lego League in elementary school to the complexity
23 and challenge of First Tech Challenge, to the
24 ultimately high stakes arena of First Robotics
25 competition where the students build and compete

1 with 120-pound robots. Through all of that, for
2 the past 13 years, there has been one partner that
3 has stood by us with unwavering support, and that
4 was Florida Power & Light.

5 FPL has been a sponsor of FRC 180 SPAM, which
6 stands to speed power and maneuverability, and they
7 have been our visionary sponsor, our technical
8 mentors, and most importantly our neighbors. They
9 provided not just with monetary support that helps
10 get us to competitions, but also manpower and
11 brainpower that fuels our innovation.

12 FPL has shown up for us time and time again.
13 At the South Florida regional, their robot urgent
14 care machine shop donated hundreds of volunteer
15 hours and built parts on the spot so teams could
16 stay in the game.

17 At their Juno Beach facility, where we had
18 opportunities to showcase our robot to inspire
19 their employees ended up inspiring us on tours that
20 lit a spark for our students, and showing them the
21 power of engineering in the real world application,
22 and in the stories of people like Lily Pollock, who
23 is a former SPAM team captain and a machinist, and
24 now she works at FPL as an equipment reliability
25 engineer, and she's a mentor that gives back today.

1 FPL is woven into the fabric of our team.
2 They are our parenties, our grandparents, our
3 cousins, our uncles, our aunts, our neighbors.
4 They bring knowledge and machining programming
5 electrical, media, finances, networking and so much
6 more. They help us turn passionate high school
7 students into capable, confident young people.

8 Because of FPL, we are not just a robotics
9 team, we are legacy. This Team 180 SPAM is now the
10 number one robotics team in Florida, and ranks in
11 the top one percent of over 4,000 robotics teams
12 worldwide. That doesn't happen just anywhere.
13 That happens because we have sponsors like FPL.

14 As someone who has lived in Martin County
15 since 1994, and who has taught STEM before they
16 even called it STEM, I am a middle school science
17 teacher. I am the south Florida regional partner.
18 I work with Cox Science Center Aquarium. I am
19 proud to know firsthand what FPL has done for our
20 community and for my students. They not only
21 support programs. They help build our future.

22 FPL's support does not stop with just -- for
23 high school. They also help with ours First Lego
24 League events and teams. Without their support, we
25 would struggle to keep this -- youngest learners

1 actively engaged in this award-winning program.
2 Their commitment starts early and continues through
3 every level of First, helping us to grow the
4 pipeline of the next generation to build thinkers,
5 builders and leaders.

6 Whether this supports the -- whether this
7 supports the -- what they are charging, whether
8 that supports it -- to me, it doesn't really
9 matter, as long. As FPL is in our community, I
10 will support them in whatever it is today, because
11 they are FPL, and they really are here for our
12 community and our neighbors.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your
15 testimony.

16 MR. TRIERWEILER: Hadley.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT

18 MS. DOYLE-GONZALEZ: Now my turn.

19 Hi, Hadley Doyle-Gonzalez. There we go. I am
20 a lifelong Floridan, Jupiter, Florida. Lifelong
21 FPL customer. Considerably, you know, noticing the
22 fact that, as the years have progressed during my
23 life, and whether outside forces have increased, my
24 comfort level with our power company has just
25 become just more and more not a factor. So

1 obviously reliability, we have heard it more and
2 more.

3 I am here today I am not speaking as a
4 resident though. I am speaking as a business
5 owner. So we have two businesses. I am the
6 President and Founder of two geospatial companies
7 based right here in Palm Beach County. We do have
8 a choice. We could have set up in Lakeworth. We
9 could have set up in other states. We could use
10 cloud computing data centers. However, with our
11 research, we found that through the reliability and
12 the cost-effectiveness of the large data that we
13 process on a regular basis, there was no better
14 place for us to operate than, fortunately, my
15 hometown right here in West Palm Beach. So that is
16 absolutely due to Florida Power & Light's
17 consistent infrastructure and investments that they
18 make in, well, power, you know, through innovation.

19 We believe in innovation. That's who we are
20 as a company. We align ourselves with Florida
21 Power & Light. We also believe that they believe
22 in innovation, and that obviously takes funds.

23 Our innovation is around infrastructure,
24 reliability, resiliency. We look at the entire
25 state with remote sensing, geospatial data. We

1 have seen the growth backed by data of our state
2 considerably in Florida Power & Light's territory.
3 We understand the forces that they have of trying
4 to deliver reliable power to really quickly
5 increasing population, and that's a feat in its
6 own.

7 So we find the rate increase relative. I am
8 personally in support of it as being a ratepayer
9 myself, but also being in charge of making sure
10 that my companies are successful. And that's not a
11 year plan, a five-year plan, but also a 10-year
12 plan. So we are in it for the long haul. We
13 support FPL.

14 And just on a personal level. My husband, my
15 son, who is now 16, and myself all charge our
16 electric vehicles every single evening for \$35 a
17 month, which I am happy to say that I guarantee you
18 that my gas savings would outweigh, you know, any
19 increase that we will be seeing in the next few
20 years.

21 So let me see my notes. Yeah. We are in
22 support of the rate increase. We find it to be
23 relative, and we trust in FPL.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your

1 testimony.

2 MS. McMANAMON: Sorry.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Madam, do you mind
4 answering a question.

5 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you. Sorry.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: You are recognized.

7 MS. McMANAMON: You mentioned you are speaking
8 as a business owner. I was just wondering if FPL
9 is one of your clients.

10 MS. DOYLE-GONZALEZ: No, but thank you for
11 bringing that up.

12 So in 2021, we were part of an innovation hub
13 through Florida Power & Light's 35 Meals Program,
14 which sits in the economic development group. So
15 it was an opportunity for Florida Power & Light to
16 give grant money to local communities that were
17 focused on innovation and infrastructure, but I am
18 here on my own regard.

19 MS. McMANAMON: Okay. Thank you.

20 MS. DOYLE-GONZALEZ: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thanks.

22 MR. TRIERWEILER: We are down to the final
23 three names. Final three customers.

24 Dr. Mark Marciano, Curt Brown and Dennis
25 Grady, please. And I see one person.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: That's what happens when
2 you get towards the end of the list.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 MR. BROWN: So I will start. My name is Curt
5 Brown, and I am here representing Palm Beach
6 Atlantic University. I am the Assistant
7 Vice-President of Construction and Facilities, so
8 my interaction with FPL is daily and annually, as
9 we go through our school year.

10 My first thing is I don't know who Amy is. I
11 know she's a rock star. My rock star is Robert
12 Weiss. He is also with the FPL team that supports
13 our university. Not only does it support it on a
14 daily basis with the current facilities, but also
15 in our new construction. We have started new --
16 two new capital projects that will bring additional
17 students to Palm Beach County, and we educate them,
18 and we house them, and we put them back out in the
19 community all because we can do that with FPL's
20 support.

21 That is important to us, that we have reliable
22 service, we have a quick response to service
23 issues, and we also know that the storm
24 preparedness that they provide to the community,
25 and to us, lends us to do a couple of things. We

1 educate students in a way that they feel safe,
2 knowing that their lights will be on, and also
3 parents get to send our students -- we have a good
4 position of our students that come from
5 out-of-state, and when they are researching
6 environments like south Florida, I would imagine
7 hurricane comes to mind, and what FPL is able to do
8 and educate our community in a way that parents
9 would feel comfortable sending students to a
10 university that sits on the water in West Palm
11 Beach, knowing that their safety will be taken care
12 of even with the electricity issues that we may
13 have. So that's really important, we get to
14 educate our students that way. So that's important
15 to us in that way.

16 I want to thank you for the process you are
17 going through. As much as I may not like a rate
18 increase, what I do like is the reliable service
19 that they provide that impacts the community. Your
20 process will work itself out for the right
21 decision, and we trust you for that. We thank you
22 for your time and our ability to speak into it.

23 MS. McMANAMON: Sorry, I have a question.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: It looks like you have a
25 question.

1 MR. BROCKINGTON: All right.

2 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you for staying.

3 You mentioned Palm Beach Atlantic University.

4 Do you know if NextEra has anyone on the Board of
5 Trustees?

6 MR. BROWN: I do not believe so. We do not
7 have anybody currently on our trustees. Thank you.

8 MS. McMANAMON: Thank you.

9 MR. BROCKINGTON: Yeah.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

12 MR. GRADY: Good evening. Congratulations, I
13 am last.

14 My name is Dennis Grady, and I live at 8490
15 Thousand Pines Circle, West Palm Beach. I have
16 resided in Palm Beach County for over 40 years.
17 And, no, FPL did not ask me to be here, none of
18 their employees. I am retired and decided to speak
19 this evening after I received this mailing from the
20 AARP of Florida with a clip-off prepaid postage
21 returned stamp to oppose the rate increase.

22 As a retiree, I have time and the opportunity,
23 I have read a lot, and I have put to paper my
24 thoughts on the AARP's request.

25 My family has benefited from the reliability

1 of FPL's service to our home and our community.
2 The value of the hardened system which you have
3 heard about that they have built, and most
4 importantly maintained, ensures that the Grady
5 family has power during storm and vital services
6 are available in our community.

7 They have also diversified their power source,
8 which I admire, with major investments in low cost
9 solar and battery areas reflecting a
10 forward-thinking company position.

11 Finally, as I have read, the current electric
12 rate from FPL is well below the national average,
13 and lower than most Florida utilities.

14 In conclusion, I feel that FPL has embraced
15 technology to lower costs for customers and run one
16 of the most efficient and reliable utilities in the
17 country, all while looking ahead to prevent
18 problems before they occur.

19 The rate increase is reasonable in my opinion.
20 And as a customer who desires excellent service and
21 a dependable product, I urge you to look favorably
22 upon the request.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you. Thank you for
25 your testimony.

1 All right. Is there anyone else in the
2 audience that did not get a chance to speak or
3 maybe we skipped over by accident? It does not
4 look like we do.

5 Thank you all for coming out today and
6 sticking with us. Thank you for the Solid Waste
7 Authority for giving us an opportunity to host us.
8 Thank you guys for hosting us here, an opportunity
9 to host our meeting with customers. It's not every
10 day that we get to have facilities as nice as this,
11 and certainly cherish it. Again, thank you all for
12 being here.

13 Commissioners, any further business? Not
14 seeing any before us, I believe that we can call
15 this meeting adjourned.

16 Thank you, guys.

17 (Proceedings concluded.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)
3 COUNTY OF LEON)
45 I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby
6 certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
7 time and place herein stated.8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
14 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
15 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
17 financially interested in the action.18 DATED this 30th day of June, 2025.
19
20
21

22

23

24

25



DEBRA R. KRICK

NOTARY PUBLIC

COMMISSION #HH575054

EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028