

**Nickalus Holmes**

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**From:** Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2025 12:59 PM  
**To:** 'Charley Tidwell'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20250023-WS

Good afternoon

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20250023, and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance.

**From:** Charley Tidwell <tidwell.eyt4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2025 12:32 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Subject:** Docket #20250023-WS

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a customer of Grenelefe Utility to express my opposition to the proposed water and wastewater rate increases in Docket No. 20250023-WS.

The proposed bills — rising from roughly \$30/month to over \$300/month, \$53/month to over \$530.00 — are neither just nor reasonable. Such a dramatic and sudden increase violates the Commission's duty under Section 367.081(1), Florida Statutes, which requires that rates be "fair, just, and reasonable" to both customers and the utility. Rates must balance the utility's right to recover prudent costs with customers' right to affordable and essential service.

I understand Grenelefe faces infrastructure challenges and environmental compliance obligations. However, the proposed approach unfairly shifts nearly all financial burden onto existing customers. Under Florida law, the Commission has the authority to:

- Require that new development and future growth pay their proportionate share of capacity costs through plant capacity charges (see §367.081(2)(a), Fla. Stat.), rather than burdening current ratepayers.
- Spread recovery of major capital improvements over a longer time horizon, instead of imposing immediate and unaffordable increases.
- Consider whether grant funding, low-interest loans, or state/federal assistance are available before approving extreme increases.

During multiple County Commissioner meetings, information and testimony was provided by the developer claiming that the water plant was up to standard and was able to adequately provide water

to residents in its current state and that it was the specific intention of the developer NOT to pass any future costs to the existing home owners and residents of Grenenlefe. This testimony helped the County Commissioners to approve a fair plan where new development would pay for \$20 million in upgrades through CDD assessments and connection fees as current homeowners had already paid for capacity once in their home purchase.

I respectfully urge the Commission to:

1. Reject the proposed rate structure as filed.
2. Require Grenelefe to resubmit a plan that phases in increases gradually and equitably.
3. Ensure that developers and new connections bear appropriate responsibility for growth-related costs, consistent with Commission precedent and statutory authority.

The current proposal would devastate residents, especially those of us who are seniors and families on fixed incomes. I ask that you uphold your responsibility under Florida law to ensure rates remain fair, just, and reasonable. Any other decision would mean we would not be able to afford to remain in our homes.

Thank you for considering my comments and for protecting the public interest in this matter.