

Nickalus Holmes

From: Nickalus Holmes on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 5:00 PM
To: 'Sharon Meadows'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: DOCKET NO. 20250023-WS

Good Afternoon

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

Thank you,
Nick Holmes
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
850-413-6770

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From: Sharon Meadows <SMeadows@scrmc.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: DOCKET NO. 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.

In 2023 I used nearly every bit of life insurance money I had saved following the death of my father several years ago to purchase my first home, a condo at 131 Palm View Court, Haines City, Florida in the Grenelefe community. This condo is a dream come true for me. I spent several years visiting the area to find a place I'd feel safe, comfortable, and most of all able to afford since I work part time at Disney as a photographer while I'm building my own

photography business, Lee Ann Meadows Photography, LLC. I couldn't afford the rent prices in the area any longer, so I took the big step to invest in my own home in a community that I want to be a part of and contribute to.

When I bought this condo I knew it would be tight financially, but I'm determined to make this work on my own. I had budgeted my expenses and knew I could survive with my HOA, insurance, and utilities as they were. An increase in my water and wastewater rate from under \$30 to quite possibly hundreds of dollars per month would literally be devastating to me financially. I've already had to make improvements on my condo, including replacing the air conditioning unit and several other major expenses along with property tax, business tax, and business expenses.

The proposed bills — rising from roughly \$30/month to over \$300/month — 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.

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 seniors and families on fixed incomes. I ask that you uphold your responsibility under Florida law to ensure rates remain fair, just, and reasonable.

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

Sincerely,
Lee Ann Meadows
(601)319-2073

[Sharon Meadows](#) | [South Central Regional Medical Center](#) | [Diagnostic Center](#) | 601-649-6216 | SMeadows@scrmc.com

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