

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 9:10 AM  
**To:** 'Beatrice Balboa'  
**Subject:** FW: ongoing significant rate increase requests by FPL  
**Attachments:** FPL hikes rates to help with hurricane repairs - NBC-2.pdf; CleanEnergy Footprints » Archive » We Pay for FPL's Mess.pdf; FPL customers to pay for costs of responding to Hurricane Matthew \_ Miami Herald.pdf; FPL customers to be billed for Hurricane Matthew costs in March \_ Protecting Your Pocket.pdf; Storm Costs Lead to Hike on Florida Power & Light Bills \_ NBC 6 South Florida.pdf

Good morning Ms. Balboa,

We apologize for the late response, we will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 160251-EI.

Sincerely,

Collin D. Roehner  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32301  
(850) 413-7123

**From:** Beatrice Balboa [<mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2017 9:00 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Re: ongoing significant rate increase requests by FPL

I was reading another news media article regarding the latest Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) approved electrical rate increase activities throughout the State of Florida with great interest. Please continue to solicit the public opinion that continues to underscore the ongoing significant rate increase requests and approvals for the aggrandizement of FPL throughout the State of Florida, despite an increasingly faltering economy impacting senior citizens living on fixed incomes disproportionately. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely the public's safety, finances, policies, trust, confidence, and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Balboa  
1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Apt. 1008  
Pompano Beach, FL 33062-6631

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/fl-bz-nsf-psc-oks-fpl-hurricane-surcharge-20170207-story.html>  
<http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Storm-Costs-Lead-to-Hike-on-Florida-Power--Light-Bills-413108233.html>

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# FPL hikes rates to help with hurricane repairs

Posted: Feb 07, 2017 10:47 PM EST  
Updated: Feb 07, 2017 11:38 PM EST

By Graham Hunter, Reporter [CONNECT](#)

Electric bills are going up for Florida Power and Light customers, thanks to Hurricane Matthew.

The storm knocked out power to over one million FPL customers last year, and now the utility company needs money for repairs.

The utility company is trying to recoup hundreds of millions of dollars after Hurricane Matthew by passing on the cost to customers.

Even though three bucks a month may not seem like much, the company already raised rates earlier this year.

"That seems like a lot and when you break it down by the whole year..." said Kelsey Luft.

It adds up to 120 dollars a year per customer.

"It's kind of unfair, honestly," said Kasey Buscher.

FPL raised monthly rates by about \$7 in January and now another \$3 for all of its customers around the state, even if they weren't affected by the storm.

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"I understand that tragedies like that affect more people who get affected by it directly," Luft said.



NBC2 RECOMMENDS

Luft said she wasn't personally affected by Matthew, but "I have a lot of friends in St. Augustine who lost their homes."

[Bystander kills 19-year-old diaper thief at Walmart](#)

helped us to get our power back on."

Luft's family was out of power for almost a month when Hurricane Charley came through in 2004.

"I do understand what these people are going through, so I guess maybe for me, I'm OK with it," she said.

FPL said part of the money will go to replenish its emergency fund which stood at \$93 million before the storm.

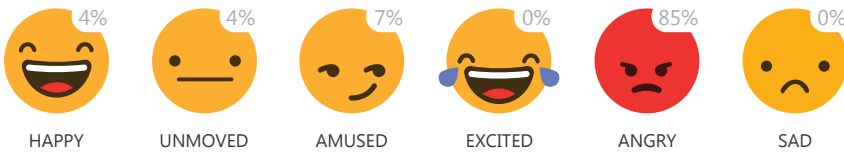
"It's an emergency fund. They shouldn't charge people extra to replenish their extra money," Buscher said.

Like it or not, the price hike is in place. A typical 1000 kilowatt-hour bill will cost around \$102 starting in March.

"If it's just month by month and it's scattered out... If I can help in any way to get them back on their feet, I'm OK with it," Luft said.

The latest \$3 per month charge will last for a year. That's when the Public Service Commission will reevaluate the fee to see if it collected enough money. If too much money is collected, customers could get a refund.

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ME

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**J** [Jason](#)

While it is true that FPL has the among the lowest rates you will find, they also lack maintenance on their system. More tree trimming and some easy and relatively inexpensive fixes to the system would greatly increase reliability. Poor planning, execution and confusion extended restoration efforts after Matthew by more than a day and millions more spent by FPL. What other business gets the customers to pay when their product fails? Is FPL going to repay lost revenues to businesses that were without power for 3 days? Never in a million years. A few hours to replace a hit pole? Only if they get a contractor in to do it.

about 10 hours ago (0) · (0) [Reply \(0\)](#)

**R** [Russ](#)

FPL is the best and lowest power provider in Florida. Their rates are one of the lowest Nation wide. Call for a power outage and they have a simple problem corrected within an hour. Have a car take a pole down might take a few hours. But I travelled the world and trust this, we should be very pleased to have FPL and a dependable electric grid.

Russ

about 12 hours ago (0) · (1) [Reply \(0\)](#)

[Bkeen](#) Down voted

**A** [Army](#)

Are hurricanes a surprise to FPL? This should be built in to their budget or be insured. They are always scamming more money from Florida residents and the so called Public Service Commission does anything but look out for the publics' interest. These rate increases are just rubber stamped. More corruption from Florida state government. Vote these crooks out! Time to wake up Florida!








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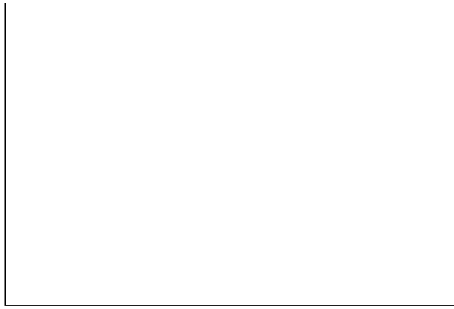
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All for profits....they just don't want to pay for their own stuff.

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## We Pay for FPL's Mess

February 8th, 2017 › [Nuclear](#) › [Guest Post](#) ›

Below is a guest column from [Grant Miller](#) with Miami's Community Newspapers. His column originally ran on February 6, 2017 and can be found [here](#).

We Pay for FPL's Mess

In case you haven't heard, Japan's Toshiba is in financial free-fall and is pulling its subsidiary Westinghouse out of the nuclear construction business due to massive losses. According to Forbes, Toshiba's President Satoshi Tsunakawa said Westinghouse is "unlikely to carry out actual construction work for the future nuclear power plant projects to eliminate risk."



The two new reactors proposed by FPL for Turkey Point are supposed to be designed and built by Toshiba-Westinghouse. With this news, how can FPL continue to claim they intend to build two new reactors and why do we have to keep paying for them?

Clearly, market trends run counter to FPL's misguided plans. Power from a natural gas plant is much cheaper than new nuclear, and utility scale solar projects are vastly cheaper than either nuclear or natural gas.

Toshiba is right to tag reactor construction as a loser. Duke Energy Florida cancelled their plans in 2013 to build new reactors due to staggering price increases and long delays. Reactors under construction in Georgia and South Carolina are massively over budget and way behind schedule. So why do we, FPL customers, continue to take a financial hit for a project that will likely never be built while FPL can walk away from it at any time without any impact to its shareholders?

FPL customers have already forked over \$280 million dollars for this boondoggle. The project comes before regulators at the Florida Public Service Commission again this year when FPL will be again asking for more money. FPL should not request more money from customers and if they do, the Commission should protect consumers and say no.

If history is our guide, FPL hasn't even been able to safely manage the existing reactors at Turkey Point. Many decisions FPL has made have been ill advised, starting with building them in the first place.

In the late 1960s, FPL dumped heated cooling water via a pipe directly into Biscayne Bay, killing much of the nearby marine nursery grounds. The damage was well documented. In the early seventies, a federal judge in Miami made FPL stop direct discharges of heated water into the Bay and a holding area for the contaminated water was developed. It grew to a 10 square mile area of connecting "cooling canals" that acts like a radiator.

This is the only experiment of its kind; no other nuclear power plant in the world relies on such antiquated methods. The cooling canals are essentially an open industrial sewer constructed in porous leaky limestone with no liners to contain the heated water. Although the heated cooling water was stopped from going directly into Biscayne Bay, according to decades of data the discharges have been slowly leaking through the porous limestone in every direction into the aquifer and the Bay for as long as the canals have been operating.

Then in 2012, FPL made it worse by increasing capacity with an "uprate" to the existing reactors for purposes of adding more capital investments into the rates we pay. Considered new nuclear generation, FPL customers paid in advance for the costs due to the anti-consumer early nuclear recovery law passed by the Florida Legislature in 2006. Not surprisingly during the following summer, the antiquated cooling canal system doubled in salinity, the temperature skyrocketed and was covered with a massive algae bloom. The canals became so hot that FPL had to ask for temperature waivers from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to allow the canals to reach up to 104 degrees F, up from their permit of 100 degrees F.

FPL's next "fix" was to dump toxic chemicals into the cooling canals to kill the algae and then add billions of gallons of freshwater into the system. They ultimately flushed all of that toxic and hyper saline water into our National Park and our federally protected Aquifer.

Now FPL wants to suck up over four decades of pollution and pump it down into the boulder zone below our aquifer for "safe" keeping. State and local regulators have rightfully expressed concerns. FPL's model does not consider simple evaporation, the drawdown from the surrounding canals, and it shows more water than really exists in the system to mask the damage their plan will cause to the surrounding wetlands.

Also, let's not forget we are spending billions of dollars on Everglades Restoration in south Florida. FPL's plan to draw down water from the wetlands and concentrate salt in the system is in direct conflict with this important taxpayer project designed to improve our economy and resiliency.

Why should we trust FPL to “fix” the mess they created with decades of bad decisions much less trust them with tens of billions more to add two more new reactors? We’ve already been forced to pay big bucks for FPL’s nuclear sham that has ravaged our local environment, risks our water supply and threatens our future. We must stop this monopoly that continues to spend our money on regretful choices and the wrong technologies.

Floridians must continue to demand changes from state legislators and regulators about how energy is produced in Florida. Much is at stake including our drinking water. It’s time to take a different direction toward a clean and safe energy future.


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# FPL customers to pay for costs of responding to Hurricane Matthew

BY JIM TURNER  
*The News Service of Florida*

TALLAHASSEE — Whether they took the brunt of Hurricane Matthew or experienced a rainy breeze, Florida Power & Light customers will spend the next year paying for the utility's response to the early October storm.

The state Public Service Commission on Tuesday approved — with little comment — a \$318.5 million request by FPL to cover the costs of restoring power after the storm pummeled parts of the East Coast. Part of the money also will help the company replenish its storm reserve fund, which stood at \$93.1 million before Matthew. The charge will add \$3.36 to the monthly bills of typical residential customers who use 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month. The charge will be in place 12 months.

The Public Service Commission agreed to let FPL work with the state Office of Public Counsel to schedule hearings in about a year to determine if the recovery charge has generated enough or more money than needed by the company. If it is more than needed, customers could receive refunds. The Office of Public Counsel represents consumers in utility cases.

FPL attorney John Butler said the company expects to have final numbers on the cost of the recovery effort by the middle of this year. FPL is “still incurring some costs and we’re still collecting final information on invoicing for costs that were incurred,” Butler told the commission.

With the addition of the storm recovery charge, the typical 1,000-kilowatt hour bill will stand at \$102.37 a month starting in March.

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**\$3.36** The charge that will be added to the monthly bills of typical residential customers of FPL who use 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month. The charge will be in place for 12 months.

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The storm charge follows the commission approval in late 2016 of a four-year \$811 million base-rate increase that pushed up the typical residential customer's 1,000-kilowatt hour monthly bill by \$6.93 in January. The base-rate hike will require additional increases in January 2018 and June 2019.

“We understand that no one ever wants to pay higher rates, but fortunately, FPL's 1,000-kWh customer bill — even with the temporary hurricane recovery surcharge — will continue to be lower than it was in 2006 and approximately 25 percent lower than the national average,” company spokesman David McDermitt said in a prepared statement Tuesday.

Matthew, a powerful storm that pounded the East Coast on Oct. 6 and Oct. 7, knocked out power to approximately 1.2 million FPL customers. While FPL service was lost as far south as Miami-Dade County, counties to the north such as St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia and Brevard experienced the brunt of Matthew, which didn't make landfall in Florida. The company estimated that 14,600 company employees and contractors replaced over 250 miles of wire, more than 900 transformers, and over 400 poles, with 99 percent of customers back on line within two days.

FPL based its request to recoup the costs on part of a 2012 settlement agreement in a base-rate case. It said the settlement allows it to collect restoration costs above the amount in a storm reserve and to replenish the reserve.

In filings with the commission, FPL estimated restoration costs at \$316.8 million and said it is entitled to recover \$293.8 million of that amount from customers after adjustments related, at least in part, to an accounting methodology. The storm reserve partially offset that total, leaving \$200.7 million to be recovered.

FPL also contended it was entitled to collect \$117.1 million to replenish the storm reserve.



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## FPL customers to be billed for Hurricane Matthew costs starting in March



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[Susan Salisbury](#)

Updated February 7, 2017 Filed in [Florida Power & Light Co.](#), [Florida Public Service Commission](#), [FPL](#), [Hurricane Matthew](#), [Hurricane Matthew power outages](#), [Uncategorized](#).

Florida Power & Light Co, customers will begin paying for \$318.5 million in Hurricane Matthew restoration costs starting with their March bill.

Tuesday, the Florida Public Service Commission unanimously approved the surcharge that will be \$3.36 a month for the customer who uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Customers will pay the storm fee through February 2018.

FPL told the PSC it needs to recoup what it spent on restoration and repairs following Matthew in October and to replenish its storm reserve fund.

On top of a rate increase that just took effect in January, the surcharge will result in the typical 1,000-kilowatt hour bill jumping to \$102.77 from \$91.56 in December. Those amounts do not include franchise fees or local taxes, which vary.

The commission plans to hold a hearing sometime after the second quarter of this year once the exact amount for the restoration is known. It included replacing approximately 400 damaged poles, 250 miles of power lines and 900 transformers.

FPL spokesman Dave McDermitt said the amount is a “pretty hard estimate,” and the company does not expect the final amount to change all that much either way.

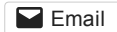


*FPL storm headquarters in West Palm Beach tracked Hurricane Matthew.*

The storm grazed Florida's east coast with gusts of more than 100 mph in some areas. Power to about 1.2 million customers was knocked out, and 99 percent were restored within two days, FPL officials said.

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The image is a promotional banner for Atlantic National Golf Club. It features a scenic background of a golf course with palm trees and a body of water. The club's logo, which includes a seashell icon, is positioned in the upper right. The text 'Atlantic National' is written in a large, elegant script, with 'GOLF CLUB' in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. A dark teal banner at the bottom contains white text.

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## Storm Costs Lead to Hike on Florida Power & Light Bills



State regulators are approving another rate hike for Florida Power & Light.

The Florida Public Service Commission on Tuesday approved a \$318.5 million request by the state's largest power company. The money will be used to cover storm-related damage from Hurricane Matthew and to replenish the company's storm reserve fund.

- [Publix No Longer Offers Free Slice of Meat at Deli Counter](#)

The PSC maintained that there was substantial damage caused by the storm in FPL's service territory.

The rate hike will add \$3.36 a month to the average residential bill. FPL has about 4.8 million customers in the state.

- [Disney Announces Opening Date for New Avatar-themed World](#)

The increase will start showing up on March bills and will remain in place for a year.

State regulators last fall approved an \$811 million rate hike sought by the electric utility. That hike increased the average residential bill about \$7 a month.

Published at 10:32 PM EST on Feb 7, 2017

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