

September 14, 2017
2928 Madison St
Marianna, FL 32446

Commission Clerk
Ref. Docket No. 20170150-EI
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RECEIVED-FPSC
2017 SEP 19 AM 9:14
COMMISSION
CLERK

Gentlemen:

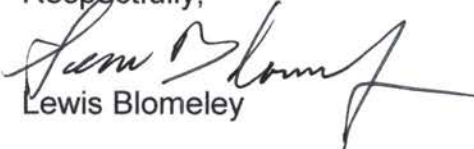
As a FPU customer in an area of the state that is known to have the highest electricity cost in Florida I want to register my objection to the proposed 2.3% rate increase being requested by Florida Public Utilities. I have a shop/office, billed separately, and am appalled monthly by the electricity bill I receive. I have less than 300 square feet of office space, which is the only space climate controlled, yet my average monthly bill is over \$100.00.

Looking at a typical FPU bill I see that in addition to paying for the electricity I use I am billed for a Customer Charge and a Base Energy charge. The Customer Charge is \$14.00 per month for "the cost of your service, meter and billing". Since the meter has long since been paid for and billing is by RF meter reading and computer I assume most of that, say \$10.00, goes for "service", which would have to be maintaining the distribution system in Marianna. With approximately 1,500 households here then FPU collects \$15,000 per month to maintain the existing distribution system to those households. Gentlemen, cleaning up after Irma here hardly cost that much, so where is the monthly excess going? It goes to profit and fat salaries!

The bill says we are paying .10055 cents per KWH for the electricity itself, which FPU claims not to make any money on, but they do tack on .02060 cents per KWH for "Distribution costs". Since the Customer Charge covers distribution within Marianna, I assume this is supposed to be the cost of getting the electricity here from wherever. I find it very hard to believe that it takes around \$15 a month from every electricity customer on the grid just to maintain the high tension lines, towers and substations that have been around forever.

Gentlemen, you are the Florida Public Service Commission but it seems you need to decide which definition of the term 'service' describes your job. Webster says service is "The occupation or function of serving" the citizens of Florida. If you allow this rate increase to go through it would seem that you confuse the term with what a farmer hires a bull for; ie to service his cows!

Respectfully,


Lewis Blomeley

Cc: Governor Rick Scott