

**Antonia Hover**

---

**From:** Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:02 PM  
**To:** 'John Russin'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: People's Gas Rate Increase (Docket No. 20200051-GU)

Good Afternoon, Mr. Russin.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200051, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

*Toni Hover*  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 413-6467

**From:** John Russin <johnrussinmd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 1:57 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
**Subject:** Re: People's Gas Rate Increase (Docket No. 20200051-GU)

Dear Public Service Commission:

I received notice on proposed rate increase by People's Gas (TECO) and I hope you will be able to consider the following concerns in making your determination:

- 1) I am probably a small consumer of residential Natural Gas (average less than 0.1 Therm per day). My typical month bill from TECO is \$19.33. Of this amount, the "Customer Charge" currently is \$11.40 per month (59% of the bill). The Distribution Charge and the Purchased Gas Adjustment is modest compared to this dominant Customer Charge (and, of course, there are at least three additional, but relatively small franchise and tax fees).
- 2) The proposed increase in the Customer Charge and Distribution charge amount to more than 42% and 35% respectively. Incidentally, the indicated "current" distribution charge of \$0.25465 shown in the People's Gas filing actually shows up as \$0.46066 on my bill (I can find no explanation for that inconsistency).
- 3) TECO, at least partially, justifies these extreme rate increases in the context of no increases in the last 12 years. Although this suggests that there may be some mismanagement oversight in not keeping track of their expenses for more than a decade, in actuality the inflation for the period of 12 years was 20.72% according to government sources which is a remarkable fraction of the proposed rate increases.
- 4) During that same 12 year time period, natural gas prices (\$ per million BTU) have steadily and consistently plummeted from about \$14 to current below \$2 range (85+% drop).

5) The owner of People's Gas is Canadian-based Emera Energy (traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange) and in recent days it announced a dividend to its investors yielding 4.571%. This contrasts with Florida-based parent of FPL (Nextera Energy) which has a dividend yield of only 1.86%.

So what is going on? Any investments that People's Gas claims to have made in the last 12 year time period, if not regularly monitored by the PSC, should be scrutinized for possible waste or inefficiencies. It is embarrassing that a public utility can allegedly fail so badly in a decade, while its supply costs have markedly diminished, to the point that they see no other solution than to ask for a rate increase far exceeding the underlying inflation rate. And all while still rewarding its investors almost 2 and half times as much as another utility that you oversee.

I hope that you will not agree to the proposed unjustified increases until you have looked at all the facts. Again, I am a small consumer of TECO/People's Gas/Emera services but there are probably hundreds of thousands of customers like me.

Please let me know if you require further information.