

Antonia Hover

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 11:26 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Duke Energy-Solar Panels

Good morning,

Please place the attached email in Docket No. 20210016.

Hannah E. Branum
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6004

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Clark
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 11:15 AM
To: 'John Starkey' <john@johnstarkeycars.com>
Subject: RE: Duke Energy-Solar Panels

Dear Mr. Starkey,

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns and frustrations about your recent Duke Energy Florida, LLC (Duke) bills. I know how challenging increased energy costs can be for families.

As you may know, the Florida Public Service Commission is the agency that regulates the electric companies in the state of Florida, and are required by law to set rates based on the cost of service. In March of 2021 we approved a settlement agreement setting new rates, effective January 2022. The settlement was negotiated and filed with the PSC by several parties, including Duke, the Office of Public Counsel—the attorney representing ratepayers before the PSC—and other consumer groups.

A part of that settlement agreement was the provision you reference in your email, a thirty dollar minimum monthly bill, I wanted to explain my reasons for supporting it. I mentioned above that we set rates based on the cost of service. That means we set rates for each rate class that reflect what it actually costs for the company to provide electricity to them. The only accounts that the minimum bill provision affects are those with very low or zero usage. Duke must build a system that is ready and able to serve those accounts even in months when they are not in use. The wires have to be available, the power plants have to be ready to provide that electricity to those accounts even if they are not used in a particular month. The minimum bill causes low use customer accounts to pay what it costs for the company to serve them at any time the customer chooses to use energy. This ensures that other Duke costumers are not subsidizing low use customer accounts.

I supported the minimum bill provision for the above reasons, and I voted for the Duke Settlement Agreement, because taken as a whole I found it in the public interest. I understand that you may disagree. My role is to ensure safe, reliable utility services at fair prices, and I continue to work for rates that are fair to each customer. Thank you, again, for contacting me, I appreciate the opportunity to hear your perspective.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark
Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 413-6038

-----Original Message-----

From: John Starkey <john@johnstarkeycars.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Duke Energy-Solar Panels

Dear Mr Clark,

I recently spent \$22,000.00 of my savings having Solar Panels installed. I then saw that the Republican led legislature was trying to get a bill passed, sponsored by Florida Power and Light, that would charge customers like me for not using the utilities electricity.

De Santis vetoed it, much to me surprised pleasure, citing the 50,000 workers who install Solar Panels in Florida.

But then I received my Duke Energy bill.... \$17.55 for "minimum bill adjustment" I wrote to the Governor's office asking what this was, to be told to look at the Regulator's website.

"DEF explained that the minimum bill provision was included in the settlement agreement to ensure that all residential and small commercial customers contribute towards the fixed costs of maintaining the electric system, costs which exist as a result of serving even limited amounts of energy to customers."

But I am not using Duke's product-Electricity. I have paid to produce my own...

I strongly object to being forced to pay, when I have attempted to look after my own electricity generation at considerable cost.

Duke Energy are, quite literally, robbing me, with the help of you, one of the regulators.

De Santis obviously didn't see or know what Duke Energy and the Florida PSC had agreed. What a con...

Yours sincerely,

John Starkey.