Commissioners: JOE GARCIA, CHAIRMAN J. TERRY DEASON SUSAN F. CLARK E. LEON JACOBS, JR.



DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES NOREEN S. DAVIS DIRECTOR (850) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

January 25, 2000

Ms. Vernita Turner 3620 South Macdill Avenue Tampa, Florida 33620

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Internet E-mail: contact@psc.state.fl.us

Dear Ms. Turner:

I have been asked to respond to your inquiry concerning the establishment of discount electric rates for senior citizens. Such discounts are not consistent with Florida law.

Senior citizens are members of the residential rate class. Florida law requires that all members of the same rate class be charged the same rates. To do otherwise would be unjustly discriminatory in violation of Section 366.06, Florida Statutes.

The Florida Public Service Commission does require that investor-owned electric utilities offer several types of programs to help residential consumers manage their electric bills. These include:

- Budget billing programs. These programs levelize the amount due each month.
 Many customers living on fixed incomes find these programs attractive, as they help avoid higher than usual electric bills during the very hot summer months.
- Load management programs. In exchange for the right to interrupt service to certain appliances for short periods of time when the demand for electricity is great, utilities pay their customers credits which reduce the monthly bills.
- Energy audits. These are available at no charge to residential customers and help assure that electricity is being used efficiently.
- 4. Conservation programs. These can help a residential customer reduce his monthly bills, including rebates to defray the cost of installing high efficiency appliances.

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Ms. Vernita Turner Page 2 January 25, 2000

I hope you find this information helpful. You should contact your utility for information concerning its specific program offerings. If I may be of further assistance, please call me at (850) 413-6189.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Elias

Chief, Electric and Gas Bureau

RVE:jb

cc: Leroy Rasberry Connie Kummer