

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 5:37 PM
To: 'Dennis Baldwin'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Tell the PSC Why They Need to Keep Your Power Bill Low

Good Afternoon, Mr. Baldwin.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20210015, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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From: drbaldwin32@gmail.com@mg.gospringboard.io <drbaldwin32@gmail.com@mg.gospringboard.io> **On Behalf Of** Dennis Baldwin
Sent: Saturday, September 4, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Tell the PSC Why They Need to Keep Your Power Bill Low

Dear Commissioner

For the reasons articulated below by the Florida AARP, I object to the recent settlement agreement in which there is no party representing Florida consumers. Please consider and address Florida AARP's many concerns before approving any rate increase. Electric rates can and should be lowered, not increased. Thank you.

Dennis Baldwin
Ponte Vedra, FL

Important Update in FPL Rate Case
What's new?

A settlement agreement was announced by Florida Power & Light (FPL) and filed with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) for four years of pre-approved rate increases totaling \$1.53 billion. Details include the following:

Parties in opposition: Floridians Against Increased Rates (FAIR), Florida Rising, League of United Latin American Citizens of Florida, Environmental Confederation of South Florida, Larson Family, Walmart.

Parties in agreement: FPL, Office of Public Counsel, Federal Executive Agencies, Florida Retail Federation, Florida Industrial Power Users, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy CLEO

Institute, Vote Solar – notable absence is any intervenor representing residential consumers. Allows a too generous 10.6% Return on Equity instead of 11.5% (in 2021 Duke settled for 9.85% and TECO for 9.95%) ... still well above the national average of 9.5%. Increase would be a combined \$4.9 billion instead of \$6.2 billion which was originally requested.

Includes nearly \$20 million in industry association dues paid by customers with no requirement for FPL to prove how the dues are used to benefit customers.

The settlement includes investments in solar. AARP supports solar energy but questions the need for a new solar base rate adjustment mechanism.

The settlement includes investments in solar and electric vehicle infrastructure. Such subsidies are not needed as EV chargers can be installed by competitive providers.

What it means for you?

Your monthly electric bill will go up by approximately \$13.64 (instead of \$18.01) by January 2025. The following increases are based on an average residential bill using 1,000 kWh:

Original request: Settlement proposal:

2022 \$10.53 \$6.08

2023 \$3.91 \$3.85

2024 \$2.12 \$2.21

2025 \$1.45 \$1.50

NEW annual increase for storm hardening: On Aug. 3, the PSC approved a \$233 million storm hardening surcharge (rate increase) for FPL. In 2020 and 2021 these costs were removed from the base rates and transitioned to the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause (SPPCRC) that is now an annual reoccurring increase. For more information, please see AARP's full report and FAQ related to this issue. (Both download as pdfs)

These additions would not account for any increases also approved for storm recovery, rising fuel costs or grid maintenance that regulators routinely allow.

What you should know...

Learn about the politics and players involved in the rate case South Florida Sun Sentinel editorial.

While Florida's per kwh rate may be competitive, it has among the highest average residential electric bills. Florida also saw among the largest increases in bills (20%) according to a report issued July 2021.

Consumer groups believe rates can and should be lowered, not increased.

Read FPL's press release detailing the settlement agreement.

FPL continues to be the only major utility with no absolute carbon emissions reduction goals, instead committing only to a reduction of carbon "intensity." Ironically, NextEra (FPL's parent) invests in clean energy projects around the country.

If the PSC agrees with the settlement, it will allow FPL to avoid going on the record with answers to questions about its clean energy goals and its commitment to keeping its rates affordable. (Please share your thoughts here.)

Thank you,

Dennis Baldwin

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