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June 21, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Adam J. Teitzman
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 20210015-EI - Petition for rate increase by Florida Power Light & Company.

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

On behalf of Intervenor Florida Rising, I have enclosed the testimony of Viola Jerkins. Please file these documents in Docket No. 20210015-EI. Please contact me if there are any questions regarding this filing.

/s/ Bradley Marshall

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy and correct copy of the foregoing was served on this 21st day of June 2021, via electronic mail on:

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DATED this 21st day of June, 2021.

/s/ Bradley Marshall
Attorney

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase)
 by Florida Power & Light) **DOCKET NO. 20210015-EI**
 Company)

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF VIOLA JERKINS

ON BEHALF OF

FLORIDA RISING

June 21, 2021

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 A. Viola Jerkins.

3 **Q. Where do you live?**

4 A. 3030 NW 8th Place, Fort Lauderdale, 33311.

5 **Q. What organization are you a member of and for how long?**

6 A. I am a member of Florida Rising. I'm not sure exactly how long I've been a member, but I
7 have gone to meetings and I do as much as I am able to do at my age.

8 **Q. What is your source of income?**

9 A. I am a retired school teacher so I live off of my retirement.

10 **Q. Are you a customer of FPL? If so, for how long?**

11 A. Yes, I have been a customer for over 60 years.

12 **Q. What do you think of FPL?**

13 A. I think they charge too much. I've been retired for over 20 years now and I haven't seen
14 much help and much improvement from FPL, yet my bill keeps going up.

15 **Q. How is your current utility service?**

16 A. I have not had any issues with service. However, they are not very responsive as of late. In
17 the past, they would make sure tree limbs close to power lines were cut down before
18 hurricanes, but they have not been doing that recently. In addition, some people I know were
19 left without power for two weeks after a hurricane.

20 **Q. How much does your FPL bill usually cost each month?**

21 A. \$300-400.

22 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, the base rate for electricity is projected to
23 increase by about 20%. How would this rate increase impact you?**

24 A. I am a retired school teacher and teachers don't make too much money. This increase
25 would be way too much for me, especially since my bill is already too high. I would be

1 unable to pay.

2 **Q. As a Floridian, are you concerned about climate change?**

3 **A.** Yes I am. The rains have gotten more intense where I live and the flooding in my area has
4 increased. Though the roads would flood in the past when it rained, this most recent time was
5 incredibly unusual. We could not even travel down the east part of my street because the
6 water was so high. It was a scary sight.

7 **Q: Based on information provided by FPL, part of this rate increase will pay for new or**
8 **upgraded methane gas power plants. Do you believe this will have an impact on the**
9 **climate?**

10 **A.** I'm not well informed enough about these specifics, though I will say I'm a bit scared of
11 gas. I do know that I'm very concerned about climate change, so if using this gas does have a
12 bad impact, I don't think they should be doing that.

13 **Q: In light of that, how do you feel about contributing your own money to those**
14 **projects, through your FPL bill?**

15 **A.** Again, I'm not informed about the methane gas plants, but I don't want to see things get
16 worse. I think they should focus on improving their current services like the cutting down of
17 trees in preparation for hurricane season with the money they already have. They seem to not
18 be doing anything about it. I've even been told I have to pay when someone else's tree falls
19 into my yard, why would I then pay even more for their service?

20 **Q. What is the mission of your organization?**

21 **A.** Florida Rising has really helped our struggling communities, for example, helping those
22 who are not totally able pay all of their light bills. There was a period recently where there
23 were thousands in Fort Lauderdale were without clean water because of faulty piping
24 infrastructure in the city. Florida Rising brought me clean water and distributed it to the
25 community before the city even did. They have also coordinated to make sure the seniors in

1 the community were taken care of. Florida Rising is there to help those that need it.

2 **Q. How is the purpose of your organization being served by participating in this**
3 **proceeding?**

4 **A.** Since Florida Rising's purpose is to help our communities, ensuring that vulnerable
5 populations do not have to pay more for their electric bill is important. Though it often seems
6 like the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, those people who make a limited income and
7 need help with the basic things are helped and supported by Florida Rising. It is also so
8 important that people from Broward County are involved as well, to ensure our community
9 has a voice.

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