

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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April 7, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Members of the Public Service Commission,

I write today on behalf of the members of the Escambia Board of County Commissioners. Over the last several months we have been inundated with angry complaints from our constituents who have pleaded with us to help them get answers as to why their Florida Power and Light bills have increased so dramatically (in some cases more than doubling month over month).

Many have demanded that we contact you, the esteemed members of the Public Service Commission, to ask that you schedule a new public hearing to reconsider the decision you have made recently that allowed for Florida Power and Light to increase their rates in Escambia County leading to this situation.

Therefore, I am respectfully requesting, on behalf of my fellow commissioners and the citizens we serve, that you conduct a new public hearing to discuss this issue of FPL's rate increases specifically. We are also requesting that any such re-hearing be conducted in Escambia County, Florida (the largest population center in the Florida Panhandle) and noticed to us at least 30 days in advance so that we can inform the public so they may attend such a meeting.

Furthermore, we are requesting a detailed explanation to the following common questions/concerns we are hearing from our constituents:

1. Why are our citizens being socially engineered to conserve-- by having their rates increase once usage exceeds 1000 Kilowatt hours per month? Why is this being allowed and condoned/encouraged by the PSC?
2. Why are other energy sources/fuel commodities for electricity generation being excluded in favor of Natural Gas which has seen tremendous price increases—the costs of which are being burdened fully by ratepayers? Why is this being allowed and condoned by the PSC.

3. Why are our citizens apparently paying the highest rate per 1000 Kilowatt hours billed (residential) in the entire state of Florida? (See attachment 1.)
4. Why does the PSC consider these rates fair and reasonable given this current economic environment?
5. Why is FPL Northwest Florida cutting customers' power off early and not giving customers until 5:00 PM to pay bills that are late? (I have heard that customers' power is being shut off before 5:00 PM on the last day to pay a late bill, when previously if a customer paid before 5:00 PM the power would not be cut off.)

Of course, there are many more citizen questions that need to be answered so I trust you will thoughtfully consider and accede to our request to schedule a hearing for the reconsideration of the FPL rate increases you approved---as soon as it is possible to do.

This way, the Escambia County citizens we serve can be heard and can hear from you, in person, regarding this urgent matter.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bergosh
Chairman of the Board
& District 1 Commissioner,
Escambia Board of County Commissioners
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Pensacola, FL 32502
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Attachment (1)

Florida Investor-Owned Electric Utilities Total Cost for 1,000 Kilowatt Hours - Residential Service

January - December 2022

January - December 2022	Florida Power & Light Co.	Florida Power & Light Company (former Gulf Power)	Duke Energy Florida ⁽¹⁾	Tampa Electric Company	Florida Public Utilities Company
Base Rate Charges	\$75.82	\$75.82	\$80.91	\$78.69	\$40.68
Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Recovery Clause	\$34.87	\$34.87	\$36.81	\$27.45	\$69.89
Energy Conservation Cost Recovery Clause	\$1.34	\$1.34	\$2.83	\$2.36	\$1.34
Environmental Cost Recovery Clause	\$2.99	\$2.99	\$0.28	\$1.38	N/A
Capacity Cost Recovery Clause	\$2.39	\$2.39	\$11.03	\$0.31	N/A
Storm Damage Cost Surcharge	N/A	\$11.00	\$0.00	N/A	\$14.34
Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery	\$2.14	\$2.14	\$3.00	\$3.29	N/A
Asset Securitization Charge	N/A	N/A	\$2.48	N/A	N/A
Transition Rider/Credit	-\$1.98	\$21.06	N/A	N/A	N/A
Clean Energy Transition Mechanism	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$4.41	N/A
Gross Receipts Tax and Regulatory Assessment Fee	\$3.10	\$4.00	\$3.62	\$3.02	\$3.24
Total	<u>\$120.67</u>	<u>\$155.61</u>	<u>\$140.96</u>	<u>\$120.91</u>	<u>\$129.49</u>

⁽¹⁾ Duke's 2022 base rate charges represents a weighted average: the December - February bill is \$88.68; the March - November bill is \$78.32.