

Florida Public Service Commission Consumer E-Newsletter

March 2009

Commissioner Edgar Begins Second Term



Lisa Polak Edgar began a second four-year term on the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) on January 1, 2009. Originally appointed in January 2005, Commissioner Edgar served as chairman from January 2006 through 2007. Governor Crist appointed her to a second term through January 1, 2013.

“Reliable and affordable utility service that is also environmentally sound is important to every residential and business consumer, now and into the future,” said Commissioner Edgar. “As a regulator, consumer, wife, and mother, I am honored and humbled to work on these issues on behalf of Florida’s future.”

Commissioner Edgar serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Board of Directors and Telecommunications Committee, the Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Joint Board, and the U.S. Department of Transportation Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee. She has also served as a member of the Florida Energy Commission and the Governor’s Action Team on Energy and Climate Change.

Commissioner Edgar, a member of the Florida Bar, received a juris doctorate from the College of Law at Florida State University, where she also received a bachelor’s degree in political science.

Lifeline Participation Increases



Participation in the Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) program increased by nearly 12 percent, according to the Florida Public Service Commission’s [Annual Lifeline Report](#). The Lifeline program makes telephone service more affordable for low-income residents.

“Imagine being without a phone. The fact is that some Florida residents are phoneless year-round, and we want them to know help is available,” said Matthew M. Carter II, PSC Chairman.

As of June 2008, nearly 184,000 eligible customers participated in the Florida Lifeline program. In its 2008 report recently sent to the Governor and the Legislature, the PSC attributed increased Lifeline participation to the automatic enrollment process initiated in April 2007 by the PSC and Florida’s Department of Children and Families.

Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate in certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount of at least \$13.50 per month, a savings of \$162 per year. Link-Up Florida (Link-Up) provides a 50 percent reduction in the telephone service installation charge, up to a maximum of \$30, for qualifying households that do not currently have telephone service.

Applying for Lifeline is easy. Florida residents can call their local phone company, the PSC at 1-800-342-3552, or the Office of Public Counsel at 1-800-540-7039. Information is also available at www.floridapsc.com and www.floridaopc.gov/lifeline.cfm.

Utility Problems? File An Online Complaint



Need Discounted Phone Service?

Learn More About
Link-Up Florida &
Lifeline Assistance



Have Questions?

Visit our FAQ's



PSC Honors Community Leaders for Promoting the Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance Programs



To recognize Black History Month, the Florida Public Service Commission honored leaders for promoting the Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance programs in their communities.

Honorees included The Honorable John Marks, Mayor, City of Tallahassee; Curtis Richardson, former state legislator; Kim Moore, CEO, **WORKFORCE plus**; Dot Inman-Johnson, Executive Director, Capital Area Community Action Agency, Inc.; Darryl A. Scott, Chairperson, Greater Frenchtown Area Revitalization Council –

Front Porch Florida; Claudette Cromartie, Executive Director, Tallahassee Housing Authority; Wilma McKay, Executive Director, Florida Association for Community Action, Inc.; Jackie Pons, Leon County School Superintendent; Maggie Lewis-Butler, Leon County School Board Member; Reverend Ernest Ferrell, President and CEO, Tallahassee Urban League; and Leslie Gay, Executive Vice President, Tallahassee Urban League.

During the presentation, PSC Chairman Matthew M. Carter II recognized the honorees as exemplifying those in the community who share a desire to make life better, to do more for their community, and to make sure the less fortunate are cared for.

“The PSC appreciates your ‘linking up’ with us to deliver the message that affordable phone service is available to those who need it most,” said Chairman Carter. “With your Lifeline leadership and your willingness to partner, we have reached many of our neighbors in Tallahassee who needed phone service and can now reach their friends, families, and emergency services with a phone call we often take for granted.”

Renewable Portfolio Standard Draft Rule

As required by Florida Statute, last month Florida’s Public Service Commission submitted a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) draft rule to the Legislature. The RPS rule includes aggressive standards for utilities to reach 20 percent renewable energy production by 2020.



The draft rule balances the Legislature’s intent to enhance fuel diversity, encourage investment in the state, and improve environmental conditions, while minimizing costs to residents. Commissioners considered extensive technical input from environmental, government, utility, and industry representatives before approving the draft RPS rule. To ensure that the goals remain affordable and continue to meet the state’s changing energy needs, the PSC will review the RPS at least once every three years.

The draft RPS rule is available online at:

<http://www.floridapsc.com/library/filings/09/00760-09/fpsc%20draft%20rps%20rule.pdf>

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