

# Florida Public Service Commission

## Consumer E-Newsletter

October 21, 2005

### CHAIRMAN

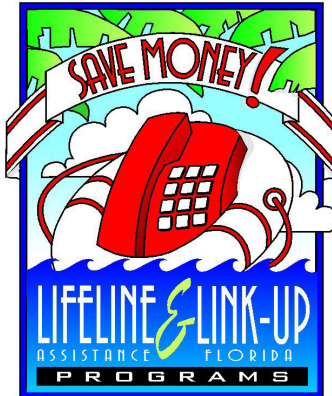


**BRAULIO  
BAEZ**

The 2004 hurricane season in Florida was historic not only for the number of named storms that struck the state, but also for the amount of damage caused. The 2005 season has already produced tropical storms and two hurricanes that have made landfall along Florida's coasts.

The extent of the damages and the power outages caused by the storms led some in Florida to ask whether the state should adopt a policy of burying its power lines.

To learn about the Florida Public Service Commission's role in determining whether power lines should be placed underground, read Chairman Baez' [Consumer Bulletin](#).



### Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Assistance - Affordable Telephone Service For Everyone

Do you receive Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)? Do you receive Food Stamps or Section 8 Housing Assistance? Do you participate in the National School Lunch Program? Do you participate in Bureau of Indian Affairs programs such as: Tribal TANF, Head Start Subsidy, or the National School Lunch Program? Is your household income within 135 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines?

If you answered "Yes" to any one of these questions, you may qualify for Link-Up Florida and Lifeline.

#### Link-Up Florida

If you do not currently have a telephone, Link-Up Florida provides a 50 percent reduction, up to a maximum of \$30, in the cost of getting telephone service connected in your home.

#### Lifeline Assistance

Lifeline provides up to \$13.50 per month credit on qualified residential customers' local telephone bills.

#### Enrolling is simple!

Signing up for Link-Up Florida and Lifeline has never been easier. If you receive benefits under any of the programs listed above, just print out an application from the Florida Public Service Commission's Web page at <http://www.floridapsc.com/industry/telecomm/lifeline/index.cfm>,

### What Does The Public Service Commission Do?

The Florida Public Service Commission sets the rates utility companies charge for natural gas and electricity, and oversees telephone service in Florida. In 36 counties, the PSC sets the price we pay for water.

#### Need Discounted Phone Service?



Learn More About  
Lifeline Assistance  
& Link-Up Florida

#### Utility Problems?

File An Online Complaint

**Problem  
Solved**

**Have  
Questions?**   
Visit our FAQ's



Click [here](#) to  
subscribe to the  
Florida Public Service  
Commission's  
E-Newsletter

and mail it to the local telephone company serving your area.

If your household income is within 135 percent of the federal poverty level, you can download an application at the Office of Public Counsel's Web site at: <http://www.floridaopc.gov/lifeline.cfm>.

<b>Estimated Income Requirements at 135% of Federal Poverty Level</b>	
<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Income</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$12,920</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$17,321</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$21,722</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$26,123</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>\$30,524</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>\$34,925</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>\$39,326</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>\$43,727</b>

If you have questions or need assistance in applying for Link-Up Florida or Lifeline, you may call the Florida Public Service Commission toll-free at **1-800-342-3552**.

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### **No Increase in Florida Power & Light or Progress Energy Base Rates**

The Florida Public Service Commission has voted to accept settlement agreements that resolve pending rate cases for Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and Progress Energy Florida (PEF). The settlement agreements were reached in negotiations between the companies and intervenors including the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Public Counsel, AARP, and other consumer groups.

Under the settlement agreement with FPL, the company agreed to withdraw its request to increase base rates by \$430 million and continue a revenue sharing plan, which may result in refunds to consumers. During the period of the agreement, FPL would be able to recover the cost of new power plants through adjustments to base rates upon date of commercial operation.

Under the Progress Energy Settlement, the company agreed to withdraw its request to increase base rates by \$206 million and agreed to continue a revenue sharing program which may also result in refunds to customers. PEF will be allowed to recover the cost of the new Hines 4 power plant through adjustments to base rates beginning with the date of commercial operation of the plant.

Of the Progress Energy settlement, Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar said, "Thank you to the company and thank you to the intervenors for being at the table and negotiating in good faith to bring forward a document that does seem to be in the best interest of the state of Florida, of the customers, that gives rate stability both in the short-term and the long-term, which I do believe is in the best interest of all consumer groups and the utility as well."