

REQUEST TO ESTABLISH DOCKET
(PLEASE TYPE)

Date April 16, 1998

Docket No. 980530 - EI

1. Division Name/Staff Name Electric and Gas / R. Goad
2. OPR R. Goad
3. OCR
4. Suggested Docket Title Request ~~Petition~~ for approval of Budget Billing tariff revisions by Gulf Power Company.

5. Suggested Docket Mailing List (attach separate sheet if necessary)

- A. Provide NAMES ONLY for regulated companies or ACRONYMS ONLY regulated industries, as shown in Rule 25-22.104, F.A.C.
- B. Provide COMPLETE name and address for all others. (Match representatives to clients.)

1. Parties and their representatives (if any)

<u>Gulf Power Company</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Interested Persons and their representatives (if any)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. Check one: Documentation is attached.
 Documentation will be provided with recommendation.

I:\PSC\RAR\WP\ESTDKT.
PSC/RAR 10 (Revised 01/96)

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
04380 APR 16 98
PSC-RECORDS/REPORTING



April 9, 1998

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee FL 32399-0868

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed are an original and fifteen copies of Gulf Power Company's revised tariff sheet no. 6.14, Rate Schedule BB, Budget Billing; tariff sheet no. iii, Table of Contents; and tariff sheet no. 7.1, Index. A coded copy of the tariff sheets is also provided to show the proposed changes.

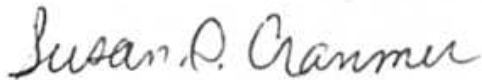
A summary of the changes requested by Gulf is listed below:

1. The company seeks to expand the scope of budget billing from solely residential customers to include commercial and small industrial customers. We hope to improve customer satisfaction by offering a payment option in which customers have expressed an interest.
2. The company would like to have 30 days to set up a customer on budget billing. Although most requests are received by phone, some may be received by mail or via the internet.
3. Language has been removed that allowed the company to terminate the budget billing arrangement if a customer moved from one address to another. Our new Customer Service System (CSS) accommodates this circumstance; consequently the restriction is no longer needed.
4. Language has been added that more properly defines the annual review procedure. Experience with CSS has taught us that this process varies slightly from the monthly review.
5. The company seeks to delete tariff sheet no. 7.24, Request for Residential Budget Billing, from the Contract Forms Section. Written authorization from the customer should not be required. As stated previously, most customers request this option by phone.

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo
April 9, 1998
Page Two

Gulf views the above changes as enhancements for the customer with virtually no additional cost to the company. The payment option of Budget Billing offers a tool to customers with which they can better budget their energy expenses. Upon approval, please return two copies of the approved tariff sheets to my attention.

Sincerely,



Susan D. Cranmer
Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer

lw

Enclosures

cc: Beggs and Lane
Jeffrey A. Stone, Esquire
Florida Public Service Commission
Connie Kummer

Tariff Sheet

GULF POWER COMPANY

<u>Section</u>	<u>Description</u>
Section VII	Standard Contract Forms
Form 1	Contract for Electric Power
Form 2	Contract for Electric Service for Resale
Form 3	Contract for Seasonal Electric Power
Form 4	Contract for Street Lighting Service
Form 5	Application for Service and General Area Lighting Service Agreement - Rate Schedule OS (Part II)
Form 6	Contract for Government Owned and Operated Housing
Form 7	Equipment Rental Lease and Maintenance Agreement
Form 8	Deleted
Form 9	Agreement for Underground Electric Service
Form 10	Application for Underground Service in an Overhead Area
Form 11	Contract for Time-of-Use Conservation Rate
Form 12	Request for Interconnection of Customer-Owned Generation
Form 13	Standby Service Agreement
Form 14	Standby Service Interconnection Agreement
Form 15	Agreement for Residential Energy Management Pilot Study
Form 16	Application for Service and Enhanced Power Quality Service Agreement - Rate Schedule EPQ
Form 17	Application for Underground Cost Estimate
Form 18	Guaranty Agreement
Form 19	Optional Relamping Service Agreement Customer-Owned General Area Lighting - Rate Schedule OS (Part I/II)
Form 20	Optional Up Front Payment of Fixture(s)
Form 21	Optional Up Front Payment of Additional Facilities
Form 22	Contract Service Arrangement for the Provision of Service Under the Commercial/Industrial Service Rider
Form 23	Assignment of Lighting Service Contract
Form 24	Customer-Owned Lighting Agreement (Without Relamping Service Provisions) - Rate Schedule OS (Part I/II)
Form 25	Landlord "Leave Service Active" Agreement
Section VIII	Special Contracts and Agreements

GULF POWER COMPANY

RATE SCHEDULE BB

BUDGET BILLING (Optional Rider)

AVAILABILITY - Available throughout the entire territory served by the Company.

APPLICABILITY - This budget billing rider will, upon request by the Customer, be applied to any customer receiving electric service under Rate Schedules RS, RST, GS, GST, GSD, GSDT, LP, and LPT except those customers with current delinquent bills or those customers disqualified from the program within the twelve preceding months. Eligible customers will be notified of availability of this rider annually. Gulf Power shall have 30 days to establish Budget Billing upon request of the Customer.

BILLING - Under the Budget Billing plan, the Monthly billing is determined as follows:

1. The Annual Base Amount is calculated using the most recent 12 months billings for the premises (including billings for Rate Schedule OS, if any,) and then averaged and rounded to the nearest whole dollar (Monthly Budget Billing Amount). If the customer has not occupied the premises for 12 months, the Annual Base Amount will be determined by the Customer's available monthly billings plus the previous occupant's billings. If the premises is new or sufficient actual consumption is not available, a 12-month estimated bill will be used.
2. The Monthly Budget Billing Amount is recalculated every month using the most recent Annual Base Amount plus any deferred balances (the difference in prior billings made under the Budget Billing Plan and that of actual charges).

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \text{Monthly Budget} & = & \text{12-month Summation} & + & \text{Deferred} \\ \text{Billing Amount} & & \text{Actual or Est. Annual Base} & & \text{Balance} \\ & & \text{12} & & \end{array}$$

For each month except the annual review month, if the difference between the newly calculated Monthly Budget Billing Amount and the current Monthly Budget Billing Amount is greater than \$5.00 and 10%, then the Monthly Budget Billing Amount will be reestablished at the newly calculated amount (rounded to the nearest whole dollar). In the customer's annual review month, if the difference between the newly calculated Monthly Billing Amount (rounded to the nearest whole dollar) and the Current Monthly Billing Amount (rounded to the nearest whole dollar) is different, then the Monthly Billing Amount will be reestablished at the newly calculated amount.

3. At the Customer's option (in lieu of carrying the deferred balance forward in the recalculation of the Monthly Budget Billing Amount) any deferred balance that is outstanding at the Customer's annual review may be settled either through being applied to the Customer's new bill (if a credit balance) or direct payment to the Company (if a debit balance).

TERM OF CONTRACT - Upon request of the customer, billing under the provisions of this rider shall continue thereafter until terminated as provided below.

TERMINATION - Billing under this agreement shall be subject to termination by either party giving notice to the other party. This agreement may be terminated by the Company if the account becomes delinquent. In the event billing under this agreement is terminated, any amount the customer has been underbilled shall immediately become due and payable to the Company and any amount overbilled shall be refunded to the Customer. Billing may be terminated under this agreement without terminating or affecting any service agreement between the Company and the Customer. In such event, billing under the normal monthly billing procedure will be resumed subsequent to the settlement statement rendered by the Company; however, nothing in this agreement shall be construed to waive the Company's rights to discontinue service in the event of failure to pay bills or for any other lawful cause as set forth in its electric tariff.

SERVICE UNDER THIS RATE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COMPANY AND THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

GULF POWER COMPANY

INDEX OF STANDARD CONTRACT FORMS

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Sheet No.</u>
Form 1	Contract for Electric Power	7.2
Form 2	Contract for Electric Service for Resale	7.5
Form 3	Contract for Seasonal Electric Power	7.11
Form 4	Contract for Street Lighting Service	7.13
Form 5	Application for Service and General Area Lighting Service Agreement - Rate Schedule OS (Part II)	7.16
Form 6	Contract for Government Owned and Operated Housing	7.17
Form 7	Equipment Rental Lease and Maintenance Agreement	7.23
Form 8	Deleted	
Form 9	Agreement for Underground Electric Service	7.25
Form 10	Application for Underground Service in an Overhead Area	7.27
Form 11	Contract for Time-of-Use Conservation Rate	7.28
Form 12	Request for Interconnection of Customer-Owned Generation	7.29
Form 13	Standby Service Agreement	7.30
Form 14	Standby Service Interconnection Agreement	7.35
Form 15	Agreement for Residential Energy Management Pilot Study	7.41
Form 16	Application for Service and Enhanced Power Quality Service Agreement - Rate Schedule EPQ	7.42
Form 17	Application for Underground Cost Estimate	7.43
Form 18	Guaranty Agreement	7.44
Form 19	Optional Relamping Service Agreement Customer-Owned General Area Lighting - Rate Schedule OS (Part I/II)	7.45
Form 20	Optional Up Front Payment of Fixture(s)	7.47
Form 21	Optional Up Front Payment of Additional Facilities	7.48
Form 22	Contract Service Arrangement for the Provision of Service Under the Commercial/Industrial Service Rider	7.49
Form 23	Assignment of Lighting Service Contract	7.54
Form 24	Customer-Owned Lighting Agreement (Without Relamping Service Provisions) - Rate Schedule OS (Part I/II)	7.55
Form 25	Landlord "Leave Service Active" Agreement	7.57

Legislative Format

GULF POWER COMPANY

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GULF POWER COMPANY**RATE SCHEDULE BB****BUDGET BILLING
(Optional Rider)**

AVAILABILITY - Available throughout the entire territory served by the Company.

APPLICABILITY - This budget billing rider will, upon completion of the Request for Residential Budget Billing form request by the Customer, be applied to any customer receiving residential electric service under Rate Schedules RS, RST, GS, GST, GSD, GSDT, LP, and LPT except those customers with current delinquent bills or those customers disqualified from the program within the twelve preceding months. Eligible customers will be notified of availability of this rider annually. Gulf Power shall have 30 days to establish Budget Billing upon request of the Customer.

BILLING - Under the Budget Billing plan, the Monthly billing is determined as follows:

1. The Annual Base Amount is calculated using the most recent 12 months billings for the premises (including billings for Rate Schedule OSH, if any,) and then averaged and rounded to the nearest whole dollar (Monthly Budget Billing Amount). If the customer has not resided-occupied at the premises for 12 months, the Annual Base Amount will be determined by the Customer's available monthly billings plus the previous occupant's billings. If the premises is new or sufficient actual consumption is not available, a 12-month estimated bill will be used.
2. The Monthly Budget Billing Amount is recalculated every month using the most recent Annual Base Amount plus any deferred balances (the difference in prior billings made under the Budget Billing Plan and that of actual charges).

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \text{Monthly Budget} & = & \text{12-month Summation} & + & \text{Deferred} \\ \text{Billing Amount} & & \text{Actual or Est. Annual Base} & & \text{Balance} \\ & & \text{12} & & \end{array}$$

For each month except the annual review month, if the difference between the newly calculated Monthly Budget Billing Amount and the current Monthly Budget Billing Amount is greater than \$5.00 and 10%, then the Monthly Budget Billing Amount will be reestablished at the newly calculated amount (rounded to the nearest whole dollar). In the customer's annual review month, if the difference between the newly calculated Monthly Billing Amount (rounded to the nearest whole dollar) and the Current Monthly Billing Amount (rounded to the nearest whole dollar) is different, then the Monthly Billing Amount will be reestablished at the newly calculated amount.

3. At the Customer's option (in lieu of carrying the deferred balance forward in the recalculation of the Monthly Budget Billing Amount) any deferred balance that is outstanding at the Customer's annual review may be settled either through being applied to the Customer's new bill (if a credit balance) or direct payment to the Company (if a debit balance).

TERM OF CONTRACT - Upon execution of a Request request for Residential Budget Billing form of the customer, billing under the provisions of this rider shall continue thereafter until terminated as provided below.

TERMINATION - Billing under this agreement shall be subject to termination by either party giving notice to the other party. This agreement may be terminated by the Company if the account becomes delinquent or if the customer moves from the address specified on the Request for Residential Budget Billing. In the event billing under this agreement is terminated, any amount the customer has been underbilled shall immediately become due and payable to the Company and any amount overbilled shall be refunded to the Customer. Billing may be terminated under this agreement without terminating or affecting any service agreement between the Company and the Customer. In such event, billing under the normal monthly billing procedure will be resumed subsequent to the settlement statement rendered by the Company; however, nothing in this agreement shall be construed to waive the

Company's rights to discontinue service in the event of failure to pay bills or for any other lawful cause as set forth in its electric tariff.

SERVICE UNDER THIS RATE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE COMPANY AND THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ISSUED BY: Travis Bowden

EFFECTIVE: October 10, 1997

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GULF POWER COMPANY
REQUEST FOR RESIDENTIAL BUDGET BILLING
Form 8

Name	Effective Month	Date of Request	Taken By
Address	Service Account Number		
Town	Est. Annual KWH	Est. Mo. Bill-1st Mo. (include current FCA)	

1. I agree to pay monthly, a budget bill based on my annual billings.
2. In the event that I am delinquent in payment of monthly bills, I understand that I may be removed from this budget billing plan, and my account will then revert to actual usage bills, with all unpaid amounts for actual metered usage becoming immediately due.
3. In case I should move from the above service address this agreement is terminated and all unpaid amounts become due.
4. I may cancel this agreement at any time, but in such case all unpaid amounts become due.
5. I understand that I will not be accepted for this plan unless all amounts currently billed to me at the above address have been paid in full.
6. This agreement shall be automatically renewed annually unless terminated by notice or as described in Paragraph 2 or 3 above.

Customer's Signature

Date