

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Janet Brunson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** 'Fred Beauchemin'  
**Cc:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** RE: Docket number 160186-EI

Dear Mr. Beauchemin:

Thank you for contacting the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) about Gulf Power Company's (Gulf) rate increase petition. Your correspondence is included in Gulf's rate case docket file (No. 160186-EI) to give Commissioners and staff an opportunity to review and understand your concerns.

Service hearings are scheduled in Pensacola on January 26 and in Panama City on January 27. I encourage you to attend one of the hearings, so that you can directly speak to the Commissioners. All customer comments—written and verbal—become a part of the record and will be reviewed and considered when PSC staff prepares its recommendation to the Commissioners on Gulf's petition.

Gulf's technical hearing before the PSC will be in March in Tallahassee. Witnesses from the utility, the Commission staff, the Office of Public Counsel (representing Gulf customers), and other intervenors in the case will present testimony, introduce exhibits, and be cross-examined before the Commissioners. Commissioners will review Gulf's need for a rate increase, its existing and proposed rate structure, and its ability to provide safe and reliable service.

Commissioners are charged with making sure that Florida's utility companies fulfill their service obligation. In its petition, Gulf based its request on several factors, including transmission projects and replacing and repairing infrastructure. The PSC will ensure that final customer rates reflect only those costs that are prudent and necessary for Gulf to deliver quality electric service.

You can find Gulf rate case information on the PSC's website, [www.FloridaPSC.com](http://www.FloridaPSC.com). Access the Clerk's Office tab, then hit Dockets and type in Docket No. 160186. All case submissions can be found in the Documents Filing Index. If you have additional questions or need further assistance, please call PSC Consumer Assistance at 1-800-342-3552.

Sincerely,

Bev DeMello  
Assistant Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Beauchemin [<mailto:FredBeaucheminPE@aol.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 10:46 AM  
To: Consumer Contact  
Subject: Docket number 160186-EI

Dear Sirs:

I am a Gulf Power Customer seeking to influence your decisions regarding Docket number 160186-EI that Gulf Power has informed it's customers is a proposed rate increase with the objective of INVESTING the proceeds therefrom to improve

the reliability of its power infrastructure. Gulf Power cites summary data that its costs are declining, "...mainly because of decreased fuel prices." Yet Gulf Power proposes across-the-board increases in base rates — in the case of residential customers an average increase of 6.9% or \$10.22 per month (multiplied by \_\_\_ customers = \$\_\_\_ data not supplied). Compare that to the Social Security 0.3% Cost of Living increase effective this month.

This is upside-down logic. It is also a request by Gulf Power to have you force me to INVEST in Gulf Power infrastructure improvements. This is not a rate structure function; Gulf Power should be directed to address itself to the commercial bond market to raise private funds for such infrastructure improvements. If they present a convincing argument, I might be willing to join other INVESTORS to INVEST in Gulf Power's infrastructure improvements. It goes without saying that I most strenuously reject Gulf Power's attempt to have you force me to INVEST via a rate increase — that is not your function and it is not the way the INVESTMENT market works! Oh, and if I end up being forced to INVEST, what rate of return might I receive and what options are there to sell my INVESTMENT.

If my logic does not resonate with you, please direct Gulf Power to provide its customers all pertinent data reasonably necessary to rebut the rate proposal on the (fallacious) grounds it has been proposed, because the half page of information provided to customers like me is woefully inadequate to provide you a reasonably balanced argument opposing the rate increase proposal by Gulf Power on the basis of rates and costs.

I invite your attention to the attached copy of the Gulf Power "NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS"

Sincerely,

Alfred E. Beauchemin, P.E.  
Gulf Power Residential Customer of 35 years

CC:  
OPC: 111 West Madison St., Room 812, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400, (800) 342-0222