

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Janet Brunson  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** 'jrunjaic@mail.usf.edu'  
**Cc:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 160186 - Gulf Power Company Rate Increase

Dear Ms. Runjaic:

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.

January service hearings were held in Pensacola and Panama City. 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

**From:** Jelena Runjaic [<mailto:jrunjaic@mail.usf.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 7:12 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Subject:** 160186: Petition for rate increase by Gulf Power Company.

To whom it may concern,

Like many others worried about this 6.9% rate increase by Gulf Power, I advise the PSC to **DENY the company's request**. Gulf Power is requesting increasing its annual revenues by between \$115 and \$125

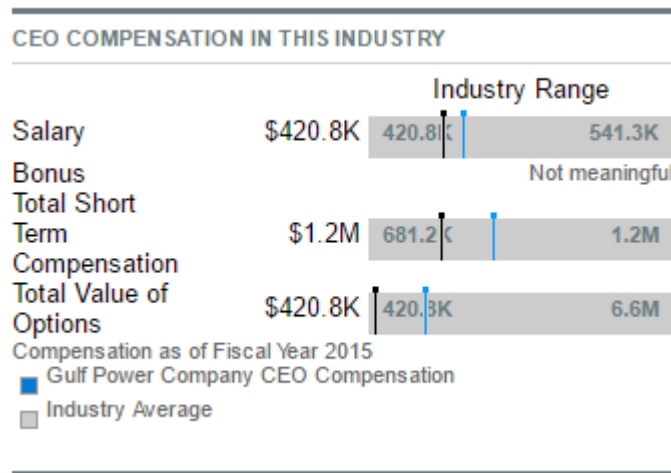
million. However, a study done by Mr. Dane A. Watson states the company's depreciation is \$20.4 million a year. To keep their company afloat they need an additional \$100 million annually-at a time when fuel prices are low? There is no logic to this rate increase.

While Gulf Power is hoping to increase rates on consumers, its top 6 executives are making over \$5 million combined (source: <http://www1.salary.com/GULF-POWER-CO-Executive-Salaries.html>).

Name/Title	Total Cash	Equity	Other	Total Compensation
R. S. Teel Former Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$456,670	\$156,703	\$253,830	\$867,203
B. C. Terry Vice President	\$476,689	\$168,195	\$19,421	\$664,305
S. W. Connally Jr. President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director	\$811,758	\$553,946	\$30,485	\$1,396,189
J. R. Fletcher Vice President	\$408,602	\$144,315	\$120,417	\$673,334
X. Liu Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$454,376	\$154,865	\$283,417	\$892,658
W. E. Smith Vice President	\$331,862	\$81,813	\$144,040	\$557,715

[Salaries.html](http://www1.salary.com/GULF-POWER-CO-Executive-Salaries.html)).

In fact, Bloomberg data illustrates that Gulf Power CEOs have higher salaries and much higher bonuses than industry averages (Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/people.asp?privcapId=3477992>).



In late 2016, Gulf Power teamed up with other utility companies to promote Amendment 1, personally contributing nearly \$2.2 million to deceive voters. This generous political donation hardly illustrates that the company is struggling (Source: <http://www.energyandpolicy.org/florida-amendment-1/>).

Like most Floridians vehemently in favor of solar power, it is time to encourage utility companies to invest in solar. Solar power is now the cheapest form of energy in the world, and multiple sources indicate solar infrastructure also hires more workers than any other energy industry. This seems like an obvious choice. Unfortunately, many Gulf Power consumers do not have the choice to switch providers, and this obvious monopoly goes against the very Capitalistic ideal that this country pursues.

Gulf Power's request does NOT benefit consumers and it should be opposed. It is up to the company to find ways to increase profits without increasing rates an astounding 6.9%.

Warm regards,

Jelena Runjaic