

Collin Roehner

From: Janet Brunson
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:47 AM
To: 'tinasetliff@gmail.com'
Cc: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase

Dear Ms. Setliff:

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. 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: Tina Setliff [<mailto:tinasetliff@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Records Clerk
Subject: Docket # 160186-EI

Hello, I am writing to oppose the Gulf Coast Power Company's proposed rate increase. The current rates are already high and many households struggle paying their power bills and this increase would just add to that financial struggle and stress.

I would also like to take an exert from the Consumers Union's Ms. Shannon Baker-Branstetter's comments filed on Jan. 26, 2017 with the Florida Public Service Commission. This exert is worth reiterating and hope that it will be taken into serious consideration.

'Gulf Power's proposed rate increase relies on a 155% increase to its fixed customer charge. Under Gulf Power's proposal, a customer's minimum bill would increase from \$19 to \$48, before they even flipped on a light switch, meaning that a residential customer would pay nearly \$30 more per month.

At \$18/month, Gulf Power already has a higher fixed charge than most utilities in the region, which are at or under \$10/month. Increasing fixed charges further is unreasonable, inequitable and unfair to Gulf Power customers. Fortunately, many utility commissions around the country have recognized the problems with higher fixed charges and have rejected most proposals to increase them. We urge the Florida PSC to do the same.

No one wants to waste energy or money, and yet Gulf Power's proposal punishes those who choose to be thrifty with their energy use, as well as those who have no choice but to ration their electric usage to fit their budget. Gulf Power's proposal to increase fixed charges takes away even this modest degree of control over their own finances and self-sufficiency. Forcing low-usage customers to heavily subsidize high users is regressive and this problem is not sufficiently addressed by Gulf Power's proposed subsidies."

PLEASE do NOT approve increases.

Sincerely,

Tina Setliff
Escambia County Resident