CORRESPONDENCE MAR 22, 2017 DOCUMENT NO. 03733-17

Commissioners: Julie I. Brown, Chairman Art Graham Ronald A. Brisé Jimmy Patronis Donald J. Polmann

## STATE OF FLORIDA

## Office of Consumer Assistance & Outreach Cynthia L. Muir Director (850) 413-6482

## **Public Service Commission**

March 22, 2017

Ms. Bettye Gates 1312 Wyoming Avenue Lynn Haven, Florida 32444 COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Gates:

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.

Gulf's technical hearing before the PSC was scheduled for March 20-24, 2017, in Tallahassee. At the hearing's start on March 20, Gulf announced a settlement agreement with the Office of Public Counsel, which represents consumers before the PSC. No other party to the case objected to the proposed settlement agreement that will be considered by the Florida Public Service Commission on April 4.

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 customer rates proposed in the settlement agreement are in the best public interest and 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

BSD/jmb