

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Petition for approval of) DOCKET NO. 961192-EI
proposed changes to Sheet No.) ORDER NO. PSC-96-1480-FOF-EI
6.14 of retail tariff regarding) ISSUED: December 4, 1996
Rate Schedule LB Levelized)
Billing (Optional Rider) by Gulf)
Power Company.)
_____)

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

SUSAN F. CLARK, Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
JOE GARCIA
JULIA L. JOHNSON
DIANE K. KIESLING

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

DECISION

Gulf Power Company (Gulf) proposed to modify Tariff Sheet No. 6.14, Rate Schedule LB, allowing the frequency of billing adjustments to be reduced from monthly to quarterly for residential customers subscribing to the levelized billing option.

Currently, Gulf calculates the levelized amount by summing the actual kWh consumption for the previous eleven months and the current month, plus any accumulated difference between the average amount billed and the actual amount owed the Company; the total sum of these amounts is then divided by twelve. If actual consumption is not available, the annual bill is based on estimated consumption. By using this method it is possible that the customer's bill will vary slightly each month. However, Gulf limits the maximum month-to-month variation to plus or minus ten percent of the levelized amount. Currently there are 15,361 customers using this billing option. All residential customers are notified of the availability of this billing option at least annually.

Gulf's changes to Rate Schedule LB alter the frequency of billing adjustments from monthly to quarterly. Gulf will calculate the billing amount by summing the most recent twelve month's

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billing for the premises plus any deferred balance accumulated by the customer; this amount will be then divided by twelve. If the customer has not resided at the premises for twelve months, Gulf will use the customer's available monthly billings plus the previous occupant's billings. However, if the premises are new, Gulf will use a twelve-month estimate. Gulf will do these calculations every three months. If the difference between the newly calculated monthly levelized billing amount and the existing monthly levelized billing amount is greater than \$5.00 or 10 percent (10 percent is only applicable for bills under \$50.00) of the previous levelized amount, the monthly levelized billing amount will be reestablished at the newly calculated amount, rounded to the nearest whole dollar. The customer also has the option of not carrying any deferred balance forward, but having it debited or credited, as appropriate, to his account on the next bill.

Gulf's proposed levelized billing revision is similar to Florida Power Corporation's option in its Rate Schedule RS-1, Residential Service, on Fourth Revised Sheet No. 6.121 that was effective April 18, 1995.

In addition, to the above-mentioned revisions, Gulf also added language to clarify the relationship between the levelized billing plan and any service agreement between it and the customer. This language does not represent a substantive change to the tariff sheet.

Gulf's revised tariff will benefit Gulf's ratepayers, customers using the optional Levelized Billing option, and does not create any significant disadvantage for Gulf. Therefore, we approve Gulf's revised tariff.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Gulf Power Company's proposed revisions to Tariff Sheet No. 6.14, Rate Schedule LB, are approved. It is further

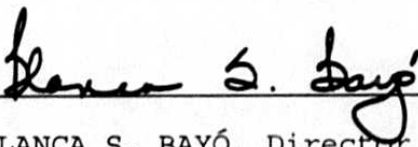
ORDERED that the effective date of this tariff is February 1, 1997. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirement set forth below, the tariff shall remain in effect with any increase in revenues held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

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ORDERED that if no protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, this docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 4th day of December, 1996.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.59(4), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed files a petition for a formal proceeding, as provided by Rule 25-22.036(4), Florida Administrative Code, in the form provided by Rule 25-22.036(7)(a)(d) and (e), Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on December 26, 1996.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final on the day subsequent to the above date.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this Order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

If this Order becomes final on the date described above, any party adversely affected may request judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or by the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and Reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days of the date this Order becomes final, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.