BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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| In re: Petition for approval of revisions to deposit provisions of tariff sheet Nos. 4.12 and 6.23, by Gulf Power Company. | DOCKET NO. 170109-EIORDER NO. PSC-17-0240-TRF-EIISSUED: June 21, 2017 |

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIE I. BROWN, Chairman

ART GRAHAM

RONALD A. BRISÉ

JIMMY PATRONIS

DONALD J. POLMANN

ORDER APPROVING GULF POWER COMPANY’S

MODIFICATIONS TO TARIFF SHEET NOS. 4.12 AND 6.23

BY THE COMMISSION:

 On May 5, 2017, Gulf Power Company (Gulf or Company) filed a petition requesting Commission approval of amendments to Tariff Sheet Nos. 4.12 and 6.23 regarding customer deposits. During the 2015 session, the Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 7109 which was incorporated into Chapter 2015-129, Laws of Florida. Among other things, the legislation created Section 366.05(1)(b) and (c), Florida Statutes (F.S.). Paragraph (1)(b) addresses billing periods and Paragraph (1)(c) addresses customer deposits. These laws became effective on July 1, 2015. We adopted amendments to Rules 25-6.100 (Customer Billings) and 25-6.097 (Customer Deposits), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), respectively, to implement the laws enacted in July 2015.[[1]](#footnote-1)

 Gulf is requesting tariff modifications at this time to ensure that the Company’s tariff language continues to conform to the applicable statutes and Commission rules. We have jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Sections 366.03, 366.05, and 366.06, F.S.

DECISION

 Gulf’s proposed tariff modifications are designed to conform Gulf’s tariff to the applicable statutes and Commission rules. The Company’s proposed tariff modifications address customer deposits. At this time, Gulf does not have tiered rate schedules; therefore, the Company is not proposing any changes to its tariff as a result of the changes to Section 366.05(1)(b), F.S., and Rule 25-6.100, F.A.C.

 Section 366.05(1)(c), F.S., provides that for an existing account, the total deposit may not exceed two months of average actual charges. For a new service request, the total deposit may not exceed two months of projected charges. Once a new customer has had continuous service for a 12-month period, the amount of the deposit shall be recalculated using actual data. Any difference between the projected and actual amounts must be resolved by the customer paying the additional amount that may be billed by the utility or the utility returning any overcharge.

 We amended Rule 25-6.097(1), F.A.C., to state that the utility’s methodology for determining customer deposits for existing and new accounts shall conform to Section 366.05(1)(c), F.S.[[2]](#footnote-2) The prior rule language already required that the total amount of a deposit not exceed twice the average monthly bill.

 Gulf’s proposed amendments to Tariff Sheet No. 4.12 conform to the new statutory language regarding the recalculation of the deposit after 12-months. Gulf’s proposed amendments to Tariff Sheet No. 4.12 comport with this language by providing that: (a) if the recalculated deposit amount based on the previous 12-months billing history is less than the customer’s current deposit amount, the difference between the deposit amounts will be refunded or applied as a credit to the customer account; and (b) if the recalculated deposit amount exceeds the customer’s current deposit amount, the Company may request an additional deposit amount. Gulf also proposed revisions to Tariff Sheet No. 6.23 to conform to Rule 25-6.097, F.A.C.

 Pursuant to Rule 25-6.097(3), F.A.C., utility customers receive refunds of their deposits with interest after a period of 23 months of continuous service, assuming their payment record is satisfactory. Therefore, for the majority of utility customers, the deposit amount recalculation after a 12-month period of continuous service occurs only once.

 Upon review of the applicable statutes, rules, and proposed tariffs filed by Gulf, we find that the tariff sheet revisions conform to the applicable statutes and rules. Therefore, we approve Gulf’s requested modifications to Tariff Sheet Nos. 4.12 and 6.23, as reflected in Attachment A, effective June 5, 2017.

 Based on the above, it is

 ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Gulf Power Company’s requested modifications to Tariff Sheet Nos. 4.12 and 6.23, as reflected on Attachment A, are hereby approved, effective June 5, 2017. It is further

 ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of the issuance of this Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any charges held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

 ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

 By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 21st day of June, 2017.

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|  | /s/ Carlotta S. Stauffer |
|  | CARLOTTA S. STAUFFERCommission Clerk |

Florida Public Service Commission

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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

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NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

 The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), 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.

 Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

 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 proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on July 12, 2017.

 In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

 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.





1. Order No. PSC-16-0024-FOF-PU, issued January 12, 2016, in Docket No. 150241-PU, In re: Proposed amendments to Rules 25-6.093, Information to Customers; 25-6.097, Customer Deposits; 25-6.100, Customer Billings; 25-7.079, Information to Customers; 25-7.083, Customer Deposits; and 25-7.085, Customer Billing, F.A.C. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)