

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Petition for approval of ) DOCKET NO. 961193-EI  
proposed changes to Sheet No. ) ORDER NO. PSC-96-1453-FOF-EI  
4.12 of retail tariff regarding ) ISSUED: December 2, 1996  
period for holding deposits )  
securing residential accounts 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 Sheet No. 4.12 of its Tariff for Retail Electric Service reducing the period that deposits of qualified residential customers are held from twenty-three months to twelve months.

Rule 25-6.097(2), Florida Administrative Code, states that after a customer has established a satisfactory payment record for a period of 23 months, the utility shall refund the deposit. Rule 25-6.097(4)(b), Florida Administrative Code, however, states "Nothing in this rule shall prohibit a utility from refunding at any time a deposit with any accrued interest."

Gulf estimates that it will refund \$380,000 in deposits to about 3,000 customers upon implementation of the revised tariff. Consequently, the average eligible customer will receive a refund of about \$125.

Gulf's revised tariff benefits its ratepayers and is in compliance with Rule 25-6.097(2), Florida Administrative Code. Therefore, we approve Gulf's proposed tariff. This tariff will be effective February 1, 1997, thereby, coinciding with Gulf's ability to administer and implement the tariff revisions.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

12762 DEC-28

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

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Based on the foregoing, it is

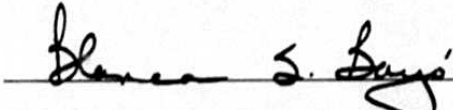
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Gulf Power Company's revised Tariff Sheet No. 4.12 for Retail Electric Service is approved. It is further

ORDERED that the tariff shall be effective 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

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 2nd day of December, 1996.

  
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BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

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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 23, 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.