

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for rate increase by Gulf Power  
Company.

DOCKET NO. 130140-EI  
ORDER NO. PSC-13-0419-PCO-EI  
ISSUED: September 10, 2013

ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO INTERVENE

On May 9, 2013, Gulf Power Company (Gulf) filed a test year letter, as required by Rule 25-6.140, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), notifying the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) of its intent to file a petition in July of 2013 for an increase in rates effective on or about April 10, 2014. Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 366, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rules 25-6.0425 and 25-6.043, F.A.C., Gulf filed its petition for an increase in rates on July 12, 2013.

Petition for Intervention

By petition dated August 30, 2013, Wal-Mart Stores East, L.P. and Sam's East, Inc. (Wal-Mart) requested permission to intervene in this proceeding. Wal-Mart states that it is a major retail customer of Gulf purchasing electricity to service 24 retail stores located across Gulf's service territory. That being the case, Wal-Mart states that its interests will be directly and substantially affected by the outcome of this rate case proceeding. No party has filed an objection to Wal-Mart's petition, and the time for doing so has expired.

Standards for Intervention

Pursuant to Rule 25-22.039, F.A.C.,

Persons, other than the original parties to a pending proceeding, who have a substantial interest in the proceeding, and who desire to become parties may petition the presiding officer for leave to intervene. Petitions for leave to intervene must be filed at least five (5) days before the final hearing, must conform with Uniform subsection 28-106.201(2), F.A.C., and must include allegations sufficient to demonstrate that the intervenor is entitled to participate in the proceeding as a matter of constitutional or statutory right or pursuant to Commission rule, or that the substantial interests of the intervenor are subject to determination or will be affected through the proceeding....

To have standing, the intervenor must meet the two-prong standing test set forth in Agrico Chemical Company v. Department of Environmental Regulation, 406 So. 2d 478, 482 (Fla. 2nd DCA 1981). The intervenor must show that (1) he will suffer injury in fact which is of sufficient immediacy to entitle him to a Section 120.57, F.S., hearing, and (2) the substantial injury is of a type or nature which the proceeding is designed to protect. The first prong of the test addresses the degree of injury. The second addresses the nature of the injury. The "injury in

fact” must be both real and immediate and not speculative or conjectural. International Jai-Alai Players Assn. v. Florida Pari-Mutuel Commission, 561 So. 2d 1224, 1225-26 (Fla. 3rd DCA 1990). See also, Village Park Mobile Home Assn., Inc. v. State Dept. of Business Regulation, 506 So. 2d 426, 434 (Fla. 1st DCA 1987), rev. den., 513 So. 2d 1063 (Fla. 1987) (speculation on the possible occurrence of injurious events is too remote).

Analysis & Ruling

Wal-Mart is a large retail customer of Gulf having numerous facilities and retail stores throughout Gulf’s service territory and thus, its interests will be substantially affected by this proceeding. As such, Wal-Mart has demonstrated that it meets the two-prong standing test of Agrico, and accordingly, Wal-Mart’s petition for intervention shall be granted as set forth herein. Pursuant to Rule 25-22.039, F.A.C., Wal-Mart takes the case as it finds it.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, that the Petition to Intervene filed by Wal-Mart Stores East, L.P. and Sam’s East, Inc. is hereby granted as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that all parties to this proceeding shall furnish copies of all testimony, exhibits, pleadings and other documents which may hereinafter be filed in this proceeding, to:

Wal-Mart Stores East, L.P. and Sam’s East, Inc.

c/o Robert Scheffel Wright

John T. LaVia, III

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By ORDER of Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar, as Prehearing Officer, this 10th  
day of September, 2013.

  
LISA POLAK EDGAR  
Commissioner and Prehearing Officer  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 413-6770  
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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.

SBr

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

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.

Any party adversely affected by this order, which is preliminary, procedural or intermediate in nature, may request: (1) reconsideration within 10 days pursuant to Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code; or (2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court, in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility, or the First District Court of Appeal, in the case of a water or wastewater utility. A motion for reconsideration shall be filed with the Office of Commission Clerk, in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.0376, Florida Administrative Code. Judicial review of a preliminary, procedural or intermediate ruling or order is available if review of the final action will not provide an adequate remedy. Such review may be requested from the appropriate court, as described above, pursuant to Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.