

RUTLEDGE, ECENIA, UNDERWOOD, PURNELL & HOFFMAN

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

STEPHEN A. ECENIA
KENNETH A. HOFFMAN
THOMAS W. KONRAD
R. DAVID PRESCOTT
HAROLD F. X. PURNELL
GARY R. RUTLEDGE
R. MICHAEL UNDERWOOD
WILLIAM B. WILLINGHAM

POST OFFICE BOX 551 32302-0551
215 SOUTH MONROE STREET, SUITE 420
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301-1841

TELEPHONE (904) 681-6788
TELECOPIER (904) 681-6515

January 9, 1997

GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION
PATRICK R. MALLOTT
AMY J. YOUNG

Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 110
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

HAND DELIVERY

Re: Docket No. **970003-GU**

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed herewith for filing in the above-referenced docket on behalf of Florida Public Utilities Company ("FPU") are the following documents:

1. Original and fifteen copies of Petition for Approval of Florida Public Utilities Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment Recovery Factor; *00236-97 - 01/09/97*

2. Original and fifteen copies of the direct testimony of George M. Bachman and Marc L. Schneidemann; ~~and~~ *00237-97*

3. Original and fifteen copies of Composite Exhibit GMB-3, which consists of Schedules E-1, E-1/R, E-2, E-3, E-4 and E-5.

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the extra copy of this letter "filed" and returning the same to me.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing.

Sincerely,

William B. Willingham
William B. Willingham

WBW/r1
cc: All Parties of Record
Tr:ib.3

FILE COPY

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Purchased Gas Adjustment) Docket No. 970003-GU
(PGA) True-up) Filed: January 9, 1997

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF
FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY'S
PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT RECOVERY FACTOR

Florida Public Utilities Company ("FPU"), by and through its undersigned counsel, submits this Petition for the approval of a Purchased Gas Adjustment Recovery Factor ("PGA factor") of 57.569 cents-per-therm for the period April 1997 through March 1998. In support of its Petition, FPU states as follows:

- 1. All notices, pleadings and orders should be directed to:

William B. Willingham, Esq.
RUTLEDGE, ECENIA, UNDERWOOD, PURNELL
& HOFFMAN, P.A.
P. O. Box 551
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0551
(904) 681-6788

and

Mr. Frank C. Cressman
President
FLORIDA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY
P. O. Box 3395
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3395

ACK _____
AFA 1
APP _____
CAF _____
CMU _____
CTR _____
EAG 1
LEG 1
LIN 3
OF _____
RI _____
S: 1
W _____
O' _____

- 2. The exact name of Petitioner and the address of its principal business office is:

Florida Public Utilities Company
P.O. Box 3395
West Palm Beach, Florida 33402-3395

- 3. The Commission has directed Florida's natural gas public utilities to recover their purchased gas costs through a levelized purchase gas cost factor.¹ In accordance with Order Nos. 24463 and

¹Order Nos. 24463 and PSC-93-1783-FOF-GU.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
00236 JAN-95
FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

PSC-93-1783-FOF-GU, FPU has prepared and filed direct testimony² and composite exhibit GMB-3³ in support of its proposed PGA factor of 57.569 cents-per-therm.

4. As demonstrated in the direct testimony and exhibit GMB-3, the final purchased gas adjustment true-up amount for the period April 1995 through March 1996 is an under-recovery of \$1,194,965⁴ and the estimated purchased gas adjustment true-up amount for the period April 1996 through March 1997 is an under-recovery of \$2,468,967.⁵

5. Based upon its projected sales, FPU projects that the net under-recovery to be collected during the period April 1997 through March 1998 is \$3,663,932, and FPU's appropriate PGA factor for the period April 1997 through March 1998 is a maximum of 57.569 cents-per-therm.

6. FPU's approved PGA factor should be effective for all meter readings on or after April 1, 1997, beginning with the first or applicable billing cycle for the period April 1997.

²The direct testimony of Messrs. George M. Bachman and Marc L. Schneidermann are being filed with this Petition and are incorporated herein.

³Composite exhibit GMB-3, which consists of Schedules E-1, E-1/R, E-2, E-3, E-4 and E-5, is being filed with this Petition and is incorporated herein.

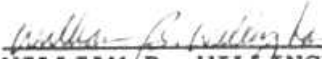
⁴Also see FPU's PGA filing for the period April 1995 through March 1996 that was filed in Docket No. 960003-GU on November 19, 1996.

⁵The estimate under-recovery for the period April 1996 through March 1997 assumes that the Commission will approve the Mid-Course Correction that FPU requested in this docket on January 8, 1997.

WHEREFORE, Florida Public Utilities Company requests the Commission to approve FPU's purchased gas cost recovery factor of 57.569 cents-per-therm to be applied to customer bills for the period April 1997 through March 1998, and to billings thereafter until such time as another recovery factor is approved by the Commission.

Dated this 9th day of January, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,


WILLIAM B. WILLINGHAM, ESQ.
Rutledge, Ecenia, Underwood,
Purnell & Hoffman, P.A.
P. O. Box 551
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0551
(904) 681-6788 (phone)
(904) 681-6515 (fax)

Attorneys for Florida Public
Utilities Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY certify that a copy of the foregoing was furnished by United States Mail this 14th day of January, 1997 to:

Cochran Keating, Esq.
Division of Legal Services
Florida Public Service
Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Gerald L. Gunter Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Office of Public Counsel
111 W. Madison St., #812
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

Joseph A. McGlothlin, Esq.
Vicki Kaufman, Esq.
McWhirter Law Firm
117 S. Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

John W. McWhirter, Jr., Esq.
McWhirter Law Firm
P.O. Box 3350
Tampa, FL 33601-3350

Michael Palecki, Esq.
955 East 25th Street
Hialeah, FL 33013-3498

Mr. Frank C. Cressman
P. O. Box 3395
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3395

Mr. Stuart L. Shoaf
P. O. Box 549
Port St. Joe, FL 32457-0549

Wayne Schiefelbein, Esq.
Gatlin Law Firm
1709-D Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Ansley Watson
P.O. Box 1531
Tampa, FL 33601-1531

Norman Horton, Jr., Esq.
Messer Law Firm
P. O. Box 1876
Tallahassee, FL 32302

By: William B. Willingham
WILLIAM B. WILLINGHAM, ESQ.