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FILE COPY

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January 15, 1997

HAND DELIVERY

**Ms. Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850**

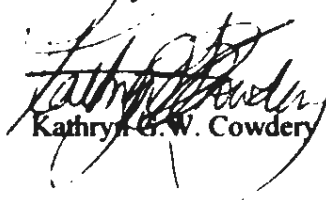
**RE: Docket No. 960577-0015
Application of GULF UTILITY COMPANY for
an increase in Wastewater Rates, approval of a decrease in
Water Rates and approval of Service Availability Charges in Lee
County, Florida**

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing are an original and fifteen copies of a Motion for Postponement of Hearing to March 5th & 6th, 1997, and for Extensions of Time for Remaining Due Dates, in reference to the above docket.

Please acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by stamping the enclosed extra copy of this letter and returning same to my attention. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Kathryn G. W. Cowdery

- ACK _____
- AFA _____
- AFI _____
- CAF _____
- CMU _____ KGWC/met
- CTR _____ Enclosures
- EAG _____ cc:w/encl.:
- LEG _____
- LIT _____ 3
- OP _____
- RT _____
- _____ 1
- _____ NES
- _____

- Commissioner Susan F. Clark, Chairman
- Commissioner J. Terry Deason
- Commissioner Joe A. Garcia
- Charles J. Rehwinkel, Assistant to Commissioner Deason
- Maggie O'Sullivan, Division of Legal Services
- Stephen C. Reilly, Office of Public Counsel

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

00504 JAN 15 97

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application of GULF UTILITY) Docket No. 960329-WS
 COMPANY for an increase in)
 Wastewater Rates, approval of a)
 decrease in Water Rates and) Filed: January 15, 1997
 approval of service availability)
charges in Lee County, Florida)

**MOTION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF HEARING TO
 MARCH 5TH AND 6TH, 1997.
 AND FOR EXTENSIONS OF TIME FOR REMAINING DUE DATES**

Gulf Utility Company (Gulf) files this its motion for postponement of Hearing to March 5th and 6th, 1997, and for extensions of time for remaining due dates, and states:

1. Mr. Keith R. Cardey is the consultant in charge of this rate case. Among other things, he has been the person responsible for the preparation of the testimony and exhibits, including rebuttal testimony and exhibits.

2. The rebuttal testimony of Gulf Utility Company is presently due to be filed on January 17, 1997.

3. Mr. Cardey arrived in Ft. Myers on January 1, 1997. He became ill, but managed to appear for his deposition by Staff on January 3, 1997. Since that date, Mr. Cardey has only sporadically been at the Gulf office, preparing the rebuttal testimony and exhibits. He was not able to work any complete days.

4. On January 13, 1997, Mr. Cardey called into the Gulf office and said he was very ill and would not be able to work that day. On January 13, 1997, Mr. Cardey went into the emergency room of the Health Park Hospital in the Lee Memorial Hospital Complex in

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

Ft. Myers. He was diagnosed as having pneumonia and was given medication. On January 14, 1997, Mr. Cardey again went to the emergency room of the Health Park Hospital. The doctors at that time admitted Mr. Cardey to the hospital.

5. As of today, it is difficult to determine when Mr. Cardey may return to work. It is important to Gulf that Mr. Cardey be available to coordinate and prepare the proper exhibits for rebuttal testimony. At this time, there is no prospect of Mr. Cardey performing his duties prior to the due date of the rebuttal testimony and exhibits on January 17, 1997. Gulf requests an extension of time in which to file rebuttal testimony and exhibits. At this time it is not possible to predict a date by which Gulf will be able to prepare and file rebuttal testimony and exhibits. Gulf suggests that an extension could be granted at this time, and a specific filing date set when it may be ascertained when Mr. Cardey may return to work. Gulf also requests that the remaining due dates as listed on the CASR be extended by an equivalent period of time.

6. By this motion, Gulf is asking for the postponement of the hearing to March 5th and 6th, 1997. Gulf will stipulate to an extension of the 8-month requirement of § 367.081, Fla. Stat., until June 10, 1997.

7. The undersigned has spoken to Ms. Maggie O'Sullivan and she has no objection to the postponement of the hearing. The

undersigned has also talked with Mr. Steve Reilly and he has no objection to the said postponement.

WHEREFORE, Gulf Utility Company requests that the hearing date be postponed until March 5th and 6th, 1997, and that the remaining due dates be extended by an appropriate period of time.

DATED this 15th day of January, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

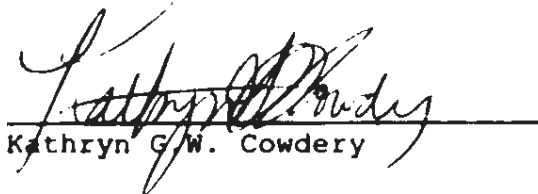


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Attorneys for
GULF UTILITY COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by hand delivery to Ms. Maggie O'Sullivan, Esquire, Division of Legal Services, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, and to Mr. Harold McLean, Esquire, Office of Public Counsel, 111 W. Madison Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400, on this 15th day of January, 1997.



Kathryn G.W. Cowdery