

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for approval of proposed revisions to Sheets Nos. 6.1, 6.14, 7.24, ii and iii of retail tariff regarding Rate Schedule BB, Budget Billing (formerly LB, Levelized Billing) (Optional Rider), by Gulf Power Company.

DOCKET NO. 970677-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-97-0923-FOF-EI
ISSUED: August 4, 1997

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

JULIA L. JOHNSON, Chairman
J. TERRY DEASON
SUSAN F. CLARK
DIANE K. KIESLING
JOE GARCIA

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS

BY THE COMMISSION:

On June 6, 1997, Gulf Power Company (Gulf) filed a petition requesting our approval of revisions to Sheet Nos. 6.1, 6.14, 7.24, ii, and iii of Gulf's Tariff for Retail Electric Service. These revisions reflect modifications to Gulf's optional levelized billing rate schedules. These modifications include the following:

Adding outdoor lighting service in the calculation of the monthly billing amount for levelized billing customers;

Determining the levelized billing amount on a monthly basis, as opposed to the quarterly basis which we approved in Order No. PSC-96-1480-FOF-EI; and

Changing the name of the tariff from Levelized Billing (LB) to Budget Billing (BB).

These tariff revisions were proposed by Gulf to facilitate the implementation of its parent company's ("Southern Company" or "Southern") new customer service system (CSS). In order to reduce operating expenses for the system, Southern is attempting to implement one set of customer accounting and billing procedures for all five of its operating companies, including Gulf. Gulf intends to utilize Southern's new CSS when it becomes available.

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We find that Gulf's proposed tariff revisions are reasonable and should be approved. The proposed revisions should facilitate the implementation of Gulf's new customer service system and will have no significant effect on any of Gulf's customers, including its budget billing customers. The revisions should become effective August 8, 1997, to coincide with Gulf's ability to implement and administer its new customer accounting and billing system.

Based on the foregoing, it is

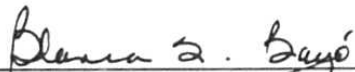
ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Gulf Power Company's proposed revisions to its optional levelized billing rate schedules, found at Tariff Sheet Nos. 6.1, 6.14, and 7.24, ii and iii, and discussed in the body of this Order, are approved. It is further

ORDERED that the effective date of Gulf Power Company's tariff revisions shall be August 8, 1997. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed in accordance with the requirements set forth below, the tariff revisions shall remain in effect, with any increase in revenue 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 4th day of August, 1997.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

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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.

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 August 25, 1997.

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.