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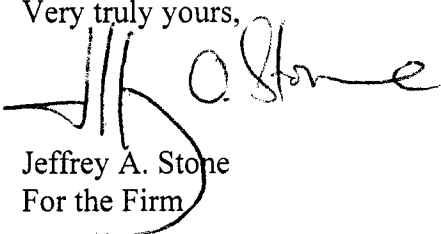
September 23, 1999

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

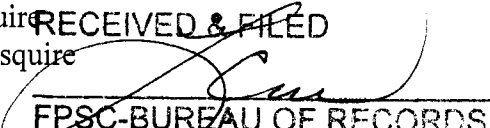
Re: Docket Nos. 990250-EI and 990244-EI

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for official filing in the dockets referred to above are an original and fifteen copies of the Joint Motion to Suspend Discovery and Other Activities Pending Commission Consideration of Possible Settlement Agreement. This joint motion is submitted by Gulf Power Company and the Coalition for Equitable Rates. An extra copy of this letter has also been enclosed. Please acknowledge receipt and official filing of the joint motion by marking the extra copy of this letter with the date and time received by your office and returning same to me at your earliest convenience. If there are any questions concerning this filing, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey A. Stone
For the Firm

AFA Revell
APP _____
CAF _____
CMU _____ JAS/js
CTR _____ Enclosures
EAG 5
LEG 3
MAS 3 cc: Bob Elias, Esquire
OPC _____ Bill Talbott, Executive Director
PAI _____
SEC 1 Ronald C. LaFace, Esquire
WAW _____ Seann M. Frazier, Esquire
OTH Leath kt John W. McWhirter, Esquire
Jack Shreve, Esquire

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FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

11497 SEP 23 99

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation into the earnings and)
authorized return on equity of Gulf Power) Docket No. 990250-EI
Company.)
_____)

In re: Petition of Gulf Power Company for)
approval of proposed plan for an incentive) Docket No. 990244-EI
revenue sharing mechanism that addresses)
certain regulatory issues including a reduction) Date filed: September 23, 1999
to the Company's authorized return on equity.)
_____)

JOINT MOTION TO SUSPEND DISCOVERY AND OTHER ACTIVITIES PENDING COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Coalition for Equitable Rates ("Coalition") and Gulf Power Company ("Gulf Power", "Gulf", or "the Company"), by and through their respective undersigned attorneys, hereby jointly request that the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") allow the parties to suspend discovery and other activities pending a possible settlement agreement which will be subject to Commission review and approval. In support of this joint motion, the parties advise the Commission that as part of an effort pursuant to Section 120.57(4), Florida Statutes, representatives of Gulf Power and Coalition are actively engaged in ongoing discussions to resolve the issues raised in Coalition's Petition without the need for further litigation. In the interest of administrative efficiency, the parties need additional time to determine whether an agreement can be reached that may allow this matter to be resolved without the need for discovery, the filing of testimony or other activities associated with further litigation. The parties are optimistic that an agreement will soon be reached that will resolve any and all issues raised in Coalition's Petition on Proposed Agency Action for the purposes of an informal disposition of their respective interests in the above-styled proceedings. The parties wish to avoid the time,

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

11497 SEP 23 99

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

expense and uncertainty associated with adversarial litigation in these dockets in keeping with the long standing policy and practice of the Commission that encourages parties to contested proceedings to settle issues whenever possible. Once a settlement agreement is reached, it will be filed with the Commission and will contain a request that the Commission take final agency action on the settlement agreement at the Commission Conference scheduled for October 5, 1999, which is the next scheduled Commission Conference. In the meantime, pursuant to Commission Order Nos. PSC-99-1633-PCO-EI and PSC-99-1767-PCO-EI, the following dates have been established to govern the key activities of this case:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1) Utility's and Intervenor's direct testimony and exhibits | October 4, 1999 |
| 2) Staff's direct testimony and exhibits, if any | October 11, 1999 |
| 3) Prehearing Statements | October 11, 1999 |
| 4) Rebuttal testimony and exhibits | October 18, 1999 |
| 5) Prehearing Conference | October 18, 1999 |
| 6) Discovery Complete | October 25, 1999 |
| 7) Hearing | November 1, 1999 |
| 8) Briefs | November 15, 1999 |

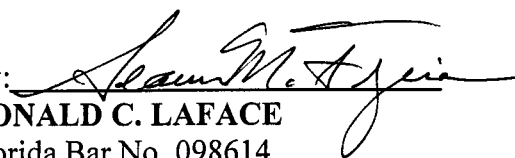
All of the activities necessary to meet these deadlines will be rendered unnecessary if the parties are able to devote their energies to completing a settlement agreement as expected and the resulting settlement agreement is approved by the Commission as will be requested by the parties. Accordingly, Coalition and Gulf Power jointly move the Commission to suspend discovery and all other activities in Docket Nos. 990250-EI and 990244-EI and that all of the current controlling dates set forth in Order Nos. PSC-99-1633-PCO-EI and PSC-99-1767-PCO-EI, be canceled pending Commission consideration of a possible settlement agreement to be filed by the parties.

If the settlement agreement that ultimately results from ongoing discussions between the parties is not ultimately approved by the Commission, and as a result a hearing is still necessary, the parties ask that such hearing be rescheduled for such later date as will allow for a reasonable time to prepare testimony and exhibits, complete discovery and perform such other activities associated with the hearing that are otherwise being held in abeyance by the parties pending Commission consideration of a settlement agreement to be filed by the parties.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned parties respectfully urge the Florida Public Service Commission to suspend all further activities in this matter pending Commission consideration of a possible settlement agreement to be filed by the parties and to grant such other just and reasonable relief as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted the 23rd day of September 1999.

Coalition for Equitable Rates

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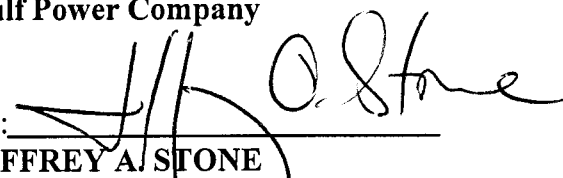
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