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Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 2:08 PM

To: Filings@psc.state.fl.us

Cc: Martha Brown; Caroline Klancke; 'Jeffrey Stone'; Badders, Russell A. (Beggs & Lane); Griffin,

Steven R. (Beggs & Lane)

Subject: Gulf Power Company's Stipulation and Agreement
Attachments: Gulf Power Company Stipulation and Agreement.pdf

A. s/Susan D. Ritenour Gulf Power Company One Energy Place Pensacola FL 32520

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B. Docket No. 110007-El and 110138-El

C. Gulf Power Company

D. Document consists of 15 pages

E. The attached document is Gulf Power Company's Stipulation and Agreement

DOCUMENT NUMBERHDATE

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Terry A. DavisAssistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer

One Energy Place Pensacola, Florida 32520-0786

Tet 850.444.6664 Fax 850.444.6026 TADAVIS@southernco.com



October 28, 2011

Ms. Ann Cole, Commission Clerk Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

Dear Ms. Cole:

RE: Docket No. 110007-El

Terry a. Dairo

Docket No. 110138-El

Attached is Gulf Power Company's Stipulation and Agreement regarding issues related to Cost Recovery of Plant Crist Turbine upgrades and Joint request for approval in the above referenced dockets.

Regards,

nm

Enclosures

cc: Beggs & Lane

Jeffrey A. Stone, Esq.

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Environmental cost recovery clause.

DOCKET NO. 110007-EI DOCKET NO. 110138-EI

In re: Petition for increase in rates by Gulf

Power Company.

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT REGARDING ISSUES RELATED TO COST RECOVERY OF PLANT CRIST TURBINE UPGRADES AND JOINT REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

The Citizens of the State of Florida, through the Office of Public Counsel ("OPC"), the Florida Industrial Power Users Group ("FIPUG"), the Federal Executive Agencies ("FEA"), the Florida Retail Federation ("FRF") and Gulf Power Company ("Gulf Power", "Gulf", or "the Company"), (collectively, the "Parties"), through their respective undersigned counsel, hereby jointly petition the Florida Public Service Commission for entry of an order approving this stipulation regarding the issues of cost recovery associated with turbine upgrades at Gulf's Plant Crist undertaken or planned by Gulf in connection with the Company's Flue Gas Desulfurization ("Scrubber") Project at Plant Crist. The Parties represent that this stipulation fairly and reasonably balances the various positions of the Parties and serves the best interests of the customers they represent and the public interest in general and, therefore, is fully consistent with and supportive of the Commission's long standing policy of encouraging the settlement of contested proceedings in a manner that benefits the ratepayers of utilities subject to the Commission's regulatory jurisdiction and thereby avoids the need for costly, time-consuming and inefficient litigation of matters before the Commission.

BACKGROUND

The Plant Crist Units 4 through 7 Scrubber Project has been developed by Gulf under its CAIR/CAMR/CAVR Compliance Program which was approved for cost recovery through the Environmental Cost Recovery Clause ("ECRC") pursuant to a stipulation dated June 22, 2007 ("2007 Stipulation") between the Parties and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group ("FIPUG") that was approved by the Commission in Order No. PSC-07-0721-S-EI, issued September 5, 2007, In re: Environmental Cost Recovery.

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Subsequent to entering into the 2007 Stipulation, Gulf decided to install turbine upgrades for Crist Units 6 and 7 as part of the Company's implementation of the Plant Crist Scrubber Project to offset increased station service requirements associated with the scrubber installation. Gulf incorporated the costs associated with the upgrades in its planning process for the Scrubber Project and reflected these costs in all of its updates to Gulf's CAIR/CAMR/CAVR Compliance Program filed with the Commission pursuant to the order approving the 2007 stipulation beginning with the update filed in 2008. Gulf referenced these upgrades in its witness testimony in the ongoing ECRC docket beginning with testimony filed in August 2008.

A dispute has arisen among the parties regarding whether the costs associated with the turbine upgrades are properly within the scope of the 2007 Stipulation or otherwise meet the criteria for recovery through the Environmental Cost Recovery Clause. The following issue has been identified in Docket No. 110007-EI for the hearings in that docket scheduled for November 1, 2 and 3, 2011:

<u>Issue 11C</u>: Should Gulf be allowed to recover the costs associated with the Plant Crist Units 6 and 7 turbine upgrades?

The following issue has tentatively been identified as part of Staff's preliminary list of issues in Docket No. 110138-EI scheduled for hearing December 12-16, 2011:

Should the Plant Crist Units 6 and 7 Turbine Upgrade Project be included in rate base and recovered through base rates, rather than through the Environmental Cost Recovery Clause?

STIPULATION

WHEREAS the Parties agree that a dispute exists regarding the appropriateness of the Crist 6 and 7 turbine upgrades for recovery through the ECRC;

WHEREAS the Parties agree that consideration of the Crist 6 and 7 turbine upgrades for recovery through Gulf's base rates is appropriate if recovery is not provided through the ECRC;

WHEREAS the Parties agree that in order to resolve their differences, recovery of the Crist 6 and 7 turbine upgrades through the ECRC should be discontinued on a prospective basis beginning with the ECRC recovery factors to be applied during 2012, and recovery on a

prospective basis should be provided through the base rates to be established for Gulf Power Company in Docket No. 110138-EI;

WHEREAS the parties agree that as part of the transition from ECRC recovery to base rate recovery, the parties should be allowed an opportunity to address the amount of recovery through base rates through the filing of supplemental testimony in Gulf's rate case, Docket No. 110138-EI;

WHEREAS, in current Docket No. 110138-EI, involving Gulf Power's petition for authority to increase its base rates, Gulf Power removed the investment and expenses associated with the turbine upgrades from test year rate base and expenses in view of Gulf Power's request to recover for these costs through the Environmental Cost Recovery Clause;

WHEREAS, in prefiled testimony submitted in Docket No. 110138-EI, Gulf Power's witness stated that, in the event the Commission denies recovery of costs associated with the Crist turbine upgrades through the Environmental Cost Recovery Clause, Gulf Power would wish to reverse the ratemaking adjustments in the base rate proceeding so as to include the investment and costs in the test year under consideration in that docket;

WHEREAS, in the absence of an agreement of parties and action by the Commission, no procedural mechanism exists that would accommodate the resolution of the dispute which otherwise has the potential to unnecessarily complicate the proceedings pending before the Commission; and,

WHEREAS, to avoid the necessity of, and inefficiency associated with, litigating the issues related to the investment and costs associated with the turbine upgrades in two separate proceedings, while assuring the subject is presented to the Commission in a manner that is fair to all concerned, the undersigned parties have reached an agreement that will facilitate the

Commission's resolution of all remaining potential issues between the parties regarding the turbine upgrades as part of the pending rate case;

WHEREAS the Parties agree that allowing Gulf the opportunity to file supplemental testimony in Docket No. 110138-EI followed by an opportunity for other parties to respond through testimony and an opportunity for Gulf to then file rebuttal testimony is an appropriate means of allowing the parties to address the issues regarding recovery for the turbine upgrades through base rates; and

WHEREAS the Parties agree that the relief requested in this stipulation is a reasonable resolution of the dispute between the parties;

NOW THEREFORE, based on the foregoing background and recitals, and discussions among the Parties, the Parties stipulate and agree to the following:

- 1. Gulf's final environmental cost recovery true-up amount for the period ending December 31, 2010 of \$861,325 over-recovery as filed in Docket No. 110007-EI will not be opposed by any party to this stipulation.
- 2. Gulf's estimated environmental cost recovery true-up amount for the period January 2011 through December 2011 of \$14,380,513 over-recovery as filed in Docket No. 110007-EI will not be opposed by any party to this stipulation.
- 3. Gulf's projected environmental cost recovery amount for the period January 2012 through December 2012 previously filed as \$169,103,827 shall be revised to \$165,075,432 which reflects the removal of all prospective revenue requirements from the ECRC for any of the Crist turbine upgrades and this revised amount will not be opposed by any party to this stipulation.
- 4. Gulf's total environmental cost recovery amount, including true-up amounts, for the period January 2012 through December 2012 previously filed as \$153,861,989 (excluding revenue taxes) shall be revised to \$149,833,594 (excluding revenue taxes) which reflects the

removal of all prospective revenue requirements from the ECRC for any of the Crist turbine upgrades and this revised amount will not be opposed by any party to this stipulation.

5. Based on the foregoing changes, Gulf's proposed environmental cost recovery factors for the period January 2012 through December 2012 for each rate group shall be revised to match the values in the following table and these revised amounts will not be opposed by any party to this stipulation:

RATE CLASS	ENVIRONMENTAL COST RECOVERY FACTORS ¢/KWH
RS, RSVP	1.294
GS .	1.286
GSD, GSDT, GSTOU	1.273
LP, LPT	1.245
PX, PXT, RTP, SBS	1.227
OS-I/II	1.233
OSIII	1.255

- 6. As a result of the foregoing removal of the turbine upgrades from the ECRC recovery mechanism on a going forward basis, the only remaining dispute between the Parties is related to the revenue requirement amount that should be included in base rates thereof which shall be addressed by the Commission in Docket No. 110138-EI
- 7. Gulf Power shall be permitted an opportunity to submit supplemental pre-filed direct testimony and exhibits for the purpose of and limited to addressing the amount and timing of Gulf's investment in the turbine upgrades, the reasonableness of the associated investment and costs, and the extent to which the related investment and costs should be reflected in the revenue requirements the Commission will determine (and the base rates the Commission will prescribe) for Gulf Power in Docket No. 110138-EI. Such supplemental pre-filed direct testimony shall be

filed by Gulf and electronically served on all parties to Docket 110138-EI and Staff no later than November 8, 2011.

- 8. In response to any supplemental direct testimony and exhibits filed by Gulf Power pursuant to this stipulation, intervenors and Staff shall likewise be permitted an opportunity to submit supplemental pre-filed direct testimony and exhibits subject to the same limitations and scope outlined in paragraph 6 above. Such intervenor testimony shall be filed and electronically served on all parties to Docket 110138-EI and Staff no later than November 15, 2011. Such Staff testimony shall be filed and electronically served on all parties to Docket 110138-EI no later than November 22, 2011.
- 9. Gulf Power shall be permitted an opportunity to submit rebuttal testimony and exhibits to any supplemental testimony and exhibits submitted by intervenors or staff pursuant to this stipulation. Such supplemental rebuttal testimony shall be filed and electronically served on all parties to Docket 110138-EI and Staff no later than November 29, 2011.
- 10. All witnesses who prefile testimony and/or exhibits related to the turbine upgrades shall include with the filing any calculations, work papers, or underlying source documents that the sponsoring parties can reasonably foresee would be needed by other parties or Commission Staff to evaluate the testimony or exhibits. The undersigned parties agree to use best efforts to cooperate with respect to the prompt service of and expedited responses to discovery requests associated with prefiled testimony and exhibits submitted pursuant to this Stipulation and Agreement, to include, upon request, making the witness(es) available for deposition on an expedited basis, with the view of ensuring that all parties and Commission Staff have an adequate opportunity to prepare for the hearing on the matters that are the subject of this Stipulation and Agreement.

- 11. All parties to Docket No. 110138-EI shall endeavor to include statements of their positions on the issue or issues related to the turbine upgrades as part of their prehearing statements which shall remain due on the date set forth in the Order Establishing Procedure. The parties shall be allowed a reasonable opportunity to modify their position(s) to conform to their testimony filed after the due date for their testimony by communicating such modifications to the Commission Staff for inclusion in the Prehearing Order as quickly as possible, but no later than the Prehearing Conference scheduled for November 21, 2011.
- by the Commission. By entering this Stipulation and Agreement, no party waives or concedes any position on the merits of the matters that are the subject of the Stipulation and Agreement, and each party reserves the right to present and support any position regarding the substance of the issues that it determines is consistent with its interests. Each of the undersigned parties agrees to support the approval of the Stipulation and Agreement as serving the objectives of enhancing the efficiency of Commission proceedings and avoiding unnecessary litigation, and as consistent with the public interest.

[REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

WHEREFORE, the undersigned parties agree and stipulate to the above terms and provisions, and together request the Commission to approve this Stipulation and Agreement at its earliest opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted, Office of Public Counsel **Gulf Power Company** By_ Joseph A. McGlothlin, Esquire Jeffrey A. Stonel Esquire Florida Bar No. Florida Bar No. 325953 Associate Public Counsel Beggs & Lane Post Office Box 12950 Patricia A. Christensen, Esquire Pensacola, FL 32576-2950 Florida Bar No. 0989789 (850) 432-2451 Associate Public Counsel **Federal Executive Agencies** 111 W. Madison Street, Room 812 Tallahassee, Florida 32399 (850) 488-9330 By___ Karen White, Esquire Florida Industrial Power Users Group Major Christopher C. Thompson **AFCESA** 139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1 By_ Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403 John C. Moyle, Jr. Esquire AFLONJACL-ULT Florida Bar No._ Ph: (850) 283-6348 Vicki Gordon Kaufman, Esquire Florida Bar No. Keefe, Anchors, Gordon & Moyle, PA 118 North Gadsden Street Florida Retail Federation Tallahassee, Florida 32301 (850) 681-3828 By__ Robert Scheffel Wright, Esquire Florida Bar No. John T. Lavia, Esquire Florida Bar No._ 225 South Adams Street, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

(850) 222-7206

WHEREFORE, the undersigned parties agree and stipulate to the above terms and provisions, and together request the Commission to approve this Stipulation and Agreement at its earliest approximity.

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	Respectfully Submitted,
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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Environmental Cost Recovery Clause))	Docket No. 110007-EI
	_)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail this 28th day of October, 2011 to the following:

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Attorneys for Gulf Power Company

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE: Petition for Increase in Rates by Gulf Power Company)	Docket No. 110138-EI
)	
)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing was furnished by electronic mail the 28th day of October, 2011, on the following:

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