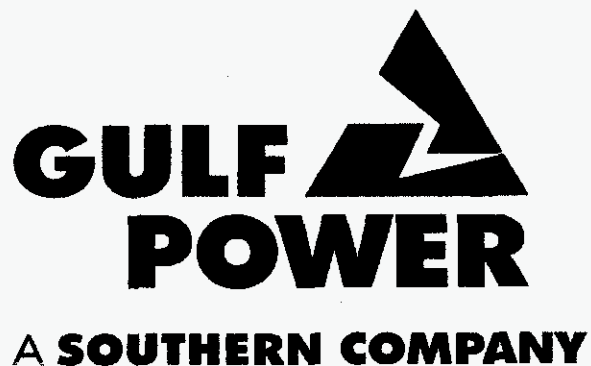


**BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

DOCKET NO. 110138-EI

**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY AND EXHIBIT
OF
CONSTANCE J. ERICKSON**



DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

08158 NOV-4 =

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

1 GULF POWER COMPANY

2 Before the Florida Public Service Commission
3 Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibit of
4 Constance J. Erickson
5 Docket No. 110138-EI
6 In Support of Rate Relief
7 Date of Filing: November 4, 2011

8 Q. Please state your name, business address and occupation.

9 A. My name is Constance J. Erickson. My business address is One
10 Energy Place, Pensacola Florida, 32520 and I am the Comptroller of
11 Gulf Power Company (Gulf or the Company).

12 Q. Have you previously filed testimony in this proceeding?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?

15 A. My rebuttal testimony will respond to certain assertions and positions
16 contained in the testimony of Office of Public Counsel (OPC) witnesses
17 Donna Ramas and Helmuth W. Schultz, III, Federal Executive
18 Agencies (FEA) witness Greg R. Meyer, and Florida Industrial Power
19 Users Group (FIPUG) witness Jeffry Pollock. My rebuttal testimony
20 will address, in the order listed, the following areas addressed by these
21 witnesses:

22 Retirement of Analog Meters

23 Directors & Officers Liability Insurance

24 Rate Case Expense

25 Property Damage Reserve Accrual

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Witness: Connie J. Erickson

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

1 Q. Have you prepared an exhibit that contains information to which you
2 will refer in your testimony?

3 A. Yes. Exhibit CJE-2 was prepared under my supervision and direction.
4

5 **Retirement of Analog Meters**

6 Q. Mr. Meyer recommends that the net unrecovered investment in the old
7 analog meters be recovered over 15 years compared to Gulf's
8 proposed four-year recovery period. Why is Gulf proposing to use a
9 four-year recovery period?

10 A. In the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC or the Commission)
11 Order approving Gulf's most recent depreciation rates, Order No. PSC-
12 10-0458-PSS-EI, issued on July 19, 2010, the Commission approved a
13 four-year recovery period for the analog meters being retired. Gulf's
14 proposal in this case is to use the same four-year recovery period as
15 approved in the most recent Depreciation Study order. That was the
16 Commission's most recent consideration of this issue.
17

18 **Directors and Officers Liability Insurance**

19 Q. What does OPC witness Schultz recommend with respect to the
20 Company's Directors and Officers (D&O) liability insurance?

21 A. Mr. Schultz recommends a disallowance of \$59,384 for the Company's
22 requested \$118,767 expense for D&O liability insurance. His argument
23 is that D&O liability insurance benefits shareholders first and foremost.
24
25

1 Q. Do you agree with Mr. Schultz's position that D&O liability insurance
2 benefits shareholders first and foremost?

3 A. No. Customers are the primary beneficiaries of D&O liability
4 insurance. However, the real rationale for including this cost in O&M
5 expenses is that it is a cost of providing service, and just like any other
6 cost of providing service, the rates charged should cover this cost.

7
8 Q. How do customers benefit from D&O liability insurance?

9 A. A well run company, such as Gulf Power, must have competent and
10 skilled directors and officers to lead it. These individuals would be
11 difficult to attract and retain if the Company did not have D&O liability
12 insurance. Capable directors and officers help ensure proper oversight
13 and management of the Company, which in turn benefits the
14 customers. D&O liability insurance also helps protect the assets of the
15 Company, which are used to serve Gulf's customers. D&O liability
16 insurance is a legitimate and necessary cost of providing service.

17
18 Q. Has the Commission previously ruled on whether D&O liability
19 insurance should be included in customers' rates?

20 A. Yes. As Gulf witness Deason points out in more detail, in the most
21 recent Tampa Electric rate proceeding, Order No. PSC-09-0283-FOF-
22 EI, at pages 63-64, and in the most recent Peoples Gas rate
23 proceeding, Order No. PSC-09-0411-FOF-EI, at pages 36-38, the
24 Commission ruled that D&O liability insurance is a necessary and

25

1 reasonable expense for the Company to do business and appropriately
2 included in customers' rates.

3

4 Q. Should the Commission allow the Company's requested \$118,767
5 expense for D&O liability insurance?

6 A. Yes. D&O liability insurance directly benefits customers and is a
7 necessary and reasonable expense for the Company to do business.

8

9

Rate Case Expense

10 Q. Do you agree with OPC witness Ramas' proposed reduction of
11 \$579,432 to rate case expense in the test year?

12 A. No. Gulf's estimate of rate case expense included in this filing is
13 \$2.8 million. Through September 2011, Gulf had already incurred
14 \$2.1 million of incremental rate case expense. Based on the work yet
15 to be done in this proceeding, including depositions, completion of
16 discovery responses, preparation of rebuttal testimony, the prehearing,
17 the final hearing, and preparation of post-hearing briefs, Gulf
18 anticipates that the costs associated with this rate proceeding will be
19 well in excess of the \$2.8 million estimate included in the rate case
20 filing. Some categories of expense may be over and some may be
21 under the original estimate, but in total, Gulf will incur incremental
22 expense directly related to this rate case in excess of \$2.8 million.

23

24 Q. Please address rate case expenses from Southern Company Services
25 (SCS) that Ms. Ramas proposes to disallow.

1 A. Ms. Ramas proposes to remove SCS expenses for Information
2 Technology (IT), Human Resources (HR), and accounting functions.
3 This adjustment is unreasonable and would disallow legitimately
4 incurred costs.

5
6 SCS has prepared the complex Cost of Service Studies that Gulf's
7 witness O'Sheasy uses and presents in his testimony. SCS performed
8 these studies because it was less expensive than having Mr.
9 O'Sheasy's firm perform the studies. There is no duplication of costs
10 being requested. SCS is also providing technical support to Mr.
11 O'Sheasy and has prepared responses to numerous discovery
12 requests.

13
14 In order to prepare our case and respond to the extensive amount and
15 scope of discovery the Company has received, Gulf has also utilized
16 additional resources from SCS's HR, accounting, and financial
17 planning functions. Gulf receives all of its IT services from SCS which
18 has provided additional technology resources necessary for
19 preparation of the Company's case and will provide technical support
20 during the final hearing. These costs were a necessary incremental
21 expense in the preparation of the rate case.

22
23 The rate case expenses from SCS that Gulf seeks to recover are
24 incremental to any expenses Gulf otherwise incurs during the normal
25 course of business and are charged directly to Gulf. Costs specific to

1 the rate case are segregated and charged to a separate work order.
2 All of these necessary SCS expenses have been or will be legitimately
3 incurred in preparation of the rate case. These costs are reasonable
4 expenses for the Company to do business and thus are appropriately
5 included in customers' rates.

6

7 Q. Please address overtime labor costs that Ms. Ramas suggests should
8 be disallowed.

9 A. The overtime labor costs included in rate case expenses are only for
10 non-exempt Gulf employees. These overtime costs are not included in
11 the 2012 test year budget; these costs represent incremental costs
12 associated directly with rate case activities. All overtime related to the
13 rate case is segregated and charged to a separate account. This
14 overtime has been necessary to prepare the initial rate case filing,
15 respond to discovery, prepare rebuttal testimony and get ready for final
16 hearings. Once again, these are necessary and appropriate costs of
17 preparing the rate case.

18

19 Q. Please address Ms. Ramas' concern about meals and travel
20 expenses.

21 A. Gulf's final hearings are scheduled for five days, and the Company is
22 hopeful that its case can be heard in that time frame. In order to be
23 prepared for five long days of hearings, some personnel will need to
24 travel before Monday. Likewise, some personnel will need to stay

25

1 beyond the conclusion of the hearing in order to disassemble
2 computers, printers, and other equipment used during the week.

3

4 The number of people attending the hearings will be based on the
5 number of witnesses that actually testify. Certainly those witnesses
6 will require technical support, as well as, legal, regulatory,
7 administrative and logistical support staff.

8

9 Q. What adjustment should be made to Gulf's projected test year rate
10 case expense?

11 A. None. Gulf's actual rate case expenses will exceed the original
12 projection of \$2.8 million.

13

14

Property Damage Reserve Accrual

15 Q. Several intervenor witnesses have questioned the merits of the storm
16 study (Study) Gulf had performed and which was attached to your
17 direct testimony. Please provide a summary of Gulf's Hurricane Loss
18 and Reserve Performance Analysis, including who performed it, why,
19 and how it was conducted.

20 A. In accordance with Rule 25-6.0143 (1)(l), "Each utility shall file a Storm
21 Damage Self-Insurance Reserve Study (Study) with the Commission
22 Clerk by January 15, 2011 and at least once every five years thereafter
23 from the submission date of the previously filed study. A Study shall
24 be filed whenever the utility is seeking a change to either the target
25 accumulated balance or the annual accrual amount for Account No.

1 228.1. At a minimum, the Study shall include data for determining a
2 target balance for, and the annual accrual amount to, Account No.
3 228.1.”
4

5 Gulf contracted with EQECAT, an ABS Group Company, to perform a
6 loss analysis using its advanced computer model simulation program
7 WORLDCATenterprise USWIND. This program is a probabilistic
8 model designed to estimate damage and losses due to the occurrence
9 of hurricanes and is one of only four models evaluated and approved
10 by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology
11 (FCHLPM) for projecting hurricane loss costs. Probabilistic annual
12 damage and loss is computed using the results of thousands of
13 random variable hurricanes considering the long term 100-year
14 hurricane hazard. Primary factors considered in the analysis include
15 the location of Gulf’s overhead Transmission & Distribution (T & D)
16 assets, the probability of hurricanes of different intensities and/or
17 landfall points impacting those assets, the vulnerability of those assets
18 to hurricane damage, and the costs to repair and restore electric
19 service.
20

21 Q. Mr. Meyer believes the property damage accrual should be increased
22 but to no more than \$5 million; FIPUG witness Pollock states that it
23 should remain at \$3.5 million; and Mr. Schultz believes the annual
24 accrual should be reduced to \$600,000. Please explain why the
25 Company's request is the appropriate amount.

1 A. First and foremost, the accrual level should be set at the amount that is
2 appropriate for the Company's customers. The accrual level over the
3 long run should provide the necessary dollars required for restoration
4 from most storms but not from the most severe storms. The accrual
5 should also smooth the effect of storms on our rates without the
6 burden to customers of excessively high surcharges. Let me reinforce
7 this point: storm surcharges to Gulf's customers on the heels of a
8 storm are increased charges that must be imposed at the worst
9 possible time, because customers are already spending funds
10 recovering from the storm and will likely face higher property insurance
11 premiums as well. So, it is important to have a sufficient property
12 damage reserve level to mitigate storm surcharges when reserves are
13 exhausted.

14
15 Gulf's requested accrual and reserve targets are appropriate
16 considering the Commission's framework. The Company's proposed
17 annual accrual of \$6.8 million represents the Expected Annual
18 Damage (EAD) that would be charged to the reserve from all simulated
19 hurricanes over a long time horizon based on the Loss Analysis in the
20 Study discussed previously. Setting the accrual at this level will allow
21 for a reserve adequate to accommodate most, but not all storm years.
22 If those reserves prove to be inadequate, due to the uncertain timing
23 and magnitude of storms, a provision exists for Gulf to seek recovery.

24
25

1 Q. Have you reviewed the testimony of the intervenors and examined how
2 they determined their annual accrual?

3 A. Yes. Mr. Meyer agreed the accrual should be increased and
4 suggested that if the Commission were to adjust the annual accrual it
5 should be set by escalating the \$3.5 million allowed in Gulf's last rate
6 case by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the customer growth
7 factor, yielding \$5 million. So, Mr. Meyer recognizes that the existing
8 reserve targets and accrual are too low and should be adjusted.

9
10 Mr. Pollock states on page 19 of his testimony that the accrual amount
11 should not be changed.

12
13 Mr. Schultz states that the annual accrual should be reduced from the
14 currently approved annual level of \$3.5 million to \$600,000 based on
15 the assumption that the annual charges to the reserve will continue at
16 the "historical rate" of \$575,566. Mr. Schultz's "historical rate" of
17 \$575,566 is inappropriate for the reasons discussed below.

18
19 Q. Please explain why Mr. Schultz's "historical rate" of annual charges to
20 the property damage reserve of \$575,566 is inappropriate.

21 A. There are significant mathematical and logic errors in his calculation,
22 and it ignores relevant history. I will address the major issues with Mr.
23 Schultz's testimony.

24
25

1 First, Mr. Schultz rejects the probabilistic Study performed by a
2 reputable storm analyst using an approved model. I will address each
3 of the erroneous observations he makes in rejecting the Study later in
4 my testimony.

5
6 Second, Mr. Schultz's calculation of a "historical rate" ignores
7 legitimate and appropriate charges to the property damage reserve
8 other than storms. If these legitimate charges had been reflected in his
9 calculation, his average would have been higher.

10
11 Third, Mr. Schultz suggests the use of an eight-year average.
12 However, he uses ten years as the denominator in calculating the
13 "eight-year average," understating his average.

14
15 Fourth, Mr. Schultz completely ignores the significant storm damage
16 incurred by Gulf in 2004 and 2005, when Gulf charged some \$147
17 million to its property damage reserve, totally exhausting the reserve
18 and having the costs of three hurricanes recovered through a lengthy
19 51-month storm surcharge.

20
21 While Gulf does not agree with Mr. Schultz's testimony, if his
22 "historical" calculations had been performed accurately, recognizing all
23 costs to the reserve (all ten years of storms and non-storm events), his
24 "historical average" of charges against the reserve would have been
25 \$15.7 million as shown on Exhibit CJE-2, Schedule 1. That is \$8.9

1 million higher than Gulf's requested accrual of \$6.8 million and \$15.1
2 million higher than Mr. Schultz recommends!

3

4 Q. Please address Mr. Schultz's rationale for ignoring 2004 and 2005
5 storm damages.

6 A. It is based on a misinterpretation of a prior Progress Energy Florida
7 (PEF) decision in which the Commission stated that the 2004 hurricane
8 season was "unprecedented and extraordinary." The Commission was
9 addressing PEF's experience in 2004 (four storms: Hurricanes Charlie
10 (Category 4), Jeanne (Category 3), Frances (Category 2), and a
11 remnant of Ivan, in a single season). The Commission was not
12 addressing Gulf's 2004 storm season, and the quote he cites said
13 nothing about the 2005 storm season for either PEF or Gulf.

14

15 The hurricanes Gulf experienced in 2004 and 2005 were not
16 extraordinary. They were all Category 3 storms or smaller. Even the
17 total damages from Gulf's two Category 3 storms, \$137 million for Ivan
18 and \$59 million for Dennis, were significantly smaller than Katrina, the
19 2005 Category 3 storm that hit Mississippi Power, which caused \$396
20 million in total damages.

21

22 Q. Mr. Schultz further argues that the Commission decided storm
23 surcharges, not property damage reserves, are the proper vehicles for
24 recovery related to "storms of an extraordinary nature." Please
25 address this assertion.

1 A. This simply is inaccurate. The Commission did not decide that storm
2 surcharges were the exclusive means of addressing severe storms. It
3 allowed the accrued property damage reserve funds to pay, even for
4 severe storms, and then used surcharges to recover the remaining
5 costs. The Commission approved storm surcharges because the costs
6 of severe storms exhausted the property damage reserve and a storm
7 surcharge was the means chosen to recover the costs not covered by
8 the reserve. Suggesting that severe storms should be covered only by
9 storm surcharges as Mr. Schultz does is an inaccurate summation of
10 history and would be an abrupt change in Commission policy.

11
12 Q. Mr. Schultz states on page 19 of his testimony, "it is my opinion that
13 the storm study was not used to determine the level of the accrual.
14 Instead, the study reflects what the Company decided it wanted to
15 collect in rates." How do you respond to this allegation?

16 A. This allegation is without merit. The ground work for this Study began
17 early in 2010, since the Study was required to be filed with the
18 Commission in January, 2011. This filing was independent of any rate
19 case proceedings. There was absolutely no communication with the
20 consultant that tried to direct or sway the outcome of the Study.

21
22 The Study outcome was an EAD of \$8.3 million, with an estimated
23 reserve impact of \$6.8 million which would be charged against the
24 property damage reserve. As stated on page 4-2 in the Loss Analysis
25 section of the Study, the \$8.3 million represents the average damage

1 from all simulated hurricanes over a long time horizon. This number
2 was the basis for further work in the reserve analysis. No better
3 number exists for analyzing the estimated reserve impact associated
4 with storm activity.

5

6 Q. Can you elaborate on the philosophical differences between you and
7 the intervenors on the issue of the appropriate target level of the
8 reserve balance?

9 A. Yes. Mr. Meyer implies the target reserve between \$25.1 million to
10 \$36 million previously approved by the Commission is reasonable.
11 What Mr. Meyer may not be aware of is that target level was
12 established in 1996 when Gulf had a \$1 million deductible on its all-risk
13 insurance policy. Currently, Gulf's all-risk policy carries a \$25 million
14 deductible for named wind storms. Gulf's requested range is based
15 upon recent experience on its system, but is well below the level of
16 damage caused on a sister company's electric system from a Category
17 3 hurricane. Mr. Meyer and I both agree that an increase in the annual
18 accrual is warranted. If Mr. Meyer had escalated his reserve target
19 level by CPI and customer growth as he did his annual accrual, his
20 range would have been approximately \$48 to \$69 million.

21

22 Mr. Pollock states on page 24 of his testimony that the current reserve
23 balance is sufficient to cover all Category 1 hurricanes, as well as all
24 but the most severe Category 2 hurricanes. The logical question these
25 observations raise is what happens in the event of storms he chooses

1 not to cover: severe Category 2 storms, Category 3 storms like Ivan
2 and Dennis which Gulf has experienced since its last rate case, a
3 severe Category 3 storm like Katrina that produced damages of \$396
4 million, or a Category 4 or 5 storm? Mr. Pollock acknowledges that the
5 property damage reserve would not cover such events and suggests,
6 without support, that it is not intended to cover such events.
7

8 The Company finds Mr. Pollock's perspective particularly troubling for
9 the customer. Storm surcharges to cover two Category 3 storms that
10 impacted Gulf's service area ranged from \$2.57 to \$2.71 per 1,000
11 kWh per month. The estimated incremental monthly rate impact on
12 customers is \$0.27 per 1,000 kWh per month if the reserve is set at a
13 level designed to meet the probabilistic expected annual damage
14 calculated in the Study. Mr. Pollock's approach is not in the best
15 interest of Gulf's customers.
16

17 Mr. Schultz acknowledges that assuming no property damage is
18 recorded to the reserve in 2011, the Company would have a reserve
19 balance of \$31 million, which is above the mid-point of the
20 Commission's target level of \$25.1 million to \$36 million established in
21 1996. Both witnesses Meyer and Pollock agree, as does the
22 Company, that the Commission has established a regulatory
23 framework that the property damage reserve should be adequate to
24 accommodate most, but not all storm years. What we disagree on is
25 what constitutes "most, but not all." Mr. Pollock believes this means

1 having a reserve that covers most Category 2 storms. Gulf believes
2 the appropriate target property damage reserve level should cover at
3 least a Category 3 storm. Gulf's position is supported by the actual
4 experience of two service area impacts from Category 3 storms in the
5 last eight years, and more appropriately, the thousands of probabilistic
6 storms developed in the Study. Gulf's request is a reserve target
7 balance of \$52 million to \$98 million, which is based on actual
8 experience and is not escalated.

9

10 Q. Mr. Pollock states that Gulf's customers do not benefit from higher
11 contributions to fund the reserve. Is this correct?

12 A. No. An adequately funded property damage reserve reduces rate
13 volatility post-storm, which benefits customers by reducing rate shock.
14 When surcharges are added to customers' monthly bills, concern over
15 the potential for rate shock exists, especially regarding low and/or
16 moderate income residential customers.

17

18 Q. Do you agree with Mr. Pollock's statement that the funds collected are
19 not maintained in a separate account?

20 A. No. Each January, the Company funds an amount equal to the after-
21 tax balance in the property damage reserve account. These funds are
22 set aside in a special investment account to pay for property damage
23 and earn interest that is also credited monthly to the property damage
24 reserve.

25

1 Q. Mr. Pollock states that customers prefer to pay for storm restoration
2 when the damage occurs versus through an annual accrual in base
3 rates. Do you agree with this assumption?

4 A. No. Mr. Pollock may represent customers who prefer to pay for storm
5 restoration when the damage occurs, but many customers do not
6 prefer that approach. Each generation of customers should contribute
7 to the cost of storm restoration, even if no storm strikes in a particular
8 year. Since storms will occur, and only their timing is uncertain, the
9 true cost of providing electric service should include an allowance for a
10 level of restoration that approximates the EAD charged to the property
11 damage reserve.

12
13 After Hurricane Ivan, Gulf experienced a customer loss of 2 percent
14 and after Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi Power experienced a customer
15 loss of over 10 percent. The customer losses after Hurricanes Ivan
16 and Katrina demonstrate that an appropriate property damage reserve
17 included in customer rates over time is more equitable to customers
18 than a storm surcharge implemented after a storm that could likely be
19 assessed on a smaller customer base. Storm restoration is a cost of
20 providing electric service in Florida and should be properly reflected in
21 Gulf's base rates.

22
23 Q. Mr. Schultz and Mr. Pollock have concerns that the Study did not
24 include consideration for storm hardening. Do you agree with Mr.
25 Schultz and Mr. Pollock?

1 A. No. In Order No. PSC-10-0688-PAA-EI the Commission approved
2 Gulf's continuation of its storm hardening program, but in its conclusion
3 the Commission acknowledges that no data are available to evaluate
4 the effects of hardening efforts on Gulf's infrastructure. Therefore, it
5 would not be appropriate to assume that storm hardening would have
6 any significant impact on Gulf's hurricane restoration practices and
7 cost experiences. At the time data is available on the effects of storm
8 hardening, the Company will incorporate the findings into its studies.
9

10 Q. Does the Company have other insurance policies to cover its assets
11 outside of the property damage reserve and have any changes
12 occurred in those policies that would affect the reserve going forward?

13 A. Yes to both questions. Gulf has all-risk insurance for all assets other
14 than T & D assets. The deductible on the all-risk policy has increased
15 to \$10 million from \$1 million for all property damage besides named
16 wind storms. The deductible on named wind storms has increased to
17 \$25 million from \$1 million on the all-risk policy. Thus, the first \$25
18 million of insured damage, excluding T & D assets, would come from
19 the property damage reserve and represents the current lower end of
20 the target reserve band, which was established over 15 years ago.
21

22 Q. Mr. Schultz has a concern on pages 20 and 21 that the focus was on
23 thousands of simulations of storms that were not specific to Gulf's
24 service area and that some storms that were specific, Ivan, Dennis and
25

1 Katrina, were too significant to be included. Do you agree with his
2 concerns?

3 A. No. As stated on page 5-1 of the Study, the Reserve Performance
4 Analysis consisted of performing 10,000 iterations of hurricane loss
5 simulations within Gulf's service area, to determine the effect of the
6 charges for damage on Gulf's reserve. In discussions with our
7 consultant, Gulf discovered that page 5-1 of the Study indicates the
8 loss simulations cover an eight-year period, but the loss simulations
9 actually cover a five-year period. Gulf will and has suffered significant
10 damage from hurricanes where the eye of the storm does not make
11 landfall in Gulf's service area. That was the case with Hurricanes Ivan
12 and Katrina. The eye of Hurricane Ivan made landfall in Orange
13 Beach, Alabama (roughly 30 miles from Pensacola, FL) causing
14 significant damage to Gulf's service area. The charge against the
15 reserve associated with this storm was just under \$94 million. The eye
16 of Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Louisiana-Mississippi state
17 line, (roughly 160 miles from Pensacola, FL) and the impact of this
18 storm in Gulf's service area resulted in a charge against the reserve in
19 the amount of just over \$2 million.

20
21 Q. Mr. Schultz outlined several other concerns with the Company's
22 conclusion regarding the Study. Do you agree with Mr. Schultz's
23 concerns?

24 A. No. I have addressed throughout my rebuttal testimony why the storm
25 activity of 2004 and 2005 should not be excluded from the

1 determination of the accrual. If all relevant charges had been included
2 in Mr. Schultz's calculations, the actual annual average for the ten year
3 period included in Mr. Schultz's Schedule C-1, page 2 of 2, is
4 \$15.7 million which is \$8.9 million higher than the requested property
5 damage accrual of \$6.8 million. Mr. Schultz states "the written body of
6 the study suggests a result based on an unsupported and atypical
7 annual average for typical storm reserve damage charges." This
8 statement is without merit and appears to reflect a misunderstanding of
9 the Study and its methodology.

10
11 The Study reflects thousands of storms from Category 1 to Category 5,
12 but the probabilities assumed for a Category 4 and 5 storms are
13 extremely low. Historically, there has been only one Category 4 storm,
14 and no category 5 storms that have made landfall between Alabama
15 and Pinellas County, Florida. While a storm with damages of \$140
16 million or greater in costs with a 1 percent probability is pessimistic, it
17 is clearly possible as the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast can
18 attest.

19
20 Mr. Schultz's final point, that Gulf's \$6.8 million request was
21 predetermined, also clearly demonstrates a lack of understanding of
22 the methodology of the Study. The \$6.8 million property damage
23 accrual was determined by the Loss Analysis and then used in the
24 Reserve Performance Analysis to determine the potential impact on
25 the reserve.

1

2 Q. Considering the direct testimony of witnesses Meyer, Pollock and
3 Schultz, at what level should Gulf's accrual and target reserve be set?

4 A. The property damage accrual and reserve are necessary costs of
5 providing electric service in Florida due to the absence of commercial
6 insurance coverage on T & D assets and higher deductibles on all risk
7 insurance policies. Each generation of customers should contribute to
8 the cost of storm restoration, even if no storm strikes in a particular
9 year. The amount of the accrual should be set at \$6.8 million, as
10 provided in the loss analysis portion of the Study. The range for the
11 target reserve level should be increased to \$52 million to \$98 million.
12 This target is based on actual experience and accounts for additional
13 investment in T & D assets and customer growth since 1995. Given an
14 accrual based on the Study of \$6.8 million, the overall reserve balance
15 is not expected to change over time, but the target reserve level should
16 be addressed since the actual timing of storms is uncertain.

17

18 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

19 A. Yes.

20

21

22

23

24

25

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA)

Docket No. 110138-EI

Before me the undersigned authority, personally appeared Constance J. Erickson, who being first duly sworn, deposes, and says that she is the Comptroller of Gulf Power Company, a Florida corporation, and that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of her knowledge, information, and belief. She is personally known to me.

The signed original affidavit is attached to the original testimony on file with the FPSC.

s/ _____
Constance J. Erickson
Comptroller

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____,
2011.

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large

Commission No. _____

My Commission Expires _____

Florida Public Service Commission
Docket No.: 110138-EI
GULF POWER COMPANY
Witness: C. J. Erickson
Exhibit No. _____ (CJE-2)
Schedule 1
Page 1 of 1

| <u>Year of Initial Charge</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Total Charged to the Property Damage Reserve</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2001 | Tropical Storm Barry | \$1,054,943 |
| 2002 | Tropical Storm Isidore | 1,429,391 |
| 2002 | Tropical Storm Hanna | 1,044,814 |
| 2003 | Tropical Storm Bill | 93,676 |
| 2004 | Hurricane Ivan | 93,876,684 |
| 2004 | Crist Unit 6 Exciter Damage | 909,987 |
| 2005 | Hurricane Dennis | 50,497,963 |
| 2005 | Hurricane Katrina | 2,077,978 |
| 2005 | Tropical Storm Arlene | 828,550 |
| 2006 | Smith Plant Fire | 2,000,000 |
| 2006 | Securitization Filing Expense | 300,000 |
| 2006 | Panama City Thunderstorm | 133,910 |
| 2007 | Crist Plant Lightning Damage | 1,550,289 |
| 2008 | Tropical Storm Fay | 793,345 |
| 2008 | Hurricane Gustav | 400,058 |
| 2008 | Hurricane Ike | 15,562 |
| 2009 | Tropical Storm Ida | 95,324 |
| 2010 | | - |
| | TOTAL | <u><u>\$157,102,474</u></u> |
| | 10 YEAR ANNUAL AVERAGE | <u><u>\$15,710,247</u></u> |

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