

Collin Roehner

From: Janet Brunson
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 9:40 AM
To: 'stewartfm@bellsouth.net'
Cc: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Company Rate Increase

Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for contacting the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) about Gulf Power Company's (Gulf) rate increase petition. Your correspondence is included in Gulf's rate case docket file (No. 160186-EI) to give Commissioners and staff an opportunity to review and understand your concerns.

Service hearings are scheduled in Pensacola on January 26 and in Panama City on January 27. I encourage you to attend one of the hearings, so that you can directly speak to the Commissioners. All customer comments—written and verbal—become a part of the record and will be reviewed and considered when PSC staff prepares its recommendation to the Commissioners on Gulf's petition.

Gulf's technical hearing before the PSC will be in March in Tallahassee. Witnesses from the utility, the Commission staff, the Office of Public Counsel (representing Gulf customers), and other intervenors in the case will present testimony, introduce exhibits, and be cross-examined before the Commissioners. Commissioners will review Gulf's need for a rate increase, its existing and proposed rate structure, and its ability to provide safe and reliable service.

Commissioners are charged with making sure that Florida's utility companies fulfill their service obligation. In its petition, Gulf based its request on several factors, including transmission projects and replacing and repairing infrastructure. The PSC will ensure that final customer rates reflect only those costs that are prudent and necessary for Gulf to deliver quality electric service.

You can find Gulf rate case information on the PSC's website, www.FloridaPSC.com. Access the Clerk's Office tab, then hit Dockets and type in Docket No. 160186. All case submissions can be found in the Documents Filing Index. If you have additional questions or need further assistance, please call PSC Consumer Assistance at 1-800-342-3552.

Sincerely,

Bev DeMello
Assistant Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Florence Stewart [<mailto:stewartfm@bellsouth.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 3:30 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Gulf Power Rate Increase

Today I received in the mail a letter from Gulf Power that they are requesting a number of rate increases, one of which will go into effect in the summer of 2017 if the Florida Public Service Commission allows it. This email is sent to you strongly urging that you deny this request.

I and many millions of my fellow Floridians and Americans are on Social Security, therefore, on a limited, fixed income. May I remind you that for several years Social Security recipients have received no cost of living increase, and this year we are receiving a meager 0.3% increase, and yet everything we have to pay for to survive is going up, whether it be food, clothing, insurance, taxes, etc., just to name a few. If this Gulf Power increase is allowed, they state in their letter, power bills will go up 6.9%, an average of \$10.22 per month. The problem is everything else is going up as well while our income stays the same.

Not only are they requesting this 6.9% increase, but they list a number of other increases that have been proposed. I feel this is excessive. Our problem is that they have their customers "over a barrel" so to speak because there is no alternative for power -- there is only Gulf Power. Please consider the citizens of Florida, especially those retired living on limited income when you make your decision on these Gulf Power proposed increases.

Thank you.

Florence Stewart
Pace, FL

December 14, 2016

Sent from my iPad