

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Janet Brunson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** 'Patrick Pahalek'  
**Cc:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Pahalek:

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](http://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: Patrick Pahalek [<mailto:patrickpahalek@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 12:31 PM  
To: Consumer Contact  
Subject: Docket # 160186-EI

Regarding GP's request for a residential rate hike:

Their own letter proclaims that "rates are lower now than in 2015 and will be even lower in Jan 2017 mainly because of decreased fuel prices". If this is true, aren't their costs to create power also down? What is the justification for requesting a rate increase? I work for the State of Florida and I have a good job with good benefits but I have not had a raise since my start date. That's over 10 years ago. So, in a since I'm on a fixed income like many others. Even a \$10+ a month increase is felt. Especially when added to all other price increases.

Also, what is the "variable energy charge"? It's not explained in their letter. They propose lowering that rate while increasing the base rate for existing residential rates. Will this be a "wash" basically or will some of us be penalized for not using this variable energy source.

I don't like it, need it or think that a rate increase is deserved or justified by what I've been told by Gulf Power.

Respectfully,

Patrick Pahalek

Sent from my iPhone