

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 8:26 AM  
**To:** 'Jelena Runjaic'  
**Subject:** RE: 160186: Petition for rate increase by Gulf Power Company.

Good morning Ms. Runjaic,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 160186-EI and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Collin D. Roehner  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32301  
(850) 413-7123

**From:** Jelena Runjaic [<mailto:jrunjaic@mail.usf.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 7:12 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Subject:** 160186: Petition for rate increase by Gulf Power Company.

To whom it may concern,

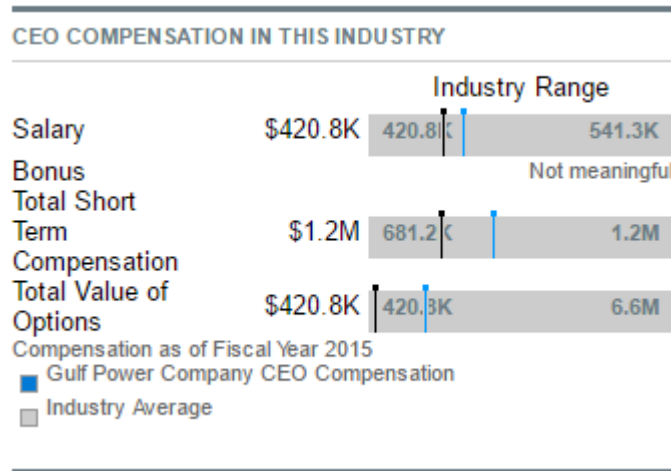
Like many others worried about this 6.9% rate increase by Gulf Power, I advise the PSC to **DENY the company's request**. Gulf Power is requesting increasing its annual revenues by between \$115 and \$125 million. However, a study done by Mr. Dane A. Watson states the company's depreciation is \$20.4 million a year. To keep their company afloat they need an additional \$100 million annually-at a time when fuel prices are low? There is no logic to this rate increase.

While Gulf Power is hoping to increase rates on consumers, its top 6 executives are making over \$5 million combined (source: <http://www1.salary.com/GULF-POWER-CO-Executive-Salaries.html>).

Name/Title	Total Cash	Equity	Other	Total Compensation
R. S. Teel Former Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$456,670	\$156,703	\$253,830	\$867,203
B. C. Terry Vice President	\$476,689	\$168,195	\$19,421	\$664,305
S. W. Connally Jr. President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director	\$811,758	\$553,946	\$30,485	\$1,396,189
J. R. Fletcher Vice President	\$408,602	\$144,315	\$120,417	\$673,334
X. Liu Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$454,376	\$154,865	\$283,417	\$892,658
W. E. Smith Vice President	\$331,862	\$81,813	\$144,040	\$557,715

[Salaries.html](http://www1.salary.com/GULF-POWER-CO-Executive-Salaries.html)).

In fact, Bloomberg data illustrates that Gulf Power CEOs have higher salaries and much higher bonuses than industry averages (Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/people.asp?privcapId=3477992>).



In late 2016, Gulf Power teamed up with other utility companies to promote Amendment 1, personally contributing nearly \$2.2 million to deceive voters. This generous political donation hardly illustrates that the company is struggling (Source: <http://www.energyandpolicy.org/florida-amendment-1/>).

Like most Floridians vehemently in favor of solar power, it is time to encourage utility companies to invest in solar. Solar power is now the cheapest form of energy in the world, and multiple sources indicate solar infrastructure also hires more workers than any other energy industry. This seems like an obvious choice. Unfortunately, many Gulf Power consumers do not have the choice to switch providers, and this obvious monopoly goes against the very Capitalistic ideal that this country pursues.

Gulf Power’s request does NOT benefit consumers and it should be opposed. It is up to the company to find ways to increase profits without increasing rates an astounding 6.9%.

Warm regards,

Jelena Runjaic