

January 20, 2017

Ms. Carlotta Stauffer
Clerk, Public Service Commission
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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COMMISSION
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Re: Docket 160186 - E1

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to adamantly oppose the proposed Gulf Power rate increase. For your information my personal demographics are: Age 81, Social Security/Medicare dependent, home owner, veteran, Florida resident since 1971, Escambia county resident since 1994, registered voter.

Gulf power appears wholly insensitive to the economic context in Escambia county. I offer the following data from a variety of public records (county, state, federal) for the years indicated below. Population 311,003 (2016) Age 65+ 21.81% (2016) Median income \$45,390; per capita income \$24,161 (2016); poverty level 15.4% (2016) Social Security recipients 67,870 (2015) disability recipients 12,320, Average social security benefit per month \$1030-1050 (2015) Average retirement income \$1143 per month (2015); Free and reduced lunch in public schools 60%. Average unemployment 5.8%, 2164 (Nov 2016)

During the last year food, clothing, healthcare, property taxes, homeowners insurance, ECUA water, Florida gas tax, auto insurance, Medicare premiums have all increased. It should also be noted that Escambia county assesses a 1 1/2% local option sales tax. All of the above hit fixed income residents particularly hard.

Finally the information about the rate hike given in Gulf Power's notification letter seems deceptive.

For example, the proposed per kWh rate increase does not include an unspecified base rate increase which amount is variable depending upon the gross bill. Also the proportional increases in Florida gross receipts tax and the Escambia County Franchise Fee appear not to be included in the projected customer cost increase per billing cycle. In effect Gulf Power is increasing taxes on its customers also.

From all of the above, I urge you to reject the Gulf Power request. It is clearly evident that such an increase will be an economic negative for Escambia County's prosperity and a burden and hardship for those on fixed incomes and the poor which are a significant number and percentage of the residents in this jurisdiction.

Sincerely yours

Richard H. Kuhn, Jr.
Richard H. Kuhn, Jr.

cc: Office of Public Counsel



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