

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Janet Brunson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 1:23 PM  
**To:** 'larrywick45@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

Dear Mr. Wick:

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

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**From:** Larry Wick [<mailto:larrywick45@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2017 2:48 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** [info@mygulfpower.com](mailto:info@mygulfpower.com); [flaaarp@aarp.org](mailto:flaaarp@aarp.org)  
**Subject:** Florida Public Service Commission Docket #160186

To: Florida Public Service Commission, c/o Ms. Carlotta Stauffer, Clerk  
Re: Public Comment -- Gulf Power Request for Increase, effective July 1, 2017; PSC Docket #160816  
ecs: Gulf Power executives; Florida AARP

My wife and I have been retired from our professional positions since 2008. Since 2009, we have had to rent an apartment at 31 - 6th St., Apt. B, Shalimar, FL 32579. Gulf Power has supplied electric power to us at that address since 2009. Due to the loss of our home, our home equity and our savings in the 2008-09 real estate crash, we are wholly dependent upon our monthly Social Security checks and Medicare coverage to survive from month to month since 2009. [The State of Florida's restrictions on Medicaid eligibility make that program unavailable to us.]

The announcement we received on January 12, 2017 came as quite a shock to us-- i.e., that Gulf Power [Southern Companies] has requested an increase in electric rates effective July 1, 2017 which amounts to about 7% or \$10.22 monthly for average Florida residential service. That amounts to more than double the increase in monthly Social Security payments we received effective January, 2017. That rate increase request came, in effect, as a triple shock to us, for that reason as well as these two additional reasons: (#2) On January 11, 2017, one day earlier, we received Gulf Power's "Current Connection" newsletter dated January 2017, which headlined "Gulf Power customers will see a decrease in their monthly bill," claiming that "[s]tarting in January," residential customers will see a monthly decrease of 3% or \$4.63; and (#3) we received from Gulf Power in the same envelope our January bill which, for the same usage, was identical to previous Gulf Power bills in 2016 and did NOT provide their promised January 2017 decrease !

What is wrong with this picture? I infer that Gulf Power, on the one hand, thinks it can grab more than all of retired Floridians' meager Social Security 2017 cost of living increases by filing the pending request for rate increase with the PSC, while, on the other hand, it purports to persuade its residential customers, falsely, that it is giving us lower bills !

I hope that the Florida Public Service Commission carefully scrutinizes Gulf Power's requested rate increases and makes Gulf Power justify beyond a reasonable doubt why they should get an increase instead of being compelled to give their Florida residential customers the decrease, at a minimum, which they advertised to us. Please, PSC, make Gulf Power stop their game-playing with the numbers; make them stop their misleading advertising and force them to be truthful with their customers; and make sure their responsible executives cannot simply push the blame "down the ladder" to some lower-level employees.

Sincerely,

Lawrence S. Wick

31 - 6th Street, Apt. B

Shalimar, FL 32579

Phone: 850-598-2840

Email: [larrywick45@gmail.com](mailto:larrywick45@gmail.com)