

Collin Roehner

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Cc: Janet Brunson; Diane Hood
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 160186
Attachments: Gulf Power Base Rate Increase; Gulf Power rate increase; Proposed Base Rate Change and Rate Increase for Gulf Power; Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request; Basic rate increase for Gulf Power

Customer correspondence

From: Diane Hood
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 4:35 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 160186

Copies on file. DHood

Collin Roehner

From: eln6@students.uwf.edu
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 2:39 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Basic rate increase for Gulf Power

I would be attending the meeting if I was not working. Here are my thoughts that I still want to be heard in my absence.

Reasons to drop the charges:

1) Everyone who creates and works off of a budget has already carefully budgeted out 2017. This process in our family was started in October of last year. My husband and I just signed a lease that fits our budget that was designed last year. We budgeted a certain generous amount for our electricity as well that did not include an additional \$32 in basic fees. This situation supports many others as well.

2) There are better options. As a marine biologist, and future marine microbiologist, my first suggestion is to come up with a system that REDUCES the amount of electricity used to benefit our planet's carbon cycle. What if instead of a higher base rate for service, there are penalty fees if you use too much energy? This would require studies and research into metadata that would show what the average usage of households is across let's say 5 years. Any one standard deviation on the higher end of that bell curve would demonstrate a need for an "excess use fee." This would protect the lower class and lower middle that truly cannot afford that additional \$32 because we're simply making ends meet. It would also encourage more responsible energy usage.

I realize this is not a simple fix, however it does carry merit and would better our planet at the same time. Which would save face for Gulf Power.

There are always better options.

On my end. I am currently attending university towards a master's degree in science. My husband works very hard at Publix. I work full time at our local favorite surf shop, Innerlight. I also work 20 hours a week on campus as a research assistant. With all of the overtime we both work and with my second job, we still only make ends meet.

Health insurance is through the roof, rent increases 3% every year. We can't afford to buy a house even with state assistance, and school is expensive.

This is sure to not go over well at the current proposed rate. Certainly a 177% increase on base rate to everyone is not the answer.

Thank you for your attention,

Erika Headrick (Neat)

Collin Roehner

From: John <johnleeper@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 12:16 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

Dear PSC Commissioners:

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring Florida utility customers fair treatment and guiding us toward a sustainable and healthy energy future. I am a Gulf Power customer. While I generally appreciate and admire the GP team for all their hard work in keeping the lights on, their leadership seems to be stuck in a doomed paradigm of energy production and distribution and not pursuing the best path forward for the state's energy future which will cost all ratepayer's as we go forward if they are left to their own devices.

The current proposal for a flat \$48 base fee is an interesting idea, but it penalizes those who have invested in energy saving insulation and appliances and even PV solar arrays that help reduce the load on the grid and overall demand. Instead of a flat rate increase there should be a formula that charges proportionally those customers with the biggest amperage draws and the highest kwh consumption. Some utilities in other states have a progressive rate on kilowatt hour usage. For example, those small, efficient users that buy 0-1000 kwh are billed at 10 cents per kwh, while those using 1000-2500 kwh pay 12 cents, and those using 2500-5000 kwh monthly pay incrementally 20 cents for that higher tier, etc. etc.

To expand on the reasoning for this system here is an example. There are some mansions on the beach that may be occupied a few weeks of the year that have an annual energy consumption of maybe a few thousand kwh, BUT when they fire up the hot tub and turn on the 3 HVAC systems they require a grid that can deliver huge amounts of amperage even if for a short time. When you compare the annual kwh usage of the mansion to their yard man's tiny house in Freeport that requires much smaller loads it may be identical, but who should pay more for their grid access? Interestingly, as a precedent Regional Utilities uses a calculation adding up all the household fixtures to figure the expected demands for water and sewer to establish their fees. Smaller houses have less fixtures and expected demands and therefore less expected use and environmental impact.

I have already built and lived in two net zero homes in NW Florida. It is no great difficulty to build this way now. You will see a lot more off grid net zero homes if the base rate increase is passed, but the rest of the ratepayers will be paying more, not less as there will be less GP customers to share the fixed expenses and maintenance costs.

I am retired and live on social security. I built my energy efficient home with solar PV to avoid the burden of increased utility costs as I live my final years on a fixed income. The proposed \$48 a month base fee would more than double my annual expense. Gulf Power already received from me almost 2000 kwh of excess production in the last few years that they sold at full retail rate to my neighbors while paying me only slightly more than 2 cents per kwh for that power. Now they want more? I live in a very small house and ration every kwh to keep my usage low. I poured my life savings into making an ultra energy efficient small house to live in retirement. Why penalize the energy conscious? Isn't this contrary to all the PR from Gulf Power about creating a more energy efficient home with insulation and power saving devices to reduce demand on the grid? It seems an across the board base billing rate for all size homes would only encourage more energy waste by penalizing the efficient and removing the financial burden from the big users and those who could care less about their energy footprint. I respectfully ask the commission to reject the Gulf Power increase in base fees and to:

1. Please consider a progressive kilowatt hour rate structure that places the higher cost burden for grid expense on those that use it the most. This system will keep the utility company financially whole and reduce overall demand.
2. Please do not allow an increased base fee that penalizes the poor and energy efficient users.
3. Please do not allow any higher fees including the proposed \$48 fee to be placed on solar investor ratepayers that have spent thousands of their own money to help us keep demand lower and provide clean renewable energy.
4. Please demand a cut to the high dividend payments of utility companies and a return to the ratepayers in the form of a refund the millions that has been improperly wasted on lobbying and promotion for the failed Amendment 1 as well as the legal and administrative fees paid to pursue this unfair energy tax in the form of an increase in the base billing rate. These political and legal tactics are not in the best interest of our energy future and are wasteful and should be discouraged. GP could have used that money to install a lot of solar panels or wind power instead which would have been giving them dividends for many years.

Thank you for protecting our state's utility customers and creating energy policies that will protect our energy future and environment now and long into the future.

Respectfully,

John Leeper
636 Hubbard St
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-4835
[850-889-0901](tel:850-889-0901)

Collin Roehner

From: J Rogers <jacquelinearogers13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Proposed Base Rate Change and Rate Increase for Gulf Power

Florida Public Service Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very much opposed to the the proposed Base Rate structure change for Gulf Power that will raise the amount we, the customers, will pay before we even start using energy!
That will make electricity so much more unaffordable for so many more people already struggling to make ends meet.

This base rate change (from about \$18 to about \$50) penalizes the elderly and the very poor who don't use much energy because they can't afford it. It also penalizes anyone trying to save energy and those who have already invested money in making their homes and businesses energy efficient.

I don't even really see the justification for the rate increase either as the cost of fuel has gone down but we are not seeing that reflected in our bills.

Please do not allow the rate and, especially, the base rate change. Gulf Power had plenty of money to spend on attempts to thwart people using solar energy in the recent ballot amendment in Florida. It could have saved some of this money trying to eliminate competition and invested it back into the company without asking for this increase.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jacqueline Rogers

Collin Roehner

From: Patti <pattisal_65@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 10:41 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Gulf Power rate increase

Absolutely incredulous that GP is proposing this massive increase in fees. Opposed to this.
Not everyone can afford their power bills now!

Patti Salvaggio

Collin Roehner

From: americanyouth77@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 10:16 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Gulf Power Base Rate Increase

My name is Madeline Tharp and I am a Gulf Power customer.

I live at 209 Greenridge Drive, Pensacola Florida 32514. I currently use on average 800 kw hrs per month, at this time last year I was using on average 1400 kw hrs per month. I chose to actively make changes in my lifestyle to reduce my usage, lowering my monthly fee and leaving less of a carbon footprint.

I have switched all of my light bulbs and appliances to energy efficient models, added weather stripping to doors and windows, I have been diligent about turning off lights in rooms not in use and reducing my usage of air conditioning also making sure my fan blades are rotating correctly according to season.

This base rate increase would negatively effect my life since I am barely living above the poverty line. I am a young mother living pay check to pay check and I can not afford for my rates to increase without my usage increasing.