

**Sandra Soto**

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**From:** Sandra Soto on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** 'Tanya E. Kruk'  
**Subject:** RE: docket #160186-EI

Good morning Ms. Kruk,

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,

Sandra Soto  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 413-6010

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**From:** Tanya E. Kruk [<mailto:tekruk@earthlink.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Subject:** docket #160186-EI

Good Afternoon,

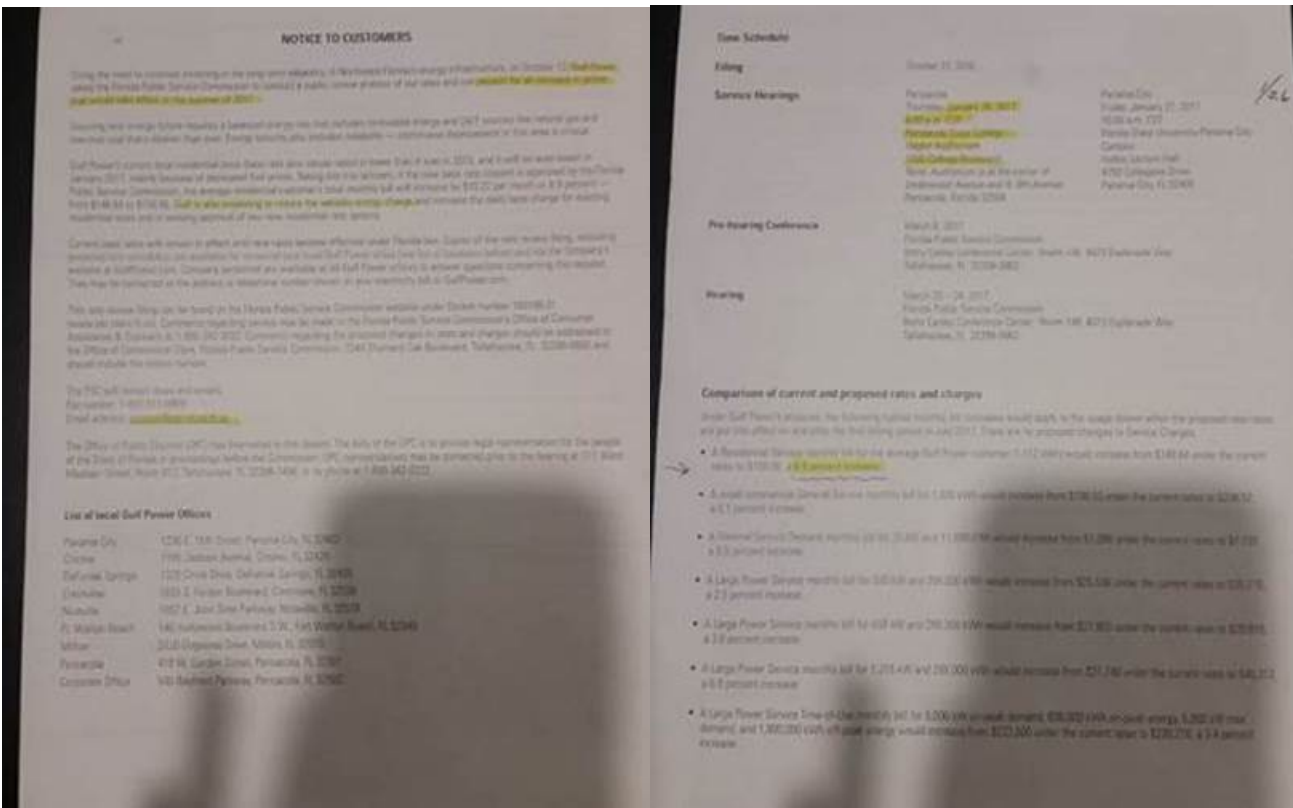
Last night I attended a Florida Public Service Commission meeting at which the new rates for Gulf Power were discussed. I learned that counter to what Gulf Power printed in the January 2017 newsletter, our rates will be RISING beginning July.

I would like to DITTO what Ms. Haven, the League of Women Voters, and Mr. Hunt shared last night. And why DOES Gulf Power spend money on advertising when they are a monopoly?

As a military spouse, I have lived all over our beautiful country. NEVER have I paid such a high electric bill as I pay here. I surely don't see the need to raise the base rates.

Did consumers even know about this potential rate increase? Probably not, and here is why:

Below is the non-descript letter that announced the rate change. Notice no logo was included and the facts were hidden in the text (my own highlighting):



Below is Gulf Power's January 2017 Newsletter sent their customers (NOWHERE did they mention the INCREASE!):



No information about the increase is on their website either <https://www.gulfpower.com/residential/savings-and-energy/rates-and-billing>.

I am still in disbelief from Gulf Power's purposely misleading Amendment 1 campaign against solar power. I feel again, they are **purposefully misleading** their customers in the way they have hidden this rate increase.

In our area, we are currently charged double what other Florida areas are charged for our base rate. Ours is currently \$19.22 whereas in other counties it is closer to \$8. Gulf Power is proposing to **raise this base rate to \$49**. This would apply to every customer, even those over 15% living in poverty <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/12113,12033> and regardless of usage.

Gulf Power is also proposing an increase in their excess **profit rate increase** from 10% (over national average already) to 11%. They claim the raise increase is needed in part to cover the Scherer coal plant in Georgia. This plant has not provided energy to retail customers in 30 years. Other accounting discrepancies were discussed, including \$23 million in salaries and benefits that included up to 126 vacant positions.

The semi-good news is that the rate per kilowatt hour will be reduced. This rate change does not reward people who conserve energy, however. Even **if your home is empty** and only drawing minimal power, you will pay over \$50/month! It is flipping the burden to the lower users, not to mention it reduces the savings of consumers who have made initially expensive conservation measures, such as updating their hot water heaters or re-paning their windows.

Also, I am **for SOLAR and WIND POWER and against COAL and FOSSIL FUELS**. I can't comprehend why the Sunshine State is not pursuing solar power more aggressively. Be a leader, Gulf Power!

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts,

Tanya Kruk

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