

Collin Roehner

From: Janet Brunson
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:35 PM
To: 'dmalsberger@icloud.com'
Cc: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket:160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase

Dear Ms. Malsberger:

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.

January service hearings were held in Pensacola and Panama City. 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. 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

-----Original Message-----

From: Debra Malsberger [<mailto:dmalsberger@icloud.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 12:04 PM
To: Records Clerk
Subject: Docket:160186-EI

Dear commissioners,

I would like to register my dissent with the proposed rate hike for gulf power. Escambia county has some of the lowest wages in the entire state, those with low and/or fixed incomes cannot sustain themselves with this increase. Look at the cost of living adjustments offered this year to those on pensions, social security, disability and minimum wage earners. Their income has not increased by the percentage requested, but I can assure you that other costs in their communities have. Rents have gone up, the cost of groceries have gone up, and the cost of medical care is out of control. Before increasing the cost of basic necessities (like electricity) the "why" should be closely evaluated which is why we have a PSC. There are other areas of the Gulf Power budget that could be reduced to ease their perceived shortfall. Look at what was spent on marketing, lobbyists, incentive programs, travel, decorating/remodeling, vs what they have allocated for infrastructure. The public as a whole are disgusted by the executive compensation packages and luxury accommodations that pass as offices. My own family would really struggle with this increase and we would likely have to move my husband's mother since her rent just went up \$30 monthly and her Social Security would not cover a \$20 electric increase (10% of her current bill). Before you vote, please ask some area seniors, disabled veterans, and teachers for a sample of their monthly expenses vs their income. THAT will be an enlightening experience, I can assure you.

Please tell Gulf Power "no"

Respectfully,
Debbie Malsberger
Pensacola, FL