

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 8:08 AM  
**To:** 'sanshonea@att.net'  
**Subject:** FW: Docket# 160186-EI , Gulf Power Rate Request  
**Attachments:** Gulf Power Increase.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Good morning Mr. Sansone,

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,

Collin D. Roehner  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32301  
(850) 413-7123

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

From: FRANK SANSONE [<mailto:sanshonea@att.net>]  
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:50 PM  
To: Records Clerk  
Subject: Docket# 160186-EI , Gulf Power Rate Request

Office of the Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
Tallahassee, FL

I attended the Public Service Commission hearing in Pensacola on January 26, 2017, and am submitting my written comments (in the attachment) in objection to (1) the base rate increase, and (2) the transfer of the liability for the Scherer Coal Plant in Georgia to Gulf Power customers in Florida.

In addition to my request for denial, I request the Commission consider a base rate decrease in line with other Florida utilities.

Thank you for the opportunity for comments.

TO: FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION, Office of Clerk  
clerk@psc.state.fl.us  
FROM: Frank A. Sansone, Ph.D.  
8680 Scenic Hwy., #12  
Pensacola, FL 32514  
850-474-3581

DATE: February 9, 2017

RE: **Docket #160186-EI** , GULF POWER RATE INCREASE REQUEST

Thank you for giving Florida citizens and consumers the opportunity to express our concerns regarding Gulf Power's two requests.

My family and I as citizens of the the United States and residents of Florida and consumers, **urge the Public Services Commission to deny and vote against both requests:**

1. The request for any increase to the base rate, but instead lower the base.
2. The transfer of the responsibility for the polluting coal fired Georgia Coal Plant to the consumers/customers of Gulf Power who do not benefit from, have no responsibility for, but instead would be forced to assume the liability of the Coal Plant.

Gulf Power's parent company is Southern Company (SO), a \$48 billion dollar very profitable company listed on the stock exchange with a 16% increase in annual revenue. SO just reported one of its most profitable quarters and compared to last year's quarter enjoyed a gross profit margin of 43.75%, a net profit margin of 18.19%, and an earnings increase of 17.6% for a **total of 1.14 Billion profit for the quarter.** **Gulf Power and SO do not need an increase as they already earn above the average of all similar U.S. utilities with annual earnings of 10.6% and above.** (*The Street Ratings, Feb. 5, 2017, p.1*).

For almost two decades I have INVESTED in and now own about 1400 shares of SO, the parent company of Gulf Power. As an educated investor, I belong to the non profit investment education organization Better Investing and am President of its Emerald Coast Chapter. Although SO is a good investment for investors, there is no justification for customers as consumers to "invest" in a higher base rate.

**Southern Company is very profitable with above average earnings in its sector neither requires an increase nor provides justification for one.** (See OPC Report)

Previously, Gulf Power was awarded by this Commission the highest FIXED base rate for a Florida utility company at \$18 per month and is requesting a base rate increase of over 150% to \$48.09 per month. This rate increase is unreasonable and is beyond the almost non existent **current rate of inflation of 0.03%**. Any increase in the base rate is not supportable by the data and not affordable for rate paying consumers who receive no KWHs of electricity for the base rate.

Initially I thought the base rate was a minimum monthly usage charge which actually included receiving the kilowatt hours paid for in the \$18.00. I was appalled to learn the base charge included no electric power to the customer. The base rate is really a guaranteed profit for a monopoly for providing no electric power for the extra cost.

**This base rate request discourages freedom of choice in energy use and punishes or penalizes those who try conserve their use of too much energy.**

This rate increase is a hardship for many of your citizens who are retired and/or disabled on fixed incomes as well as those who are still in the work force working for low wages and raising a family. We and many of our fellow citizens have not received a cost of living increase (COLA) or raise in years and cannot afford this increased burden. Southern Company and Gulf Power do not need this increase to remain profitable.

**WHY IS THIS RATE INCREASE NECESSARY FOR AN ALREADY PROFITABLE COMPANY THAT IS GUARANTEED A PROFITABLE RATE ALREADY?**

**Thank you for listening.**

**Please vote to DENY the increase and reduce the current base rate -and- Deny the request to Transfer the Georgia Coal Plant and its liability to Floridians.**

Sincerely,  
*Frank A. Sansone*