

Collin Roehner

From: Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:46 PM
To: 'Tina Setliff'
Subject: RE: Docket # 160186-EI

Good afternoon Ms. Setiff,

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

From: Tina Setliff [<mailto:tinasetliff@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:34 PM
To: Records Clerk
Subject: Docket # 160186-EI

Hello, I am writing to oppose the Gulf Coast Power Company's proposed rate increase. The current rates are already high and many households struggle paying their power bills and this increase would just add to that financial struggle and stress.

I would also like to take an exert from the Consumers Union's Ms. Shannon Baker-Branstetter's comments filed on Jan. 26, 2017 with the Florida Public Service Commission. This exert is worth reiterating and hope that it will be taken into serious consideration.

'Gulf Power's proposed rate increase relies on a 155% increase to its fixed customer charge. Under Gulf Power's proposal, a customer's minimum bill would increase from \$19 to \$48, before they even flipped on a light switch, meaning that a residential customer would pay nearly \$30 more per month.

At \$18/month, Gulf Power already has a higher fixed charge than most utilities in the region, which are at or under \$10/month. Increasing fixed charges further is unreasonable, inequitable and unfair to Gulf Power customers. Fortunately, many utility commissions around the country have recognized the problems with higher fixed charges and have rejected most proposals to increase them. We urge the Florida PSC to do the same.

No one wants to waste energy or money, and yet Gulf Power's proposal punishes those who choose to be thrifty with their energy use, as well as those who have no choice but to ration their electric usage to fit their budget. Gulf Power's proposal to increase fixed charges takes away even this modest degree of control over their own finances and self-sufficiency. Forcing low-usage customers

to heavily subsidize high users is regressive and this problem is not sufficiently addressed by Gulf Power's proposed subsidies."

PLEASE do NOT approve increases.

Sincerely,

Tina Setliff
Escambia County Resident