

Sandra Soto

From: Janet Brunson
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:57 AM
To: 'svestal@cox.net'
Cc: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160186-EI – Gulf Power Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Vestal:

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: shawn vestal [<mailto:svestal@cox.net>]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 7:57 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Re: Docket # 160186-EI – Please Reject Fixed Charge Increase

Dear Public Service Commission,
Gulf Power already has one of the highest fixed charges in the region, and the country. Their proposed rate hike is unprecedented, unnecessary, and unfair. I am writing to ask you to reject this proposed rate hike in Docket 160186-EI.

There is no justifiable reason to increase the monthly fixed charge to \$48. This increase is not the type of energy policy that we should be working towards in Florida. This rate hike effectively punishes good behavior, by forcing me to pay an extraordinarily high monthly charge regardless of how much power I actually use. I already try to be careful about how much electricity I use every month, but this proposal would mean I have even less control over my monthly bill.

In trying economic times, utilities should not be increasing their profits on the backs of already strained customers with unfair rate structures. Please reject this proposal from Gulf Power.

shawn vestal
keystone rd
pensacola, FL 32504