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Public Service Commission

March 23, 2017

COMMISSION
CLERK

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RECEIVED-FPSC

Mr. Gary M. Cook
2328 Compton Drive
Plano, Texas 75025

Dear Mr. Cook:

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.

Gulf's technical hearing before the PSC was scheduled for March 20-24, 2017, in Tallahassee. At the hearing's start on March 20, Gulf announced a settlement agreement with the Office of Public Counsel, which represents consumers before the PSC. No other party to the case objected to the proposed settlement agreement that will be considered by the Florida Public Service Commission on April 4.

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 customer rates proposed in the settlement agreement are in the best public interest and 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bev DeMello".

Bev DeMello
Assistant Director

BSD/jmb

March 16, 2017

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket 160186-E1

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a retired engineer that worked for companies serving the utility industry and a Gulf Power rate payer as I own a condo in Destin. I oppose the Gulf Power proposed increase in base monthly charge for the reason it further discourages home owners to install solar photovoltaic panels. To me it seems, solar PV installations by home owners offers several benefits:

- Solar PV produces the most power during peak usage periods that flattens the load duration curve for the utility. Less of a need for the utility to supply additional capacity and reserve margin.
- Solar PV production offsets the need for the utility to supply energy with less efficient fossil fueled power plants- most likely with coal.
- Solar PV production is much less harmful to the environment than the additional use of fossil fuels.
- Solar PV installations serve loads on site, that in larger numbers will defer the need for more transmission and distribution lines.

While I understand the need for Gulf Power to earn a fair rate of return for their investment, I don't see why the increase in the base charge is necessary as it raises the bar for the homeowner in making their own investment for their power supply. If increased income for Gulf Power is justified, then raise the rates on consumption both in energy and capacity.

Sincerely,



Gary M. Cook
2328 Compton Dr.
Plano, TX 75025
972-838-0028