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BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 930885-EU

PREPARED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS OF

WILLIAM C. WEINTRITT

DECEMBER 20, 1996

GULF POWER



PESO-RECONCOVERPORTING

1		GULF POWER COMPANY			
2		Before the Florida Public Service Commission Rebuttal Testimony of			
3		William C. Weintritt			
4		Docket No. 930885-EU Date of Filing: December 20, 1996			
5	Q.	What is your name and job title with Gulf Power Company?			
6	A.	My name is William C. Weintritt and my job title is			
7		Power Delivery Manager.			
8					
9	Q.	Are you the same William C. Weintritt that prepared			
10		direct testimony in this docket?			
11	A.	Yes, I am.			
12					
13	Q.	What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?			
14	A.	The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond to			
15		statements made by Archie W. Gordon and explain why a			
16		continuous boundary line fully encircling Gulf Power's			
17		facilities is not in the best interests of the electric			
18		customers in Bay and Washington counties or Gulf Power.			
19		I also will respond to statements made by Stephen			
20		Page Daniel and Todd F. Bohrmann and explain how utility			
21		lines may cross one another safely.			
22					
23	Q.	Do you have any exhibits to which you will refer in the			
24		course of your testimony?			

A. Yes. I have two exhibits, each having three subparts.

25

1		counsel: we ask that Mr. Weintrict's two
2		exhibits, WCW-6 and WCW-7, be marked
3		as Exhibits and,
4		respectively.
5		
6	Q.	On page 4, line 20 through 24 of Mr. Gordon's testimony,
7		he describes Gulf Power's distribution lines as "scarce"
8		in rural areas. Do you agree with that description?
9	A.	No, even Mr. Gordon admits that prior to 1950, a Gulf
10		Power line was present from College Station (north of
11		Panama City) approximately 14 miles along US 231 to
12		Youngstown. This is the same general area of Bay County
13		being considered in this docket. It should also be
14		remembered that Gulf Power was providing the energy
15		being distributed by GCEC through its Bayou George
16		delivery point. This fact is demonstrated by exhibit
17		WCW-3 to my direct testimony. Gulf Power's first
18		electrical system was established in 1926 in the then
19		rural area of Chipley, Florida. It is misleading to
20		state that our distribution lines were then or are now
21		"scarce" in rural areas.
22		
23	Q.	Do you agree with Mr. Gordon's statement on page 6,
24		line 14 of his testimony characterizing the frequency of

- territorial disputes between Gulf Power and GCEC as
- being "continuous"?
- 3 A. No. The only dispute between these two utilities in
- 4 over ten years occurred over service to the Washington
- 5 County Correctional Institute when GCEC duplicated the
- 6 existing lines of Gulf Power along Highway 279. I
- 7 hardly consider one dispute in over ten years as being
- 8 "continuous".

- 10 Q. Page 7, lines 11 through 15 of Mr. Gordon's testimony,
- refers to a Department of Transportation map of Bay
- 12 County, Florida, Exhibit No. (AWG-2) where Mr. Gordon
- 13 attempts to depict Gulf Power and GCEC electric
- 14 facilities. Does this exhibit accurately depict Gulf
- 15 Power's facilities?
- 16 A. No. I would estimate that less than one tenth of Gulf
- 17 Power's facilities in Bay County are shown on
- 18 Mr. Gordon's exhibit. The scale would not allow Gulf
- 19 Power's facilities to be shown properly. This is an
- 20 obvious attempt to distort the amount of facilities
- 21 being shown as owned by Gulf Power in Bay County.

22

- 23 Q. Pages 8, 9 and 10 of Mr. Gordon's testimony are devoted
- 24 to drawing a continuous boundary in Bay County to, as
- Mr. Gordon says, "provide closure". Is it necessary to

- 1 have a continuous boundary line throughout Bay County to
- 2 prevent uneconomic duplication of facilities?
- 3 A. Absolutely not. The obvious intent of Mr. Gordon's
- 4 proposed continuous boundary line in Bay County is to
- 5 completely encircle Gulf Power's lines and prevent us
- from growing beyond where we presently have facilities.
- 7 The "closure" that would be provided is that Gulf Power
- 8 would be closed off from serving the vast amount of
- 9 unserved area in Bay County and GCEC would be free to
- 10 expand at will.

- 12 Q. What other problems do you have with this proposed
- "continuous" boundary line"?
- 14 A. Mr. Gordon's method establishes a fixed boundary line to
- be utilized in determining which company will provide
- service to all future customer loads based on the
- 17 presence of distribution lines existing at this point in
- 18 time without regard to the size and characteristics of
- 19 the load that may develop in the future and regardless
- of the adequacy of those lines to serve future load.
- 21 Mr. Gordon's method also eliminates customer choice and
- 22 will deny many customers lower priced electric service
- 23 with higher reliability even if uneconomic duplication
- of facilities is not an issue. Quite simply,
- 25 Mr. Gordon's method prematurely determines the electric

- supplier for an area without knowing which conditions
- 2 might change drastically long before the service is
- needed.

- 5 Q. On page 11, Mr. Gordon describes six factors he
- 6 considered in establishing a proposed territorial
- 7 boundary line. Did Mr. Gordon fully utilize these
- 8 factors in establishing his proposed boundary line?
- 9 A. No. In many instances topographical and geographical
- 10 features were totally ignored. One such instance is on
- 11 Map 2633. Mr. Gordon departs from Bayou George Creek
- then strikes out cross-country near the north end of
- 13 Cemetery Road. This contrived boundary passes within
- 14 100 feet of Gulf Power's facilities yet GCEC's lines are
- 15 several thousand feet away. There are many other
- instances where the boundary was drawn immediately
- 17 adjacent to Gulf Power's lines with GCEC's lines being a
- 18 great distance away. One other such instance is on Map
- 19 2731. In this case, Mr. Gordon has drawn a boundary
- within 100 feet of Gulf Power's facilities in Cedarwood
- 21 Subdivision while GCEC's lines are thousands of feet
- 22 distant. Other examples include utilizing through
- 23 feeders to establish service rights where no service is
- 24 presently being provided by GCEC. One such instance is
- shown on Map 2633 where, just east of the US Highway 231

- bridge over Bayou George, Mr. Gordon's proposed boundary
- 2 departs from the creek and apparently uses the presence
- of a "through feeder" to claim a parcel long served by
- 4 Gulf Power. These three examples are shown in my
- exhibit WCW-6, pages a, b, and c, respectively.

- 7 Q. Do the problems previously described for Mr. Gordon's
- 8 continuous boundary line in Bay County also apply to his
- 9 description of a continuous boundary line in Washington
- 10 County?
- 11 A. Yes. Again, one such example is on Map 2521 where
- Mr. Gordon's proposed boundary confines Gulf Power to
- 13 Sunny Hills proper and allocates several square miles of
- 14 unserved territory to GCEC. This is done
- notwithstanding GCEC's scant presence on this map.
- Another instance occurs at the west side of Map 2519.
- 17 Here Mr. Gordon's arbitrary line lops off a Gulf Power
- 18 line section with GCEC not even present on this portion
- of the map. Moreover, that Gulf Power line continues
- onto Map 2419 yet Mr. Gordon assigns Map 2419 in it's
- 21 entirety to GCEC. GCEC is present only in the immediate
- vicinity of Highway 77, yet claims three and one-half
- 23 square miles. These three examples are shown in my
- exhibit WCW-7, pages a, b, and c, respectively.

25

- 1 Q. Pages 11 and 12 of Mr. Daniel's testimony describe
- examples of the adverse impact of "needless
- duplication". Do you agree with Mr. Daniel's opinion?
- 4 A. No, I do not. Mr. Daniel's examples do not completely
- 5 describe any of the situations he proposes. Mr.
- 6 Daniel's example of an automobile leaving the roadway
- 7 implies that this risk is greater only where duplicate
- 8 electrical distribution lines exist. In fact, there
- 9 almost always will be utility poles along both sides of
- any roadway which also has dwellings or businesses on
- 11 both sides of that road. This situation is common
- throughout the entire country. In fact, where joint use
- agreements exist, those "duplicate" pole lines often
- 14 have different owners, one being an electrical utility
- and the other a telecommunication utility. Poles on
- both sides of roads are necessary to provide sufficient
- 17 safe clearance over the roadway for power and
- telecommunication lines crossing to serve consumers
- opposite the main line. There are numerous regulations
- 20 governing the safe placement of any poles on public
- 21 right-of-way. These include the Florida Department of
- 22 Transportation Utility Accommodation Guide as well as
- 23 County and Municipal ordinances adopting similar
- 24 standards. These Guides contain permitting provisions
- which cause review and approval of most proposed pole

- locations prior to any actual installation. The

 National Electrical Safety Code also contains language

 addressing safe placement of utility poles. Compliance

 with these safety standards will mitigate the hazard to

 the motoring public no matter the ownership or purpose

 of any utility pole.
- Mr. Daniel also states that crossing lines can 7 lead to voltage problems and equipment damage. 8 9 true that unusual voltages can damage equipment, but the 10 number of times when sagging lines cause the damage is so small as to be almost nonexistent. In my experience 11 12 during the more than thirty years I have been associated 13 with the electrical power industry in the southeastern 14 states, the total number of damage cases due to crossing lines sagging into one another does not equal the damage 15 16 caused by any average individual thunderstorm. 17 one of the most frequent "crossers" of electrical 18 distribution lines is the State of Florida. There are 19 hundreds of traffic signals owned by the Florida 20 Department of Transportation supported by messenger 21 cables which cross in close proximity to Gulf Power's 22 electrical lines. I am unaware of any instances of 23 damage to those facilities due to sagging into each 24 I suppose that the Department of 25 Transportation's (DOT) engineers share my belief or they

1	would not have perpetuated these conditions for so many
2	years. In addition to the Florida DOT, GCEC's own
3	engineers seem indifferent to this supposed hazard.
4	They have constructed a distribution system which
5	crosses back and forth under Gulf Power's 115,000 volt
6	and 230,000 volt transmission lines at many locations.
7	Again, I suppose if they really thought that lines
8	sagging into one another was a problem they would have
9	pursued alternative designs. In any case, the NESC
10	specifically addresses the grade of construction and
11	clearance distances to be used when erecting crossing
12	lines. Compliance with these design criteria will
13	mitigate any risk to consumers or utilities alike.

15 Q. Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?

16 A. Yes, it does.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA				
)			
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA)			

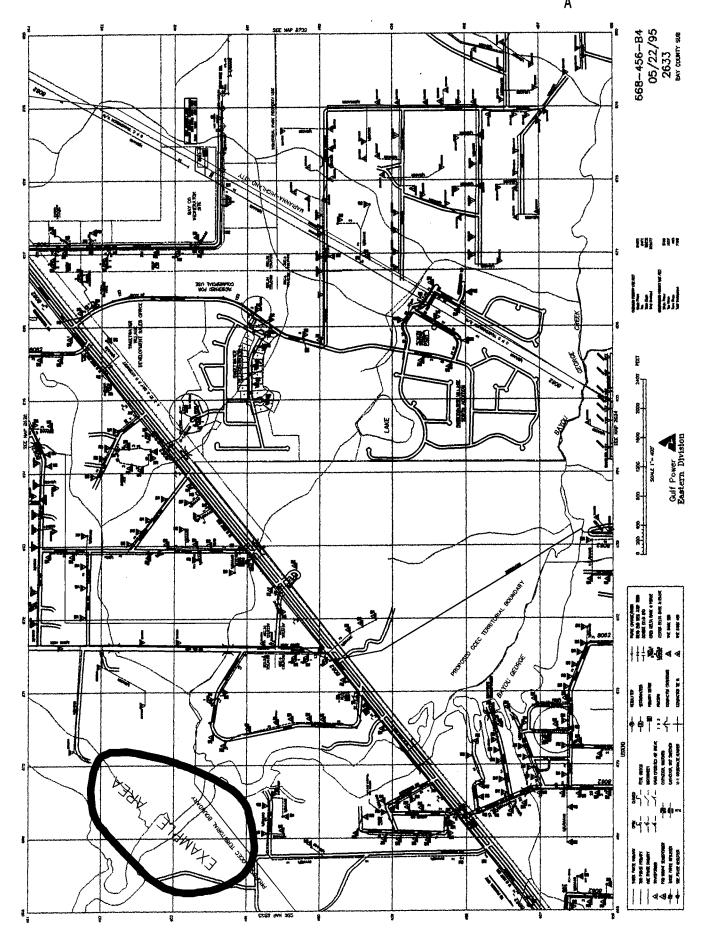
Docket No. 930885-EU

Before me the undersigned authority, personally appeared William C. Weintriitt who being first duly sworn, deposes, and says that he is the Power Delivery Manager for Gulf Power Company, a Maine corporation, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief. He is personally known to me.

William C. Weintritt
Power Delivery Manager

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large





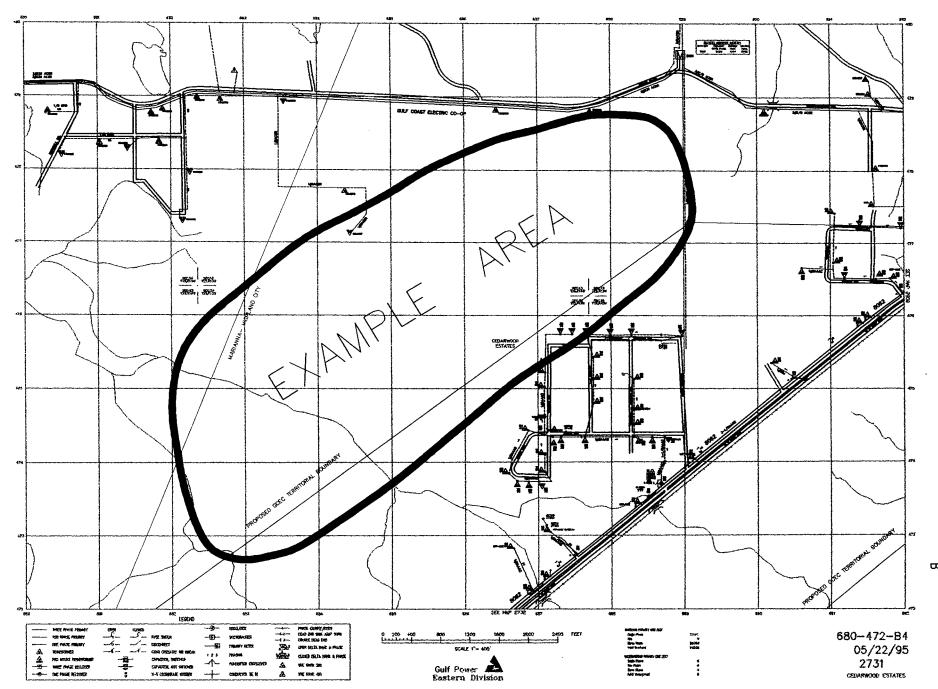
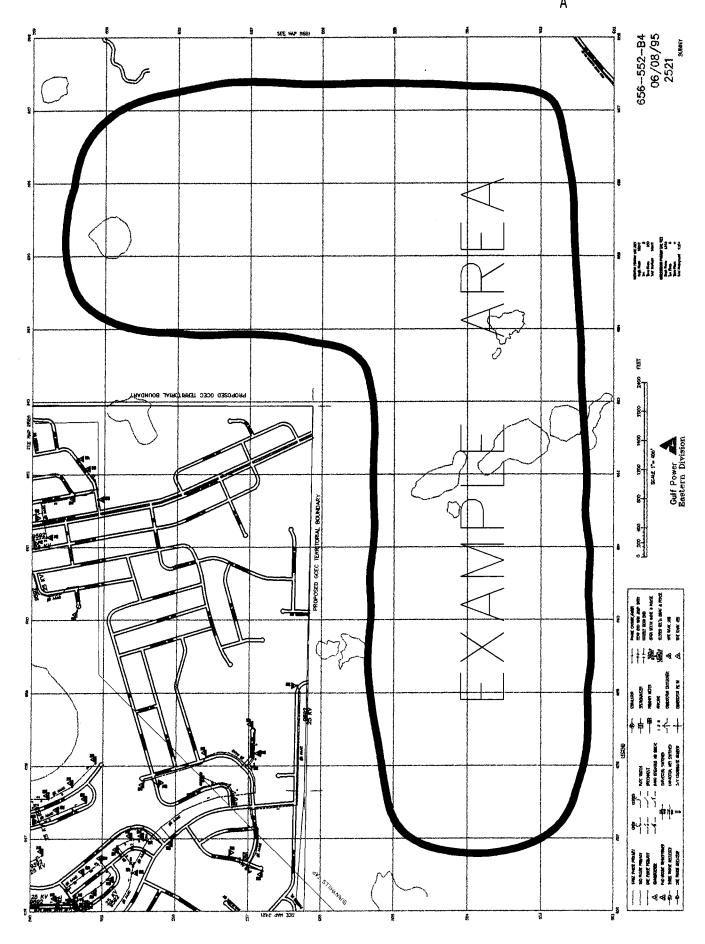
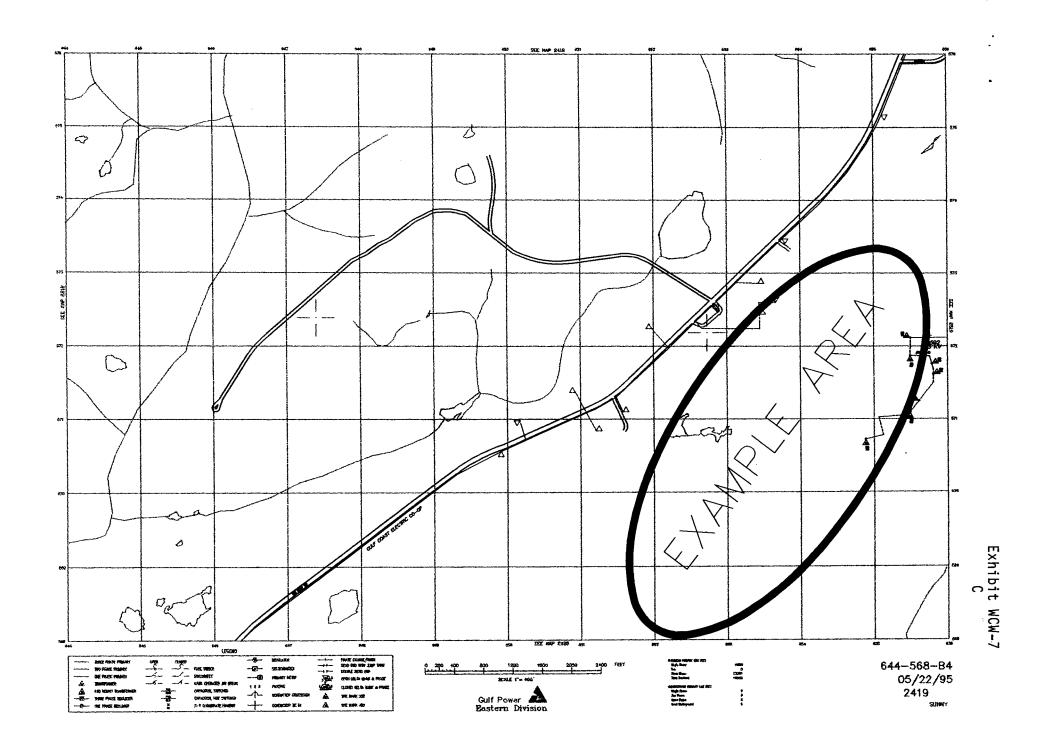


Exhibit WCW-6 B





AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA)	Docket No. 930885-EU
)	
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA)	

Before me the undersigned authority, personally appeared William C. Weintriitt who being first duly sworn, deposes, and says that he is the Power Delivery Manager for Gulf Power Company, a Maine corporation, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief. He is personally known to me.

William C. Weintritt
Power Delivery Manager

Notary Public. State of Florida at Large

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