

ORIGINAL

LAW OFFICES
MESSER, CAPARELLO & SELF
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

215 SOUTH MONROE STREET SUITE 701
POST OFFICE BOX 1876
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32302-1876
TELEPHONE (904) 222 0720
TELECOPIERS (904) 224-4359, (904) 425-1842

January 15, 1998

Ms. Blanca Bayo, Director
Division of Records and Reporting
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

HAND DELIVERY

Re: South Florida Natural Gas Company; Docket No. ~~980003-GUA~~

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of South Florida Natural Gas Company in connection with the hearings scheduled to begin February 25, 1998 in this docket are the original and 10 copies of the following:

1. Petition for Approval of South Florida Natural Gas Company's Purchased Gas Cost Recovery Factors; *00870-98*
2. Direct Testimony of Lou Defrain; and *00871-98*
3. Schedules E-1, E1/R, E-2, E-3, E-4 and E-5.

ACK

AFA

APP

CAF

CMH

CTR

ERG

LEG

LLH

MLH

RLH

SEC

WAS

OTH

Handwritten

Please acknowledge receipt of these documents by stamping the enclosed extra copy of this letter. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours very truly,

Norman H. Horton Jr.

Norman H. Horton, Jr.

3 NIHH/amb
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Lou J. Defrain
Ms. Anne V. Wood
Mr. John Davis
Parties of Record

00870

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Purchased Gas
Adjustment Cost Recovery

Docket No. 980003-GU
Filed: January 15, 1998

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF
SOUTH FLORIDA NATURAL GAS CO.'S
PURCHASED GAS COST RECOVERY FACTORS**

South Florida Natural Gas Co. ("the Company"), by and through its undersigned attorneys and pursuant to the requirements of this docket, hereby petitions the Commission for approval of the Company's purchased gas cost recovery factors for the period April 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999.

In support hereof, the Company states:

1) The Company is a natural gas utility company within the jurisdiction of this Commission. Its principal business address is:

South Florida Natural Gas Co.
Post Office Box 69-J
Miami, Florida 33269-0078

2) The name and address of the person authorized to receive notices and communications with respect to this Petition are:

Norman H. Horton, Jr.
Messer, Caparello & Self, P. A.
Suite 701, First Florida Bank Building
Post Office Box 1876
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1876

3) Pursuant to the requirements of this Docket, the Company has prefiled the purchased gas cost recovery forms supplied by the Electric & Gas Department in a manner consistent with the Department's instructions.

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

00670 JAN 15 8

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

4) As indicated in the prefiled forms, the Company experienced an overrecovery of \$114,218 for the period April 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997 and estimates an overrecovery of \$23,344 for the period April 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998, for a total overrecovery of \$137,562. Based upon estimated sales of 2,556,201, it will be necessary to subtract 5.381 cents per therm to refund this overrecovery.

5) The Company has also projected its purchased gas costs for the period April 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999. As indicated in the accompanying schedules, the maximum purchased gas cost recovery factor is 27.780 cents per therm. This rate includes projected cost of gas purchased, prior period true-up, and revenue tax factors, and is based upon projected sales.

WHEREFORE, South Florida Natural Gas Co. petitions the Commission to approve the foregoing purchased gas cost recovery factors, to be applied to customer bills for the period April 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999, and to billings thereafter until other purchased gas cost recovery factors are approved by the Commission.

DATED this 15th day of January, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

MESSER, CAPARELLO & SELF, P. A.
Post Office Box 1876
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1876
(904) 222-0720


Norman H. Horton, Jr.

Attorneys for South Florida Natural Gas Co.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that true and correct copies of South Florida Natural Gas Company's Petition for Approval of Purchased Gas Cost Recovery Factors along with accompanying testimony and schedules in Docket No. 980003-GU have been served by hand delivery (*) and/or U. S. Mail this 15th day of January, 1998 upon the following:

Cochran Keating, Esq.*
Division of Legal Services
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Room 370
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Lee L. Willis, Esq.
James D. Beasley, Esq.
Ausley & McMullen
Post Office Box 391
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Mr. Russell D. Chapman
Administrator, Support Services
Tampa Electric Co.
P.O. Box 111
Tampa, FL 33601-0111

Joseph A. McGlothlin, Esq.
McWhirter, Reeves, McGlothlin,
Davidson Rief & Bakas, P.A.
117 S. Gadsden St
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Jack Shreve, Esq.
Public Counsel
Office of the Public Counsel
111 West Madison St., Rm 812
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400

Wayne L. Schiefelbein, Esq.
Gatlin, Schiefelbein
& Cowdery
3301 Thomasville Rd., Suite 300
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Ansley Watson, Jr., Esq.
MacFarlane, Ferguson, Allison
& Kelly
Post Office Box 1531
Tampa, FL 33601

John W. McWhirter, Esq.
McWhirter, Reeves, McGlothlin,
Davidson, Rief & Bakas, P.A.
Post Office Box 3350
Tampa, FL 33601-3350

Mr. Robert Cooper
U.S. Gypsum Company
P.O. Box 806278
Chicago, IL 60680-4124

Kenneth A. Hoffman, Esq.
William B. Willingham, Esq.
Rutledge, Ecenia, Underwood,
Purnell & Hoffman, P.A.
P.O. Box 551
Tallahassee, FL 32302-0551

Mr. Frank C. Cressman
President
Florida Public Utilities Company
P.O. Box 3395
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3395


NORMAN H. HORTON, JR.