

**Ruth Nettles**

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**From:** Holsinger, Brame N. [BNHOLSIN@SOUTHERNCO.COM]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 08, 2007 4:00 PM  
**To:** Filings@psc.state.fl.us  
**Cc:** jas@beggslane.com  
**Subject:** Gulf Power Company's Storm Hardening Plan - Preliminary List of Issues  
**Attachments:** Preliminary List of Issued 08-08-07.pdf

**ORIGINAL**

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- B. 070299-EI
- C. Gulf Power Company
- D. Document consists of 7 pages.
- E. The attached document is a transmittal letter and Gulf Power Company's Preliminary List of Issues to be filed in this Storm Hardening docket.

*Brame Holsinger*

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

8/8/2007

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**ORIGINAL**



August 8, 2007

Ms. Ann Cole, Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

Dear Ms. Cole:

Re: Docket No. 070299-EI

Attached is Gulf Power Company's Preliminary List of Issues, to be filed in the above referenced Storm Hardening docket.

Sincerely,

*Susan D. Ritenour*

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Enclosures

cc: Beggs & Lane  
Jeffrey A. Stone, Esq.

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

**Storm Hardening Plan - Preliminary List of Issues  
Dockets 070297-EI through 070301-EI  
Gulf Power Company's Positions**

- 1. Does the Company's Plan meet the desired objectives of enhancing reliability and reducing restoration costs and outage times in a prudent, practical, and cost-effective manner to the affected parties? [Rule 25-6.0342(2)]**

Yes. See response to Issue 14 below.

- 2. Does the Company's Plan reasonably address the extent to which, at a minimum, the Plan complies with the National Electric Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC] that is applicable pursuant to subsection 25-6.0345(2), F.A.C. [Rule 25-6.0342(3)(a)]**

Yes. Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan complies with the National Electric Safety Code.

- 3. Does the Company's Plan reasonably address the extent to which the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2007 edition of the NESC are adopted for new distribution facility construction? [Rule 25-6.0342(3)(b)]**

Yes. Gulf Power has historically designed its distribution system based on Grade C construction standards, which meets NESC standards. Gulf's amended Storm Hardening Plan proposes to adopt Grade B construction standards for all new distribution facilities which would exceed NESC requirements.

- 4. Does the Company's Plan reasonably address the extent to which the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2007 edition of the NESC are adopted for major planned work on the distribution system, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after the effective date of this rule distribution facility construction? [Rule 25-6.0342(3)(b)2]**

Yes. Gulf Power has historically designed its distribution system based on Grade C construction standards, which meets NESC standards. Gulf's amended Storm Hardening Plan proposes to adopt Grade B construction standards for all major expansions, rebuilds or relocations of existing distribution facilities. Distribution facilities built to the Grade B construction standard would exceed NESC requirements.

- 5. Does the Company's Plan reasonably address the extent to which the extreme wind**

**loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2007 edition of the NESC are adopted for distribution facilities serving critical infrastructure facilities and along major thoroughfares taking into account political and geographical boundaries and other applicable operational considerations? [Rule 256.0342(3)(b)3]**

Yes. Gulf Power will adopt Grade B construction standards to all new and major rebuilds of existing distribution facilities that serve critical infrastructure facilities and cross major thoroughfares. In addition, as a pilot project program, Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan proposes to adopt Extreme Wind Loading (EWL) standards for main feeder distribution systems that serve critical facilities such as hospitals, sewer treatment plants, fuel depots, and feeders that cross major thoroughfares. As a part of these pilot projects, Gulf will also install wind monitoring devices at substations nearest to the planned pilot projects. This granular wind data, along with forensic data gathered after a major storm event, will assist in the determination of the effectiveness of the EWL pilot projects. Current proposed EWL pilot projects are identified in Section 9.1 of Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan.

**6. Does the Company's Plan reasonably address the extent to which its distribution facilities are designed to mitigate damage to underground and supporting overhead transmission and distribution facilities due to flooding and storm surges? [Rule 25-6.0342(3)(c)]**

Yes. Gulf has developed overhead and underground distribution storm hardening specifications to mitigate damage due to flooding and storm surges. These specifications are shown in Appendices 5 and 6 of Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan. In addition, Gulf is currently working on several distribution pilot projects in potential storm surge areas to test the effectiveness of mitigation techniques. Current pilot projects include the installation of below-grade gear, along with heavy lids and anchoring systems on flush-mounted switch enclosures. Gulf will continue to utilize stainless steel equipment in all coastal areas as it's done for many years.

**7. Does the Company's Plan reasonably address the extent to which the placement of new and replacement distribution facilities facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance pursuant to Rule 25- 6.0341, F.A.C? [Rule 25-6.0342(3)(d)]**

Yes. Gulf Power has always recognized that accessibility to distribution facilities is essential to safe and efficient maintenance and storm restoration. Gulf continues to promote placement of facilities adjacent to public roads; to utilize easements, public streets, roads and highways; obtain easements for underground facilities; and to use right-of-ways for conversions of overhead to underground.

- 8. Does the Company's Plan provide a detailed description of its deployment strategy including a description of the facilities affected; including technical design specifications, construction standards, and construction methodologies employed? [Rule 25-6.0342(4)(a)]**

Yes. Section 9.1 of Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan describes the 3-year deployment strategy for the proposed EWL critical infrastructure pilot projects. Appendices 5 and 6 of the Storm Hardening Plan contain the design and construction specifications for the overhead and underground distribution facilities.

- 9. Does the Company's Plan provide a detailed description of the communities and areas within the utility's service area where the electric infrastructure improvements, including facilities identified by the utility as critical infrastructure and along major thoroughfares pursuant to subparagraph (3)(b)3. are to be made? [Rule 25-6.0342(4)(b)]**

Yes. Section 9.1 of Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan identifies the proposed critical infrastructure project locations. In addition, Appendix 1 of the Plan is a map that shows the location of the proposed critical infrastructure projects in relation to the communities in N.W. Florida.

- 10. Does the Company's Plan provide a detailed description of the extent to which the electric infrastructure improvements involve joint use facilities on which third-party attachments exist? [Rule 25-6.0342(4)(c)]**

Yes. Gulf Power has and will continue to work with all third-party attachers to provide sufficient details of proposed electric infrastructure improvements to determine potential impacts to joint-use facilities. Detailed location maps of potentially-impacted joint use facilities have been and will continue to be provided to all interested third-party attachers. The locations identified on the maps indicate a third-party attacher has one or more attachments on one or more poles shown on each map they received. Other information exchange with third-party attachers has been through face-to-face meetings and conference calls.

- 11. Does the Company's Plan provide a reasonable estimate of the costs and benefits to the utility of making the electric infrastructure improvements, including the effect on reducing storm restoration costs and customer outages? [Rule 25-6.0342(4)(d)]**

Yes. Appendix 8 of Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan summarizes the estimated costs for the critical infrastructure hardening projects during the 2007 to 2009 time period. In

addition, Gulf plans to file an amended Storm Hardening Plan that will include the estimated costs associated with the adoption of Grade B construction standards on all new and major overhead distribution rebuilds, along with proposed underground storm hardening pilot projects along coastal areas. Proposed underground pilot projects include the installation of below-grade switchgear in underground concrete vaults with heavy lids and anchoring systems. Total storm hardening costs for the 2007 to 2009 time period are estimated at approximately \$20 million per year. Gulf continues to evaluate the possible benefits associated with its storm hardening activities.

**12. Does the Company's Plan provide a reasonable estimate of the costs and benefits, obtained pursuant to subsection (6) below, to third-party attachers affected by the electric infrastructure improvements, including the effect on reducing storm restoration costs and customer outages realized by the third-party attachers? [Rule 25-6.0342(4)(e)]**

Yes. Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan includes data to allow third-party attachers to estimate their costs resulting from the implementation of the proposed critical infrastructure pilot projects. Gulf has also furnished additional, detailed location maps of the infrastructure improvement projects since filing the Storm Hardening Plan to allow third-party attachers to better evaluate their cost and benefits.

**13. Does the Company's Plan include reasonable written Attachment Standards and Procedures addressing safety, reliability, pole loading capacity, and engineering standards and procedures for attachments by others to the utility's electric transmission and distribution poles that meet or exceed the edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) that is applicable pursuant to Rule 25-6.034, F.A.C.? [Rule 25-6.0342(5)]**

Yes. Gulf's existing Attachment Standards and Procedures meet the requirements above or exceed the 2007 NESC. The significant update to Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan in the area of third party attachers is the addition of the Pole Strength and Loading engineering assessments and the overlashing notification requirement. This overlashing notification by third-party attachers will facilitate Gulf's ability to comply with the FPSC-approved Pole Strength and Loading assessment. It is Gulf's position that safety and reliability of the distribution system are paramount and this notification will help preserve these requirements on the system.

**14. Based on the resolution of the preceding issues, should the Commission find that the Company's Plan meets the desired objectives of enhancing reliability and reducing restoration costs and outage times in a prudent, practical, and cost-effective manner to the affected parties.[ Ride 25-6.0342(1) and (2)]**

Yes. Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan, which includes the 10-part storm preparedness initiatives that were approved by the Commission in Docket No. 060198, can reasonably be expected to enhance the reliability and reduce restoration cost and outage times in a cost-effective manner. By adopting Grade B construction standards on all new and major distribution rebuilds, along with utilizing an EWL pilot project approach on critical infrastructure facilities and performing underground storm hardening projects where appropriate, Gulf's Storm Hardening Plan is prudent, practical, and cost-effective.

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing was furnished by regular U. S. mail, all this 9<sup>TH</sup> day of August, 2007, on the following:

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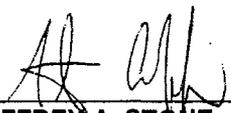
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