

Collin Roehner

From: Janet Brunson
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 11:30 AM
To: 'Erik Spencer'
Cc: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

Dear Mr. Spencer:

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.

Service hearings are scheduled in Pensacola on January 26 and in Panama City on January 27. I encourage you to attend one of the hearings, so that you can directly speak to the Commissioners. 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

From: Erik Spencer [<mailto:erik.j.spencer4@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 5:03 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Docket #160186-EI Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

I have recently received a notice in the mail that Gulf Power is requesting a rate increase of 6.9% for residential customers. I wholeheartedly object to this request as we as Floridians already pay an annual energy cost that is 40% higher than the national average. Florida residents continue to be marginalized and disregarded by the current energy system in Florida and the allowance of monopolies. Not only should this request be denied, but the entire electric industry of Florida should be restructured to allow multiple companies to compete for energy distribution to customers. The vertical integration of the electric industry in Florida is only good for the

companies currently in control of the market because they have absolutely no competition. It is absurd that I have no choice in my electric provider and must pay their outrageous fees or go without power.

I would like to offer as anecdotal evidence my experience while stationed in Texas. Texas has a restructured electric industry that allows for multiple companies to compete for generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity to any given area and they have even set up a state run (Public Utility Commission) website, powertochoose.com, where residents can simply input their zip code and instantly see competing company prices. I paid over 300% less per kWh while in Texas due to this process. Florida residents would greatly benefit from a restructured electric industry like this, and the state departments in charge of the change would have many examples from other states to easily transition.

It is time the well-being of the residents came before the well-being of these monopolies, I kindly ask that you deny this request from Gulf Power.

Sincerely,
Erik Spencer
Niceville, FL