

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2017 2:49 PM  
**To:** 'Larry Wick'  
**Subject:** RE: Florida Public Service Commission Docket #160186

Good afternoon Mr. Wick,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 160186-EI and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Collin D. Roehner  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32301  
(850) 413-7123

**From:** Larry Wick [<mailto:larrywick45@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2017 2:48 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** [info@mygulfpower.com](mailto:info@mygulfpower.com); [flaarp@aarp.org](mailto:flaarp@aarp.org)  
**Subject:** Florida Public Service Commission Docket #160186

To: Florida Public Service Commission, c/o Ms. Carlotta Stauffer, Clerk  
Re: Public Comment -- Gulf Power Request for Increase, effective July 1, 2017; PSC Docket #160816  
ecs: Gulf Power executives; Florida AARP

My wife and I have been retired from our professional positions since 2008. Since 2009, we have had to rent an apartment at 31 - 6th St., Apt. B, Shalimar, FL 32579. Gulf Power has supplied electric power to us at that address since 2009. Due to the loss of our home, our home equity and our savings in the 2008-09 real estate crash, we are wholly dependent upon our monthly Social Security checks and Medicare coverage to survive from month to month since 2009. [The State of Florida's restrictions on Medicaid eligibility make that program unavailable to us.]

The announcement we received on January 12, 2017 came as quite a shock to us-- i.e., that Gulf Power [Southern Companies] has requested an increase in electric rates effective July 1, 2017 which amounts to about 7% or \$10.22 monthly for average Florida residential service. That amounts to more than double the increase in monthly Social Security payments we received effective January, 2017. That rate increase request came, in effect, as a triple shock to us, for that reason as well as these two additional reasons: (#2) On January 11, 2017, one day earlier, we received Gulf Power's "Current Connection" newsletter dated January 2017, which headlined "Gulf Power customers will see a decrease in their monthly bill," claiming that "[s]tarting in January," residential customers will see a monthly decrease of 3% or \$4.63; and (#3) we received from Gulf Power in the same envelope our January bill which, for the same usage, was identical to previous Gulf Power bills in 2016 and did NOT provide their promised January 2017 decrease !

What is wrong with this picture? I infer that Gulf Power, on the one hand, thinks it can grab more than all of retired Floridians' meager Social Security 2017 cost of living increases by filing the pending request for rate

increase with the PSC, while, on the other hand, it purports to persuade its residential customers, falsely, that it is giving us lower bills !

I hope that the Florida Public Service Commission carefully scrutinizes Gulf Power's requested rate increases and makes Gulf Power justify beyond a reasonable doubt why they should get an increase instead of being compelled to give their Florida residential customers the decrease, at a minimum, which they advertised to us. Please, PSC, make Gulf Power stop their game-playing with the numbers; make them stop their misleading advertising and force them to be truthful with their customers; and make sure their responsible executives cannot simply push the blame "down the ladder" to some lower-level employees.

Sincerely,

Lawrence S. Wick

31 - 6th Street, Apt. B

Shalimar, FL 32579

Phone: 850-598-2840

Email: [larrywick45@gmail.com](mailto:larrywick45@gmail.com)