

**Ashley Quick**

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**From:** Janet Brunson  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 10:28 AM  
**To:** 'eln6@students.uwf.edu'  
**Cc:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

Dear Ms. Headrick:

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.

January service hearings were held in Pensacola and Panama City. 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](http://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

-----Original Message-----

From: [eln6@students.uwf.edu](mailto:eln6@students.uwf.edu) [<mailto:eln6@students.uwf.edu>]  
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 2:39 PM  
To: Consumer Contact  
Subject: Basic rate increase for Gulf Power

I would be attending the meeting if I was not working. Here are my thoughts that I still want to be heard in my absence.

Reasons to drop the charges:

1) Everyone who creates and works off of a budget has already carefully budgeted out 2017. This process in our family was started in October of last year. My husband and I just signed a lease that fits our budget that was designed last year. We budgeted a certain generous amount for our electricity as well that did not include an additional \$32 in basic fees. This situation supports many others as well.

2) There are better options. As a marine biologist, and future marine microbiologist, my first suggestion is to come up with a system that REDUCES the amount of electricity used to benefit our planet's carbon cycle. What if instead of a higher base rate for service, there are penalty fees if you use too much energy? This would require studies and research into metadata that would show what the average usage of households is across let's say 5 years. Any one standard deviation on the higher end of that bell curve would demonstrate a need for an "excess use fee." This would protect the lower class and lower middle that truly cannot afford that additional \$32 because we're simply making ends meet. It would also encourage more responsible energy usage.

I realize this is not a simple fix, however it does carry merit and would better our planet at the same time. Which would save face for Gulf Power.

There are always better options.

On my end. I am currently attending university towards a master's degree in science. My husband works very hard at Publix. I work full time at our local favorite surf shop, Innerlight. I also work 20 hours a week on campus as a research assistant. With all of the overtime we both work and with my second job, we still only make ends meet.

Health insurance is through the roof, rent increases 3% every year. We can't afford to buy a house even with state assistance, and school is expensive.

This is sure to not go over well at the current proposed rate. Certainly a 177% increase on base rate to everyone is not the answer.

Thank you for your attention,

Erika Headrick (Neat)