

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: January 27, 2017

TO: Carlotta Stauffer, Chief Deputy Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Phillip O. Ellis, Public Utilities Supervisor, Division of Engineering ^{POE}

RE: Docket No.-160186-EI Petition for rate increase by Gulf Power Company.

Please place the attached Consumer Correspondence in the above mentioned docket file.

Thank you

Attachment



Doorways BOD

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Florida Utilities Commission on January 27, 2017: This statement is made on behalf of the more than 70 organizations that Doorways, Inc., formerly the Homeless and Hunger Coalition of Northwest Florida, currently represent as members. These organizations all have as their mission, in whole or in part, to support area residents who need assistance confronting barriers to their ongoing independence and their families' stability. Doorways gives voice to those who are homeless and also to those who are actively striving to remain housed. Doorways invests in best practices designed to prevent homelessness.

When area citizens are housed and remain housed, it contributes to the overall health of the community and its potential for growth and prosperity. When residents do not remain appropriately housed, it contributes to the malaise of the community and the inability to attract new businesses to the area. Similarly, electricity at low rates aids economic development and incentivizes businesses.

The NWFL Continuum Governance Board are opposed to the proposed electricity rate hike. We understand that the proposed increase more than doubles the basic rate charged to all consumers, regardless of usage. The proposed hike is regressive and places an unjust burden on those who can least afford such an increase. This dramatic increase in cost will certainly cause an undue hardship and significantly contribute to the destabilization of many families already struggling to maintain their home and their place in our community.

This area has not fully recovered from the dramatic effect of the recent recession coupled with the Gulf oil spill that crippled our local economy. Employment in the service industries, tourism, construction trades, and the fishing industry has continued to be less than robust. Consumers cannot be expected to suddenly find alternative ways to produce higher incomes to cover increased costs, when the opportunities do not exist for them.

According to national data, we have some of the poorest neighborhoods in America here within our local area. Our Glenwood neighborhood is listed within the 10th percentile of earned income, meaning that 90 percent of neighborhoods across our country have higher median income per family unit. Take into consideration the large percentage of consumers who cannot afford such a huge increase in their power bill and reject this rate hike.

Please find an alternative approach to utilities financing and administration of your services.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvonne Petrasovits", is written over the "Thank you," text.

Yvonne Petrasovits, Executive Director

On behalf of the

Board of Directors, Doorways, Inc.

And the NWFL Continuum of Care Governance Board

Contact Info: director@doorwaysnwfl.org; 850-481-5446