

Collin Roehner

From: Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:40 PM
To: 'John'
Subject: RE: Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

Good afternoon Mr. Leeppez,

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: John [mailto:johnleeper@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:33 PM
To: Records Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John <johnleeper@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 26, 2017 at 11:16 AM
Subject: Docket No. 160186-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request
To: contact@psc.state.fl.us

Dear PSC Commissioners:

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring Florida utility customers fair treatment and guiding us toward a sustainable and healthy energy future. I am a Gulf Power customer. While I generally appreciate and admire the GP team for all their hard work in keeping the lights on, their leadership seems to be stuck in a doomed paradigm of energy production and distribution and not pursuing the best path forward for the state's energy future which will cost all ratepayer's as we go forward if they are left to their own devices.

The current proposal for a flat \$48 base fee is an interesting idea, but it penalizes those who have invested in energy saving insulation and appliances and even PV solar arrays that help reduce the load on the grid and overall demand. Instead of a flat rate increase there should be a formula that charges proportionally those customers with the biggest amperage draws and the highest kwh consumption. Some utilities in other states have a progressive rate on kilowatt hour usage. For example, those small, efficient users that buy 0-1000 kwh are billed at 10 cents per kwh, while those using 1000-2500 kwh pay 12 cents, and those using 2500-5000 kwh monthly pay incrementally 20 cents for that higher tier, etc. etc.

To expand on the reasoning for this system here is an example. There are some mansions on the beach that may be occupied a few weeks of the year that have an annual energy consumption of maybe a few thousand kwh, BUT when they fire up the hot tub and turn on the 3 HVAC systems they require a grid that can deliver huge amounts of amperage even if for a short time. When you compare the annual kwh usage of the mansion to their yard man's tiny house in Freeport that requires much smaller loads it may be identical, but who should pay more for their

grid access? Interestingly, as a precedent Regional Utilities uses a calculation adding up all the household fixtures to figure the expected demands for water and sewer to establish their fees. Smaller houses have less fixtures and expected demands and therefore less expected use and environmental impact.

I have already built and lived in two net zero homes in NW Florida. It is no great difficulty to build this way now. You will see a lot more off grid net zero homes if the base rate increase is passed, but the rest of the ratepayers will be paying more, not less as there will be less GP customers to share the fixed expenses and maintenance costs.

I am retired and live on social security. I built my energy efficient home with solar PV to avoid the burden of increased utility costs as I live my final years on a fixed income. The proposed \$48 a month base fee would more than double my annual expense. Gulf Power already received from me almost 2000 kwh of excess production in the last few years that they sold at full retail rate to my neighbors while paying me only slightly more than 2 cents per kwh for that power. Now they want more? I live in a very small house and ration every kwh to keep my usage low. I poured my life savings into making an ultra energy efficient small house to live in retirement. Why penalize the energy conscious? Isn't this contrary to all the PR from Gulf Power about creating a more energy efficient home with insulation and power saving devices to reduce demand on the grid? It seems an across the board base billing rate for all size homes would only encourage more energy waste by penalizing the efficient and removing the financial burden from the big users and those who could care less about their energy footprint. I respectfully ask the commission to reject the Gulf Power increase in base fees and to:

1. Please consider a progressive kilowatt hour rate structure that places the higher cost burden for grid expense on those that use it the most. This system will keep the utility company financially whole and reduce overall demand.
2. Please do not allow an increased base fee that penalizes the poor and energy efficient users.
3. Please do not allow any higher fees including the proposed \$48 fee to be placed on solar investor ratepayers that have spent thousands of their own money to help us keep demand lower and provide clean renewable energy.
4. Please demand a cut to the high dividend payments of utility companies and a return to the ratepayers in the form of a refund the millions that has been improperly wasted on lobbying and promotion for the failed Amendment 1 as well as the legal and administrative fees paid to pursue this unfair energy tax in the form of an increase in the base billing rate. These political and legal tactics are not in the best interest of our energy future and are wasteful and should be discouraged. GP could have used that money to install a lot of solar panels or wind power instead which would have been giving them dividends for many years.

Thank you for protecting our state's utility customers and creating energy policies that will protect our energy future and environment now and long into the future.

Respectfully,

John Leeper
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DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-4835
[850-889-0901](tel:850-889-0901)