

Collin Roehner

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Cc: Diane Hood; Janet Brunson
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 160186
Attachments: Gulf Power proposed rate increases; FPSC , 2 page(s); E-Form Other Complaint TRACKING NUMBER 122366; Gulf power rate increase; Gulf Power Rate Increase Request.; E-Form Other Complaint TRACKING NUMBER 122388; Gulf Power proposed base rate hike

Customer correspondence

From: Diane Hood
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 160186

Copies on file. DHood

Collin Roehner

From: s.wielenga <sawtango@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 3:46 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Gulf Power proposed base rate hike

To the Florida Public Service Commission and whom ever else this may concern:

It is with a heavy heart I regret to inform you, that because your department has failed in the past to serve in the public's best interest, you have ceased to function for the purpose for which the commission was originally created--to serve the people's best interests (you must be outside your element and not well-grounded). While you have failed miserably at this in the past, you now have another chance to revive your purpose by truly serving the people of Florida, and NOT those who are exorbitantly profitable, all at the people's expense.

It is first of all prudent to point out that Gulf Power's (GP) claim of increased prices is all a gimmick and a ploy. GP's consumers' resistance to such a rate hike is unprecedented because this rate hike is unprecedented. The perception GP is giving is that the proposed rate hike increase is relatively mild (6.9%) for residential consumers. On the notice GP sent to their customers, this is the average percentage they state, and the rates are similar for business consumers. There are two problems with this misleading statement in which GP is being disingenuous to their consumers.

The first is what is purposely not stated. The GP notice only states the average rate hike increase, but for a consumer who uses less than average kWh in a typical month (a low consumer), the rate increase amounts to anywhere from a 20% to 66% increase of their total monthly bill. By GP's own admission (October 12, 2016 ELECTRONIC FILING, p.37-38) (a document I had to find and research) in their analysis, any consumer who uses less than an average of 1000 kWh will face a substantial increase, not the 6.9% as claimed. For those who qualify for the Low Income Rider under GP's proposed plan, and also have low energy consumption, the subsidy makes the difference balance out; for those who have a higher energy consumption, the increase is more mild as stated. But for those residential consumers who have low energy consumption but do not qualify for the subsidy, their rates would increase almost 70%!

The second problem is that GP already has a history of being allowed to raise their base rates above what is considered fair for inflation. GP's energy charges (between 7 and 11 cents per kWh in the past 10 years) fluctuate by year and season and those have also increased and decreased (more up than down). But I would like to highlight what GP fails to highlight. In 2004 (the base line for my personal records), GP's base rate for residential consumers was \$10/month; that increased to \$10.89/month in September 2011; \$15.00/month in April 2012; \$18.60/month in January 2014; and recently to \$19.22/month in January 2015. These present increases of 9%, 38%, 24%, and 3% respectively--a cumulative increase of 74% in base rates in the last 10 years! And now they are requesting to increase that rate by 250%??? The effective drop in their energy rate is negligible in comparison (a 20-25% drop), which they will surely request to increase in the next couple years (as they have done historically), wiping out any potential "savings" for the consumer! Electrifying, isn't it? The historical record is that the energy charge may decrease temporarily from time to time; however, the base rate has NEVER been reduced and keeps adding a profit margin for GP every year.

This brings me to another reason GP does NOT NEED a rate hike. In their own filing GP states that they need to give their stakeholders an 11% return. I personally have friends who make tons of money from their investments in Southern Company (the parent company of GP). In fact these friends who live in northern states always joke around and thank me for providing them with their retirement. Multiple agencies and organizations have already stated that in the economy we currently live in, a minimum expected 11% return on investment is outrageous compared to other utility companies. The only individuals who stand to gain from such rate hikes are the investors and leadership of GP--certainly not the consumers of GP.

One final problem with GP's rate hike is in the ideological realm. I am in no way an earth activist, but I do believe in conserving energy. A last major problem (certainly not the last one) with GP's proposed rate hike is that it does NOT promote conserving energy. Instead of rewarding those who use little energy like it does at present, the rate hike distributes the cost of energy consumption among the consumers (specifically the residential ones). This sounds blatantly like communism/socialism to me! So why would I now want to conserve energy? In essence I am already paying for the energy whether I use it or not, or one could look at it like a punishment for low energy consumption.

In regard to this proposed GP rate hike, a vote against it is a vote for the people, a vote for free enterprise, and a vote for equality payment based on energy usage. A vote for the GP rate hike is essentially a vote for socialism and inequality (all in the guise of equality by the way) for the people of Florida whom you claim to serve. By the way, GP does plan (if the rate hike is approved) on subsidizing (Low Income Rider) those with low income to help defray the cost. And where does GP state this money will come from? From those who pay the full amount. Yet another proof that this rate hike has underlying currents of socialism.

Please do not get magnetized or swayed by GP's fanciful claim that the customers pay "less than the costs the Company incurs to serve them." If that was the case, GP would not be make such enormous profits. On what side of the historical fence does the commission want to be remembered for? Here is a chance to discharge your duties aptly and land on the correct side.

So, will the Florida Public Service Commission make the right choice? For the sake of the people whom the Florida Public Service Commission supposedly serves, I hope so.

Respectfully & Sincerely,
Stephen Wielenga

Collin Roehner

From: consumerComplaint@psc.state.fl.us
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:58 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: E-Form Other Complaint TRACKING NUMBER: 122388

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Name: Barbara Woolcock
Telephone: (850) 455-3967
Email:
Address: 7967 Chesterfield Rd PENSACOLA FL 32506

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Business Account Name: Barbara Woolcock
Account Number:
Address: 7967 Chesterfield Rd PENSACOLA FL 32506

COMPLAINT INFORMATION

Complaint: Other Complaint against Gulf Power Company

Details:

Gulf Power rate increase by 10% for improving the company reliability. Gulf power has had previous rate increase for the same or similar reason. The issue is as a senior living on a fixed income these rate increases are causing a big financial burden. Most of us have paid for our homes and prepare for retirement. However with these rate increase it will cause us not to be able to continue to live in our homes. I know to gulf power and to you that this is not much money, but to us it is all we have. We are caught in the middle because we worked hard all our lives and own our home we can't get any assistance from gulf power with our bills. We are the generation that are being told to suck it up, shut up and pay up. This has got to stop it they want more money they need to be creative and sell off some of the assets they own. My other complaint is if you get a disconnect notice from Gulf Power it will arrive 3 days after the disconnect date. I talked with gulf power about this and was told that nothing they could do about the mail. And that as a consumer we should stay on top of our bills. I was told this by an employee who makes no less than \$18.00 per hour. It's easy to be ugly with the customer when you are making money.

GULF POWER SHOULD NOT GET A RATE INCREASE

Collin Roehner

From: Michael McCormack <duck53821@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Gulf Power Rate Increase Request.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Michael McCormack, 635 Ashford Road, Cantonment, Florida, 32533. I am writing to inform you of my objection to the recent rate increase requested by Gulf Power, my service provider here in Escambia County. As a consumer I have taken the initiative to reduce my power consumption and therefore my carbon footprint as well. In years past as well as now, Gulf Power has ran a program to teach customers how to save on their electricity bills by installing items that are more energy efficient. Now I am learning that they want to base our charges on usage, rewarding those with higher consumption with a better Kwh rate. If I were a “conspiracy theorist” this would surely trigger those thoughts in my head right now. Convince the people that use your service to harden their homes and businesses, then stick it to them with higher rates and as insult to injury increase the base rate another \$30.00 per month.

Right now, as I understand it, Gulf Powers base rate is \$18.00 per month. However a quick check of my current bill shows a base rate of \$20.46. Last January shows that to be \$19.22. How is this base rate applied and calculated? I thought a base rate was a flat fee as opposed to a varying fee based on (to me at least) unknown criteria. Also if I am receiving correct information Florida Power and Light base rate is \$7.87 per month, Tampa Electric \$16.62, Duke Energy \$8.76, Florida Public Utilities \$14.00. Gulf Powers current base rate is the highest in the state, twice as much as Florida Power and Light. They are asking for a base rate increase of \$30.00 per customer bringing our base rate to \$48.00 per month. The \$16.62 base rate is Tampa Electrics new as of January 16, 2017 base rate. I don't understand the logic of Gulf Powers request by that much money for virtually no return to the customer. I am retiring this year after many years of working hard and like most everybody else will be subjected to a limited income. If these rates are approved our income will be negatively impacted by a great deal and cause undue and unfair hardship on those that can least afford it. Please do your duty to the people of Florida and scrutinize these increases and disallow such exorbitant price increases. The people of Florida are not against allowing these companies a reasonable and justifiable increase, I just don't see how this can be justified at this point. Thank you very much for the opportunity to address this concern.

Michael McCormack

Collin Roehner

From: Rose Jennings <oneroses1980@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 12:11 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Gulf power rate increase

We don't need a rate increase for Bay county. The rates at Gulf power are already high enough. They are running an monopoly on Bay county because they are are only option of power. It's unreasonable that they need this increase when the price of fuel and expenses have actually decreased. They only want this to expand the pockets of the shareholders. It's ridiculous and it's straight up greed.

life is full of hiccups

Collin Roehner

From: consumerComplaint@psc.state.fl.us
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 9:49 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: E-Form Other Complaint TRACKING NUMBER: 122366

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Name: Shanna Houdashelt
Telephone: (850) 426-1495
Email: Shashfm@yahoo.com
Address: 864 Candy Ln Cantonment FL 32533

BUSINESS INFORMATION

Business Account Name: Jason Houdashelt
Account Number:
Address: 864 Candy Ln Cantonment FL 32533

COMPLAINT INFORMATION

Complaint: Other Complaint against Gulf Power Company

Details:

I am vehemently against the proposed rate hike for Gulf Power in our area. It is absurd to think we should pay \$48 a month just for the opportunity to use electricity! Without even using any, we would pay \$576 a year! No one should pay that much for nothing. Please also consider the fact that by lowering charge of kW used based on higher usage, the folks who benefit from a decrease in electric bills would be large companies. The ones hurt the most my this will be low to middle income homes/families. Please deny GP this rate hike. It hurts the majority of consumers in our area.

Collin Roehner

From: PSC Fax Server <Fax@psc.state.fl.us>
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 2:27 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FPSC , 2 page(s)
Attachments: FAX-2017-01-28 14_27_16.tif

New Fax Received!

You have received a 2 page fax from FPSC ().

It was sent to 8504136362. The fax is attached to this email, open the attachment to view your fax.

28 January, 2017

TO: FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FROM: NEIL PAPE, 1698 SPALDING CIR., PENSACOLA, FL 32514, a Gulf Power Customer

RE.: PETTION FOR INCREASE IN RATES BY GULF POWER COMPANY

In light of the lengthy public hearing 26 January, 2017 at Pensacola State College, I am opting to put my remarks in writing rather than at the microphone. (I was listed as # 47 to speak.)

I stand in opposition to the proposal to increase base rates for the following reasons:

- The objections presented by the Florida Office of Public Counsel seem accurate and valid.
- The objections presented by Consumers Union as well as Sierra Club and League of Women Voters seem accurate and valid.
- According to the Alliance To Save Energy, decoupling is more fair to customers across the board. i.e. Consumers most clearly benefit from energy efficiency investments that reduce their energy consumption and their energy utility bills, since savings in fuel and other variable costs are passed along to them. As consumers broadly engage in energy efficiency, all ratepayers may benefit as the high costs of new power plants, transmission lines and pipelines may be reduced or avoided.
- A portion of the rate hike will be used to support the Georgia Power Co. Scherer plant outside of Atlanta, Georgia. The Environment America Center rated this coal-fired power plant the most polluting power plant in the U.S. In 2012 CNN did an exclusive on the negative health effects on residents that live nearby. Even though our new president claims he will allow nearly unlimited environmental pollution, the support of aging coal-fired plants is not environmentally right or healthful.
- A comparison of utility companies by Florida Municipal Electric Association shows that, across the board, Gulf Power currently is already in the top 10% in Florida power companies when calculating total electric service costs to its customers. To ask for still more seems unreasonable and could be better achieved through different management adjustments.

Collin Roehner

From: Diana Cochran <dbcochran@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 4:54 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Gulf Power proposed rate increases

I am against a 6.9 percent increase for residential service.

I realize everything goes up but I think this is too much of an increase.

Thank you for your consideration.
Diana Cochran
Bay County, Florida