

Collin Roehner

From: Janet Brunson
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:06 PM
To: 'Michael McCormack'
Cc: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160168-EI - Gulf Power Rate Increase Request.

Dear Mr. McCormack:

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. 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

From: Michael McCormack [<mailto: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 Electric's 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