

Collin Roehner

From: Collin Roehner on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 2:56 PM
To: 'Richard P. Caro'
Subject: RE: Florida Gulf Power Rate Increase, Docket No. 160186

Good afternoon Mr. Caro,

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: Richard P. Caro [<mailto:rpc29@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Records Clerk
Subject: Florida Gulf Power Rate Increase, Docket No. 160186

Richard Caro
62B Jacksons Run
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459-3190

Feb. 8, 2017

Public Service Commission Clerk
clerk@psc.state.fl.us

Re: Florida Gulf Power Proposed Rate Increase, Docket No. 160186

Dear Commissioners,

We are full time, year around users of electricity provided by Florida Gulf Power. I understand that it has asked for an increase in its minimum charge from \$18.00/mo. to \$48.09/mo., or by 267%. That's extraordinary and surprising, if not startling. As far as I know, FGP is not operating at a loss and if it needs to fund capitol improvements, it should look first to its investors and independent funding sources. Customers have no equity interests or rights in FGP and do not have any alternatives available. So its rates are not determined by the market nor competition but, instead, are subject only to regulatory control and rate payer receive none of the equity benefits in compensation for the capitol improvements they, in effect, have paid for.

To keep our electric bill as low as possible, we do not use air conditioning during the Summer and rarely, if ever, turn on the electrical heat. WE do cook every day using the electric range and the house fan is always on as required by our landlord. This allows us to keep our electric bill as low as possible and, notwithstanding, it is always well more than \$48.09/mo. If our monthly electric bill is more than \$48.09, than it is more the proposed new limit, and I would see no increase. So if I used \$100 worth of electricity in a given moth, my electric bill would be \$100.00 and not \$148.09. If, however, the \$48.09 is added to what the monthly electric bill as an add-on additional charge, and the bill would be \$148.09, then we absolutely object to the proposed rate increase. We make it month to month and to pay an extra \$30.00 per mo. over the \$18.00 would be a hardship.

I do not know the history of FGP rate charges and increases. However, if rates set or increased so certain improvements could be made or other purpose, when the improvements are made and paid for, or the purpose met, has the rate increased ever been reversed? If not, then the current rates should be adjusted downward before any consideration is given to any increase.

Public Utilities have a tendency to continue to spend money with little effective oversight and request increases for more than what is actually necessary knowing that their request will not be granted in the full amount. Regulatory Authorities regularly grant increases, but not the full amount requested and so the game is played. Perhaps the Commission should look into that now and adjust the 267% requested increase to offset increases for purposes that have been achieved.

Your truly,

Richard Caro