

COMMISSIONERS:  
JULIE I. BROWN, CHAIRMAN  
ART GRAHAM  
RONALD A. BRISÉ  
JIMMY PATRONIS  
DONALD J. POLMANN

STATE OF FLORIDA



OFFICE OF  
CONSUMER ASSISTANCE & OUTREACH  
CYNTHIA L. MUIR  
DIRECTOR  
(850) 413-6482

# Public Service Commission

March 3, 2017

REC'D MED-FPSC  
2017 MAR -3 PM 3:54  
COMMISSION  
CLERK

Mr. Douglas Merkle  
269 Hugh Thomas Drive  
Panama City, Florida 32404

Dear Mr. Merkle:

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](http://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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bev DeMello".

Bev DeMello  
Assistant Director

BSD/jmb