

**Sandra Soto**

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**From:** Janet Brunson  
**Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** 'ermatinej@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 160186-EI – Gulf Power Company Rate Increase

Dear Ms. Johnson:

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,

Bev DeMello  
Assistant Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Ermatine Johnson [<mailto:ermatinej@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 7:47 AM  
To: Consumer Contact  
Subject: Re: Docket # 160186-EI – Please Reject Fixed Charge Increase

Dear Public Service Commission,

As a concerned customer of Gulf Power, I am writing to ask you to reject the proposed rate hike in Docket 160186-EI. There is no justifiable reason to increase the monthly fixed charge to \$48. This increase is unprecedented and not the type of energy policy that we should be working towards in Florida. Other utility commissions around the country have already rejected similar proposals, and there is no reason for Florida to do differently.

By charging me nearly \$50 every month, regardless of how much electricity I use, this rate hike will effectively punish good behavior! If I chose to invest in energy efficiency or simply be thrifty with how much power I use every month, I will still be hit with a higher bill. Charges like this hurt hardworking families, those on fixed incomes, and our most vulnerable community members. This is not a fair practice; please reject this proposal.

Ermatine Johnson  
Fairfax Drive  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
850 4495277