

**BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In re: Review of 2020-2029 Storm : **DOCKET NO. 20200070-EI**
Protection Plan pursuant to Rule 25-6.030, :
F.A.C., Gulf Power Company. : **Filed: April 29, 2020**

**PETITION TO INTERVENE OF
WALMART INC.**

Pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes and Rules 25-22.039, 28-106.201, and 28-106.205 of the Florida Administrative Code, Walmart Inc. ("Walmart"), by its attorneys, respectfully petitions the Florida Public Service Commission ("Commission") for permission to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding. In support thereof, Walmart represents to the Commission:

1. Petitioner is Walmart, 2608 SE J Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.
2. The name and address of Petitioner's attorneys are:

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Ms. Eaton is authorized to accept service of papers in this proceeding on behalf of Walmart. Walmart also requests that Mr. Williamson and Mr. Naum be added jointly to the service list. Walmart may cause to be filed a motion for either Mr. Williamson or Mr. Naum to be admitted *pro hac vice* before this Commission, and subsequent to any Commission grant of such request, Walmart requests that Mr. Williamson and Mr. Naum be added to the office service list as an attorney authorized to accept service of papers in this proceeding.

3. On March 3, 2020, the Commission initiated this proceeding to address the Section 366.96 of the Florida Statutes entitled "Storm protection plan cost recovery." Section 366.96(3) of the Florida Statutes requires each public utility to file

a transmission and distribution storm protection plan that covers the immediate 10-year planning period. Each plan must explain the systematic approach the utility will follow to achieve the objectives of reducing restoration costs and outage times associated with extreme weather events and enhancing reliability.

4. On April 10, 2020, Gulf Power Company ("Gulf" or "Company") filed its Petition for Approval of the 2020-2029 Storm Protection Plan ("Petition") and supporting testimony.

5. Walmart is a national retailer of goods and services through the United States with its principal office located at 2608 SE J Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.

6. Statement of Substantial Interest. Walmart has the privilege of providing its retail services in the State of Florida through its 231 Supercenters, 9 Discount Stores, 98 Neighborhood Markets, 46 Sam's Clubs, and 8 Distribution Centers.¹ Walmart is also retail customer of Gulf. Walmart purchases more than 110 million kWh annually from Gulf. The cost of electric utility service is a significant element in the cost of operation for Walmart at multiple locations

¹ <https://corporate.walmart.com/our-story/locations/united-states/florida>

throughout the state, which could be impacted by the outcome in this case, thus Walmart has a unique and substantial interest in this matter.

7. Walmart has a substantial and vital interests in the outcome of this proceeding that cannot be adequately represented by any other party.

8. Disputed Issues of Material Fact. At this time, Walmart has not yet confirmed disputed issues of material fact as Gulf only recently submitted its Petition, Storm Protection Plan, and supporting testimony; however, Walmart anticipates that disputed issues of material fact in this proceeding may include the following:

- a. Whether the programs and projects included in Gulf's Storm Protection Plan are consistent with Rule 25-6.030, F.A.C.?
- b. Whether the programs and projects included in Gulf's Storm Protection Plan will reduce restoration costs and outage times associated with extreme weather conditions?
- c. Whether the programs and projects in Gulf's Storm Protection Plan are feasible, reasonable, and practical?
- d. Whether the estimated annual jurisdictional revenue requirements for each year of the Storm Protection Plan are reasonable?
- e. Whether the estimated rate impacts for the first three years of the Storm Protection Plan are reasonable?
- f. Whether Gulf has adequately addressed implementation alternatives that could mitigate rate impacts of its Storm Protection Plan?
- g. Whether the Storm Protection Plan as proposed reflects a reasonable projection of costs in light of projected benefits?

- h. Whether anticipated benefits of the Storm Protection Plan are reasonably balanced among the customer classes of the Company?
- i. Whether costs of the Storm Protection Plan are proposed to be recovered from ratepayers in a manner that reflects cost causation in the allocation and design of those rates?

9. Disputed Legal Issues. Walmart has not yet identified or confirmed any disputed legal issues, and Walmart has not completed its analysis of Gulf's Petition and testimony; however, Walmart reserves its right to do so.

10. Statement of Ultimate Legal Facts Alleged. The interests of Walmart as a large, multi-account customer of the Company that it seeks to protect are sufficient to warrant intervention and include whether Gulf's proposed plan and related costs are reasonable and in the public interest. Walmart anticipates that it will identify other issues of ultimate legal fact throughout the course of this proceeding.

11. Rules and Statutes Justifying Relief. As set forth herein, Walmart is entitled to intervene in this docket. The rules and statutes that entitle Walmart to intervene and participate in this case include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Section 120.569 of the Florida Statutes;
- b. Section 120.57 of the Florida Statutes;
- c. Section 25-22.039 of the Florida Administrative Code;
- d. Section 28-106.201 of the Florida Administrative Code; and
- e. Section 28-106.205 of the Florida Administrative Code.

12. Requested Relief. Walmart requests that it be permitted to intervene as a full party in this proceeding.

13. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.204(3) F.A.C., Walmart conferred with the parties regarding Walmart's intervention. All parties² have indicated that they have no objection or take no position on Walmart's intervention.

² Gulf and Office of Public Counsel.

WHEREFORE, Walmart Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Petition to Intervene and be provided with full party status in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Stephanie U. Eaton

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Counsel to Walmart Inc.

Dated: April 29, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail to the following parties this 29th day of April, 2020.

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/s/ Stephanie U. Eaton

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