BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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| In re: Petition for approval of budget billing tariff modifications by Gulf Power Company. | DOCKET NO. 20200097-EI  ORDER NO. PSC-2020-0217-TRF-EI  ISSUED: June 29, 2020 |

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

GARY F. CLARK, Chairman

ART GRAHAM

JULIE I. BROWN

DONALD J. POLMANN

ANDREW GILES FAY

ORDER APPROVING GULF POWER COMPANY’S PETITION

TO REVISE BUDGET BILLING TARIFF

BY THE COMMISSION:

**I. Background**

On March 20, 2020, Gulf Power Company (Gulf or utility) filed a petition with us that seeks to revise its budget billing tariff. This revision would affect customers participating in the optional budget billing tariff that also have outdoor lighting service. The proposed revisions would remove the costs associated with Rate Schedule OS (outdoor lighting tariff), from inclusion in the budget billing calculation. Rather, the outdoor lighting tariff costs would be charged as a separate line item on the customer’s bill. The utility states that this change is necessary as a result of modifications to its account management system. This petition would modify Tariff Sheet Nos. 6.32, 6.32.1, and 6.33, as shown in legislative format in Attachment A to this Order.

We have jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 366.03, 366.04, 366.05, and 366.06, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

**II. Decision**

The optional budget billing tariff provides customers with stable electric bills by averaging and leveling out energy costs over an annual cycle. This allows participating customers to pay approximately the same amount each month. Currently, a customer participating in the utility’s outdoor lighting tariff would have the lighting costs incorporated into its budget billing calculation and billing amount. In February 2020, the utility transitioned to a new customer management program called Customer Account Management System (CAMS). Gulf states that the new system does not allow the outdoor lighting tariff costs to be incorporated into the budget billing calculation.

According to Gulf, the CAMS system requires electric and multi-service accounts, like outdoor lighting, to be viewed and treated as two separate contracts under one single account. This technical limitation does not allow for budget billing to occur across multiple contracts. Therefore, the utility must remove the outdoor lighting contract from the budget bill calculation, while keeping the electric contract on budget billing.

Gulf states that customers enrolled in the outdoor lighting tariff incur an average monthly usage charge of $11.10 for lighting services. Due to the limited fluctuations in outdoor lighting usage, these customers should only see a small fluctuation in their bills as a result of the lighting costs being a separate line item charge. Currently, Gulf states that this change would affect approximately 5,000 of the 38,000 budget billing customers. The affected outdoor lighting tariff customers will be notified of the change pursuant to the terms of the budget billing tariff. Any over/under billing will be charged or refunded in accordance with the terms of Gulf’s budget billing tariff.

According to Gulf, the utility’s recently installed customer billing system will not allow for customer outdoor lighting tariff costs to be incorporated into the budget billing calculation. In addition, due to the limited fluctuation in outdoor lighting bills, removing the lighting billing from the budget billing calculation would not adversely impact customers. For the reasons stated above, we find that the proposed changes to Gulf’s budget billing tariff are appropriate. Gulf shall inform impacted customers via a bill message on their next bill. We approve Gulf’s proposed modifications to its budget billing tariff effective June 9, 2020.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Gulf Power Company's proposed modifications to its budget billing tariff are approved effective June 9, 2020. It is further

ORDERED that if a protest is filed within 21 days of issuance of the Order, the tariff shall remain in effect with any charges held subject to refund pending resolution of the protest. It is further

ORDERED that if no timely protest is filed, this docket shall be closed upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 29th day of June, 2020.

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|  | /s/ Adam J. Teitzman |
|  | ADAM J. TEITZMAN  Commission Clerk |

Florida Public Service Commission

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Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

WLT

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The Commission's decision on this tariff is interim in nature and will become final, unless a person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed action files a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on July 20, 2020.

In the absence of such a petition, this Order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.





