

October 30, 2020

Mr. Adam Teitzman, Commission Clerk Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 20200000 - Gulf Power Company's COVID-19 Customer Impact Data

Report

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached for electronic filing is Gulf Power Company's COVID-19 Customer Impact Data Report for the month of September 2020 and Gulf Power Company's August Corrected COVID-19 Customer Impact Data Report. Gulf is refiling the August 2020 report that inadvertently omitted data understating the past due amount. The August numbers have been revised to replace the previous submittal.

Sincerely,

Richard Hume

Ruport & Home

Regulatory Issues Manager

md

Attachments

cc: Gulf Power Company

Russell Badders, Esq., VP & Associate General Counsel

Florida Public Service Commission

Shaw Stiller, Office of General Counsel

**Gulf Power Company** 

### **Customer Impact Data Related to COVID-19**

Utility: Gulf Power Company Reporting Month: August 2020

The report should include data as of the last day of reporting month and is due by the last day of the following month

Delinquent Accounts <sup>1</sup>			
Number of Accounts 60 -89 days past due	Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	10,406	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	839	n/a	
Number of Accounts 90+ days past due	Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	16,657	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	1,800	n/a	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique active accounts with age categorization by age of the account's oldest arrears balance (e.g., if an account has a 30, 60, and 90+ arrears balance, the account will show only once and in the 90+ category). Prior year data is not comparable to current data due to new billing system implementation in February 2020.

Amount in Arrears <sup>2</sup>				
Amount 60 -89 days past due		Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	\$	4,180,084	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	\$	1,486,848	n/a	
Amount 90+ days past due		Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	\$	6,451,545	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	\$	1,827,662	n/a	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Total active arrear balances are based on the aging of the arrears (e.g., a 90+ account in the "delinquent account" section can have balances showing in both the 60-89 aging category and the 90+ aging category). Prior year data is not comparable to current data due to new billing system implementation in February 2020.

Payment Arrangements				
Number of New Payment Arrangements <sup>3</sup>	Reporting Month	March 2020 through Current (cumulative)		
Residential	10,938	42,929		
Commercial / Industrial	143	757		
Average Duration of New Payment Arrangement <sup>4</sup>	Reporting Month			
Residential	19			
Commercial / Industrial	25			
Percent of Customers Under a Payment Arrangement <sup>5</sup>	Reporting Month			
Residential <sup>6</sup>	1.88%			
Commercial / Industrial <sup>7</sup>	0.20%			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Total payment arrangements granted through all channels during the reporting month and cumulative.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Number of commercial-industrial customers under a payment arrangement/total number of commercial-industrial customers.

Bad Debt <sup>8</sup>				
Incremental Bad Debt		Reporting Month	Marcl	h 2020 through Current (cumulative)
Incremental Bad Debt <sup>9</sup>	\$	2,342,655	\$	9,486,985

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Total Bad Debt in 2020 for the reporting period less the three-year average (2017-2019) for the same time period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Average duration in days of total payment arrangements granted through all channels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> All active payment arrangements as of the final day of the reporting month divided by the number of active accounts.

Number of residential customers under a payment arrangement/total number of residential customers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Difference between reporting month and the average of the same month for the prior three years; excluding any prior months that were impacted by named hurricanes. If a prior month is excluded, provide an explanation.

Late Fees <sup>10</sup>			
Number of Assessed Late Fees Reporting Month Prior Year Month			
Residential	n/a	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	n/a	n/a	

<sup>10</sup> Gulf Power does not assess late fees.

Customer Communications			
Communications Reporting Month Reporting Month March 2020 through (cumulative			
Customer-wide COVID-related mass communications (paper, email, phone calls, social media, etc.) <sup>11</sup>	1	12	
Targeted Covid-related communications to individual customers (paper, email, phone calls, text, etc.) <sup>12</sup>	86,012	438,896	

II Instances of mass communication to customers resulting from COVID-19 (e.g., social media, news releases, etc.)

### **Customer Communications**

Please provide the following two responses with the September 2020 filing only

Please provide samples of current communication/media notices provided to customers concerning the utility's past-due accounts / payment arrangements / late payment waivers / disconnection / reconnection policies.

Please see attached.

Please provide the utility's current Covid-related policies related to past-due accounts / payment arrangements / late payment waivers / disconnection / reconnection.

From March - August 2020:

- (1) Suspended all final notices and disconnects for non-payment starting in mid-March
- (2) Offering special payment plans for customers who express financial hardship, regardless of eligibility criteria. Payment plans spread past-due amounts into future monthly bills to help pay down balances
- (3) Increased proactive customer outreach efforts

No policy changes thus far in September.

Please provide the following two responses starting in October 2020, and all subsequent filings

Please provide samples of any new communication/media notices provided to customers concerning the utility's past-due accounts / payment arrangements / late payment waivers / disconnection / reconnection policies issued within the last 30-days.

In the past 30-days, has the utility made changes to, or implemented new, policies related to past-due accounts / payment arrangements / late payment waivers / disconnection / reconnection? If so, please explain.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Volume of incremental individual customer communication outside of mass communication (e.g., outbound calls, emails, letters)

Utility: Gulf Power Company Reporting Month: September 2020

The report should include data as of the last day of reporting month and is due by the last day of the following month

Delinquent Accounts 1			
Number of Accounts 60 -89 days past due	Reporting Month	<b>Prior Year Month</b>	
Residential	9,196	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	952	n/a	
Number of Accounts 90+ days past due	Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	18,570	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	2,274	n/a	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique active accounts with age categorization by age of the account's oldest arrears balance (e.g., if an account has a 30, 60, and 90+ arrears balance, the account will show only once and in the 90+ category). Prior year data is not comparable to current data due to new billing system implementation in February 2020.

Accounts in Arrears <sup>2</sup>			
Amount 60 -89 days past due	Reporting Month	<b>Prior Year Month</b>	
Residential	\$4,842,343	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	\$986,578	n/a	
Amount 90+ days past due	Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	\$8,675,424	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	\$2,208,996	n/a	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Total active arrear balances are based on the aging of the arrears (e.g., a 90+ account in the "delinquent account" section can have balances showing in both the 60-89 aging category and the 90+ aging category). Prior year data is not comparable to current data due to new billing system implementation in February 2020.

Payment Arrangements			
Number of Payment Arrangements <sup>3</sup>	Reporting Month	March 2020 through Current (cumulative)	
Residential	10,699	53,628	
Commercial / Industrial	155	912	
Average Duration of Payment Arrangement <sup>4</sup>	Reporting Month		
Residential	19		
Commercial / Industrial	27		
Percent of Customers Under a Payment Arrangement <sup>5</sup>	Reporting Month		
Residential <sup>6</sup>	1.39%		
Commercial / Industrial <sup>7</sup>	0.15%		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Total payment arrangements granted through all channels during the reporting month and cumulative.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Number of commercial-industrial customers under a payment arrangement/total number of commercial-industrial customers.

Bad Debt <sup>8</sup>			
Reporting Month   March 2020 through Current (cumulative)			
Incremental Bad Debt <sup>9</sup>	\$1,988,209	\$11,859,361	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Total Bad Debt in 2020 for the reporting period less the three-year average (2017-2019) for the same time period

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Difference between reporting month and the average of the same month for the prior three years; excluding any prior months that were impacted by named hurricanes. If a prior month is excluded, provide an explanation.

Late Fees <sup>10</sup>			
Number of Assessed Late Fees Reporting Month Prior Year Month			
Residential	n/a	n/a	
Commercial / Industrial	n/a	n/a	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Late fees billed net of late fee cancellations resulting from customers self-reporting hardship

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Average duration in days of total payment arrangements granted through all channels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> All active payment arrangements as of the final day of the reporting month divided by the number of active accounts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Number of residential customers under a payment arrangement/total number of residential customers.

Discontinuance of Service			
Number of Accounts who received a Notice of Discontinuance of Service	Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	0	41,247	
Commercial / Industrial	0	3,248	
Number of Accounts Disconnected from Service	Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	0	3,689	
Commercial / Industrial	0	148	
Number of Accounts Reconnected to Service <sup>11</sup>	Reporting Month	Prior Year Month	
Residential	0	2,511	
Commercial / Industrial	0	67	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Data reflects the number of accounts that had been disconnected during the Current Month but were reconnected. Accounts not reconnected are either closed at the customer request or the account is closed by Gulf if no action is taken by the customer within five billing cycle days (for the Prior Year Month) following a disconnection.

Customer Communications			
Communications	Reporting Month	March 2020 through Current (cumulative)	
Customer-wide COVID-related mass communications (paper, email, phone calls, social media, etc.) 12	2	14	
Targeted Covid-related communications to individual customers (paper, email, phone calls, text, etc.) <sup>13</sup>	86,981	525,877	

<sup>12</sup> Instances of mass communication to customers resulting from COVID-19 (e.g., social media, news releases, etc.)

### **Customer Communications**

### Please provide the following two responses starting in October 2020, and all subsequent filings

Please provide samples of any new communication/media notices provided to customers concerning the utility's past-due accounts / payment arrangements / late payment waivers / disconnection / reconnection policies issued within the last 30-days.

Please see attached.

In the past 30-days, has the utility made changes to, or implemented new, policies related to past-due accounts / payment arrangements / late payment waivers / disconnection / reconnection? If so, please explain.

No policy changes in October 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Volume of incremental individual customer communication outside of mass communication (e.g., outbound calls, emails, letters)

# **Gulf Power Company (Gulf)**

Undocketed – Financial impacts on utility customers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Samples of Current Communications





Electric Bill Statement

For: Aug 26, 2020 to Sep 25, 2020 (31 days)

Statement Date: Sep 25, 2020

Account Number: Service Address:

### Hello XXXXXXXXXXX

Here's what you owe for this billing period.

### **CURRENT BILL**

**\$**XXX

TOTAL AMOUNT YOU OWE

10/16/20

NEW CHARGES DUE BY



Amount of your last bill XXXX
Payment received 0.00
Balance before new charges XXXX

### THIS \$134.82 IS PAST DUE - PLEASE PAY IMMEDIATELY

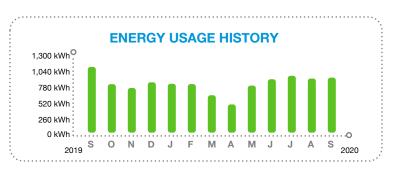
Total new charges XXXX

Total amount due \$XXXX

(See reverse for billing details)

Visit GulfPower.com/PayBill for ways to pay

Customer Service: 800-225-5797 To Report Power Outages: 800-487-6937



#### We're here to help

If you are experiencing a hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and need help with your bill, there are resources available.

GulfPower.com/Help

### **KEEP IN MIND**

- Your last payment was received past the due date or your last bill remains unpaid.
- The interest earned on your deposit has been credited on this bill.





XXXXX



Please request changes at GulfPower.com. Notes on this bill will not be detected.

Make check payable to Gulf Power in U.S. funds and mail along with this coupon to:

GULF POWER P.O. BOX 29090 MIAMI FL 33102-9090













E001

### **BILL DETAILS**

Amount of your last bill	134.82
Payment received	0.00
Balance before new charges	\$134.82

### THIS \$134.82 IS PAST DUE - PLEASE PAY IMMEDIATELY

New Charges		
Rate: RS - Residential Service		
Base charge		19.84
Energy charge	(975 kWh at \$0.08510)	82.97
Fuel charge	(975 kWh at \$0.03262)	31.80
Electric service amount		\$134.61
Gross receipts tax		3.45
Interest: Cash Security Dep		-7.76
Taxes and charges		-\$4.31
Total account charges Total amount you owe		\$130.30 <b>\$265.12</b>

### **METER SUMMARY**

Meter reading - Meter Next meter reading Oct 26, 2020

Usage type	Current -	-	Previous =	Usage
kWh	70008		69033	975

### **ENERGY USE COMPARISON**

	This Month	Last Month
Service to	Sep 25, 2020	Aug 25, 2020
kWh used	975	959
Service days	31	29
kWh/day	31	33
Amount	\$138.06	\$134.82

### Save energy and money

Use the Energy Checkup tool to find personalized recommendations and savings tips.

GulfPower.com/ EnergyCheckup

### Storm season is here

Visit our Storm Ready Center for preparation and safety tips to keep your family safe and secure.

GulfPower.com/Storm

### We are here to help

If you are experiencing hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and need help with your bill, there are resources available.

GulfPower.com/Help

When you pay by check, you authorize Gulf Power to process your payment electronically or as a draft. If your payment is processed electronically, your checking account may be debited on the same day we receive the check and your check will not be returned with your checking account statement.

Gulf Power does not agree to any restrictions, conditions or endorsements placed on any bill statement or payments such as check, money order or other forms of payment. We will process the payment as if these restrictions or conditions do not exist.



**Electric Bill Statement** 

For: Sep 26, 2020 to Sep 27, 2020 (2 days)

Statement Date: Sep 28, 2020 Account Number: Service Address:

### Hello XXXXX, Here's what you owe for this billing period.

### **CURRENT BILL**

\$XXX

TOTAL AMOUNT YOU OWE

10/19/20

**NEW CHARGES DUE BY** 



Amount of your last bill

Payment received

Balance before new charges

XXX

XXX

XXX

### **FINAL BILL**

### \$XXX IS PAST DUE - PLEASE PAY IMMEDIATELY

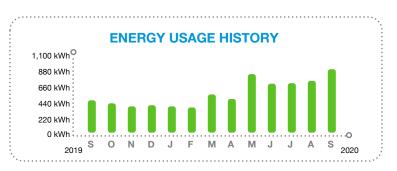
Total new charges XX

Total amount due \$XXX

(See reverse for billing details)

Visit GulfPower.com/PayBill for ways to pay

Customer Service: 800-225-5797 To Report Power Outages: 800-487-6937



#### We're here to help

If you are experiencing a hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and need help with your bill, there are resources available.

GulfPower.com/Help

#### **KEEP IN MIND**

- Your last payment was received past the due date or your last bill remains unpaid.
- Your account has been closed due to a new account request at this premise. Please call our Customer Service number if you need your account to remain open.
- The billing period is less than a month; bill factors are available upon request.



' xxxx

xxxx

" #xxxx# xxxx

XXXXX XXXXXX Please request changes at GulfPower.com. Notes on this bill

will not be detected.

Make check payable to Gulf Power in U.S. funds and mail along with this coupon to:

GULF POWER P.O. BOX 29090 MIAMI FL 33102-9090

\*FINAL BILL\*

xxxx

\$xxx

xxxxxx

.

ACCOUNT NUMBER TO

TOTAL AMOUNT OWED

NEW CHARGES DUE BY







**Account Number:** 



Amount of your last bill	613.90
Payment received	0.00
Balance before new charges	\$613.90

### \$467.51 IS PAST DUE - PLEASE PAY IMMEDIATELY

Total account charges  Total amount you owe	\$8.19 <b>\$622.09</b>
Taxes and charges	\$1.14
Utility tax	0.59
Franchise charge	0.37
Gross receipts tax	0.18
Electric service amount	\$7.05
Fuel charge	1.60
Energy charge	4.17
Base charge	1.28
Rate: RS - Residential Service	
New Charges	

### **METER SUMMARY**

Meter reading - Meter



Usage type	Current	-	Previous =	=	Usage
kWh	51142		51093		49

### **ENERGY USE COMPARISON**

	This Month	Last Month
Service to	Sep 27, 2020	Sep 25, 2020
kWh used	49	902
Service days	2	31
kWh/day	25	29
Amount	\$8.19	\$146.39

### Save energy and money

Use the Energy Checkup tool to find personalized recommendations and savings tips.

Start Saving

### Storm season is here

Visit our Storm Ready Center for preparation and safety tips to keep your family safe and secure.

Get tips

### We are here to help

If you are experiencing hardship as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and need help with your bill, there are resources available.

Learn more

When you pay by check, you authorize Gulf Power to process your payment electronically or as a draft. If your payment is processed electronically, your checking account may be debited on the same day we receive the check and your check will not be returned with your checking account statement.

Gulf Power does not agree to any restrictions, conditions or endorsements placed on any bill statement or payments such as check, money order or other forms of payment. We will process the payment as if these restrictions or conditions do not exist.

### Need help with your bill? Call us!



o Gulf Power Company <account@email.gulfpower.com> To:

Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Download the app to stay up-to-date in good weather and bad

View in Browser

Update Email



LOG IN



## Supporting others when they need it most

We're in the height of a busy hurricane season. See how the Gulf Power Team supported other energy companies as they worked to restore power following Hurricanes Isaias and Laura.

LEARN MORE



### Contact us for assistance

We're committed to helping our customers who are experiencing hardship due to COVID-19. Please contact us now if you need additional time to pay your bill or to be connected with financial assistance. We are here to help.

### FIND HELP »



### Account access 24/7

With our free mobile app, you have instant, secure access to your account anytime, anywhere. It's also a great way to stay connected with us before, during and after a storm. Download it now!

APP STORE » | GOOGLE PLAY »

Please do not reply to this email. This address is not monitored. For help, visit GulfPower.com

You are receiving this email because you are a Gulf Power customer. Please add Account@email.gulfpower.com to your address book or you can unsubscribe at any time.

Contact Us Privacy Policy