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October 4, 2016

Chairman Julie Brown
Florida Public Service Commission
Capital Circle Office Center
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Natural gas conservation cost recovery, Docket No. **160004-GU**

Dear Chairman Brown:

St. Joe Natural Gas Company ("SJNG") requests that it be excused from attending the Prehearing Conferences and Hearings in Docket No. **160004-GU** in which you serve as the Prehearing Officer. The Prehearing Conference is currently scheduled for **October 11, 2016**. The Hearing is currently scheduled for **November 2-4, 2016**.

SJNG is in agreement with Florida Public Service Commission ("FPSC") staff's position on the issues in Docket No. **160004-GU** as expressed in staff's Prehearing Statements. As you know, SJNG is a small gas utility located in Gulf County, Florida. If at all possible, SJNG would like to avoid the expense associated with a company representative traveling to Tallahassee and attending the Prehearing Conference and Hearing, or paying for legal counsel to attend the Prehearing Conference and Hearing on behalf of SJNG.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Andy Shoaf
V-President