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G-01551A-04-0876



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Tucson, AZ 85710-1257  
April 4, 2005

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Arizona Corporation Commission  
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Gentlemen: APR - 8 2005

AZ Corporation Commission  
Director Of Utilities

Southwest Gas Corp.

Docket No. G-01551A-04-0876

DOCKETED BY [Signature]

I am writing with reference to the 10.4 percent increase (\$70.8 million) that the gas company wants to impose upon its customers with the permission of the State of Arizona.

The 10.4 percent increase is inordinately high. Is it based on Government audited facts or is it just what the gas company says are the facts? An application for rate increase is serious and should be auditable by a State or U.S. Government authority, something we (the people) can trust. What kind of efficiencies has the Gas Co. made to justify such a large increase? My most recent Social Security increase, based on the Government analysis of the increase in the cost of living, was only 1.618 percent. That's quite different from the increase of 10.4 percent the Gas Corp. wants to charge us.

The Gas Corp. must be made accountable!!

When the Gas Co. says "...adjusted year revenues in the State of Arizona," exactly what does that mean? What year are they talking about? What revenues? Who has verified these numbers besides the Gas Co.? A complete audit from an independent source must be made and their conclusions circulated to all concerned, which includes the customers.

The Commission will hold a hearing beginning Oct. 3, 2005. Who or what agency of Government will represent the people? Our increasing utility costs are getting out of hand. I am retired and cannot increase my earned income. Such a big increase in my costs required a big increase in government inquiries.

Please give this letter serious attention. We need a public defender. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Vincent R. Drago