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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

326

COMMISSIONERS

MIKE GLEASON, CHAIRMAN
JEFF HATCH-MILLER
KRISTIN K. MAYES
WILLIAM MUNDELL
GARY PIERCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
UNS GAS, INC. FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF JUST
AND REASONABLE RATES AND CHARGES
DESIGNED TO REALIZE A REASONABLE
RATE OF RETURN ON THE FAIR VALUE OF
THE PROPERTIES OF UNS GAS, INC. DEVOTED
TO ITS OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
STATE OF ARIZONA

DOCKET NO. G-04204A-06-0463

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF UNS
GAS, INC. TO REVIEW AND REVISE ITS
PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTOR

DOCKET NO. G-04204A-06-0013

IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE
PRUDENCE OF THE GAS PROCUREMENT
PRACTICES OF UNS GAS, INC.

DOCKET NO. G-04204A-05-0831

Arizona Community Action Association hereby files the summary of Miquelle Scheier's
testimony in the above-captioned docket.

Arizona Corporation Commission
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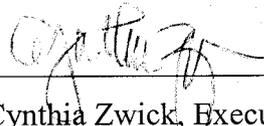
AZ CORP COMMISSION
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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 22nd day of April 2007

By


Cynthia Zwick, Executive Director for
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Copy of the foregoing hand-delivered/mailed
This 22nd day of April 2007 to:

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Summary Of The Testimony Of Miquelle Scheier
Docket No. G-04230A-06-0463 et al.

I have filed Direct and Surrebuttal Testimony in this case.

My testimony asks:

- That the Commission hold the current and future low-income customers harmless from any rate increase, this population is currently struggling to pay bills, and this increase will create additional hardship;
- That the marketing of the CARES discount program be increased, the current quarterly bill inserts are insufficient, and regular and ongoing outreach to this community is essential, as evidenced by the fact that there have only been an additional 2000 customers enrolled in the CARES program since 2000, and there is an average poverty rate of 19% in this service territory. This percentage translates to approximately 115,000 individuals. If we assume they are all living in four person households, that would mean that at least 28,000 customers are eligible for the CARES discount. The current enrollment is too low for the number of eligible customers and must be increased;
- That the Commission require the automatic enrollment of LIHEAP eligible customers in the CARES discount program – with the permission of the customer; this has been broached with the Company and a year later has seen no enrollments;
- That the Company discontinue its practice of referring cash paying customers to predatory lenders as a payment option, for though testimony in this case has indicated there is a conviction by the Company that no customers are going to pay day loan centers that wouldn't have previously, the fact that in some communities a Unisource office is not available and the pay day loan facility is the only option available would lead one to understand that there are customers going to these facilities who would not have previously. ACAA's position remains that this is an irresponsible practice by this utility company. ACAA has spoken with individuals who have been solicited for loans when paying their bill.
- That the company contribution for their Warm Spirits bill assistance program be increased to \$50,000, and that this amount be directed to the statewide, non-profit fuel fund in place in Arizona;
- That the low-income weatherization contribution be increased to \$200,000 in order to increase the energy efficient housing stock occupied by low-income Arizonans, which benefits the entire community, without waiting for the filing of the next rate case and in meaningful collaboration with the community being asked to administer the funds and implement the program. The back-log which is referred to in testimony is largely due to the lack of resources available and the structure of the program.
- To allocate funds for community volunteer weatherization within the Unisource Gas service territory for activities that may not warrant or have funding to conduct activities other than minor improvements, and finally
- To ensure that customers have adequate time in which to pay their bills, particularly if they are using a cash payment or drop off center to do so.