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Buster Johnson
Mohave County Supervisor
District III

2002 MAR -6 P 2:27

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

MAR 06 2002

AZ CORP COMMISSION

I would like to thank the Corporation Commission for bringing government to the people of Mohave County and giving us the opportunity to participate. Mohave County Economic Development Authority saw the energy shortage coming in the mid 90's and started on a program to bring additional power to our area. It was a three pronged planned. One to bring in power generators not only to locally produce power but to also expand our tax base. The second part was to get the County hooked into the GRID. The third was to make available additional electric sources available to Citizens Utilities so that they would not be tied to one electric provider, APS. These goals were met with the Griffith Energy Project. In negotiations with Griffith we reached an agreement where by Citizens Electric would have power made available to them. Unfortunately for the residents of Mohave County Citizens Electric did not take advantage of these opportunities.

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[Signature]

The residents of Mohave County should not be forced to pay for the poor choices that Citizens Electric made. Even when Citizens Electrics contract expired with APS and they had the opportunity to seek other electric providers to lower their and ultimately our costs they chose not to, instead what do they do, sign a seven year contract with APS at a higher rate to its' customers. This is the same company that has caused them to come to you asking for millions of our dollars to cover their last deal with APS. You need not drive to Lake Havasu to smell the fish in this deal.

I had our last Board intervene on behalf of the citizens of Mohave County in this hearing process. I have asked my current Board members to fund a private attorney to assist. Mohave County residents and businesses have made personal donations along with Lake Havasu City to ensure that we have the funding needed in this endeavor because of the devastation it will cause.

The 100 million dollars Citizens Utilities is seeking was caused by the California power market, a spot market, that was unfair and unjust. This was a spot market that was manipulated to reap billions of dollars of profits for the participants. When this price gouging started why didn't Citizens Utilities file with FERC? Citizens Utilities did a disservice not only to the rate payers but to their shareholders. Citizens Utilities did nothing, why? This is a question that needs to be answered and it should help with your decision. Is this a way to make the bottom line for Citizens look better for an impending sale?

You are also being asked by Citizens Utilities to allow for rate changes in regards to pass through charges. They now have this for the gas rates. If they had this now for electric rates we wouldn't be having these hearings. I hear from residents all the time about how much their gas bills have gone up in the last 2 months. Over a hundred dollars in some cases. Was there a rate hearing, no, and that is why I oppose any automatic pass through charges to the rate payers. We have businesses that look to relocate to the County and question why the gas rates are higher than other areas and go else where. We recently lost a business because their electric bill would be

over \$300,000 higher a year in Kingman than in Utah, and this is before any increase.

There are signs in offices that say "poor planning on your part doesn't constitute an emergency on our part". This was never truer than it is at this hearing. I believe that the costs that Citizens Electric is attempting to take from the pockets of Mohave County residents is not and can not be justified. They are looking to launder manipulated wholesale costs and clean the money by passing it thru to us. The majority of rate payers are living day to day just trying to cope with justified escalating costs. What if these unjust cost are placed upon them will the incident of deaths from lack of cooling in the summer become a major problem for the County. Will our young mothers be forced to spend parts of the days in tubs of water with their infants to keep their body temperatures down. Will our seniors and the disabled be forced to choose between food, medicine or cooling. I hope these decisions do not have to be made.

Thank you for the time to speak.

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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ARIZONA CORP. COMM.
HEARING COMMISSION

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Mr. Todd C. Wiley
GALLAGHER & KENNEDY

602-530-8500

FROM:

Marta T. Hetzer, Administrator/Owner

DATE:

March 1, 2002

RE:

Citizens Communications Company E-01032C-00-0751
Special Open Meeting / Public Comments

PAGES:

3 (Counting this cover page)

Following is the two-page letter from Mohave County Supervisor
Buster Johnson, as per your request.

Original documents will:

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