

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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December 11, 2008

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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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The Honorable Mike Gleason, Chairman  
The Honorable Kristin Mayes  
The Honorable William Mundell  
The Honorable Jeff Hatch-Miller  
The Honorable Gary Pierce  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix AZ, 85007

RE: Docket Number E-01345A-08-0172 (Interim Rate Case)

Dear: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners;

I am writing today to express our concern regarding the financial health and viability of Arizona Public Service and the interim rate increase hearing. Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation is a not-for-profit organization responsible for the business attraction and retention for all the Public Entities within Yuma County and over 100 private sector businesses who invest in our organization to ensure we carry out our mission.

Historically Arizona has been and continues to be a conservative state that does not offer a large *toolbox* of options for companies looking for a new market to expand within, or incentives for new business seeking an environment that will delay/abate start up costs in order to begin their new operations. One of the key assets Arizona's economic developers have relied upon to compete with neighboring states is Arizona Public Service (APS). APS has made enormous investments in new infrastructure along with upgrades to their existing transportation allowing them to maintain a level of reliability that is recognized all over the country as one of the best.

Utilities play a key role as participants in the economic development efforts of cities, regions and all areas working to improve their local business climate. Utilities are project creators in their own right. Their ability to service big projects and make large investments in generation and transmission are essential to the continued growth of this State.

I implore you to consider favorably APS's request for an interim rate increase. Send the positive message to the Economic Development world that Arizona is a viable option for location and expansion. With renewable energy projects gaining momentum due to Federal Legislation, it is critical for us to stay in the forefront of this evolving industry sector. If APS is downgraded to Junk Status, our ability to do so will be severely hampered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Engel  
President/CEO  
Greater Yuma EDC

Arizona Corporation Commission

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December 9, 2008

Arizona Corporation Commission  
Commissioners Wing  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2996

E-01345A-08-0172

RE: Arizona Public Service (APS) Rate Increase

Dear Commissioner Gleason:

I am a Representative of the Board for **Arizona Association of Economic Development (AAED)** and also a **local business owner** for a commercial architecture firm. I understand the Arizona Corporate Commission's concern with approving the rate increase proposed by Arizona Public Service in a down economy. However, as both a personal customer of APS and also a business owner whose business is provided service by APS, I am 100% in support of the proposed rate increase. Yes my pocketbook is also strapped, however, if Arizona wants to continue to move forward pursuing alternative energy resources it takes the efforts and resources of companies such as APS to accomplish this. Without these efforts Arizona is not seen by international business prospects as a contender to provide alternative energy manufacturing facilities which in turn provide high wage jobs and long term employment security and diversity to the residents of our state.

We must pay now in order to gain the return in the future. The Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) has been working diligently with international manufacturing prospects to illustrate the State of Arizona's enthusiasm for their business. Now it is time the Arizona Corporate Commissioners and the State Legislators do your part. Please feel free to contact me personally at (602) 390-0458 or via email at [tcarr@2929.com](mailto:tcarr@2929.com).

Respectfully,

Tammy L. Carr  
Principal



*faith, hope, love*

SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL 420 W. Watkins St. Phoenix, Arizona 85003 tel 602 . 261. 6801 fax 602 . 261. 6829 szabilksi@svdp-az-org

**Stephen J. Zabilski**  
Executive Director

December 11, 2008

The Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

E-01345A-08-0172

Dear Chairman Mike Gleason:

For the past twelve years I have been the executive director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix, Arizona. During this time I have worked closely with the employees and management of Arizona Public Services as they have assisted our organization in numerous ways. For years APS employees have volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul reaching out and serving those less fortunate, including the homeless and the working poor.

APS has also been a significant financial supporter of St. Vincent de Paul for the past twenty years, and we rely upon their generosity to enable us to purchase food and other items that we use in our daily ministries. Most recently, this past October APS awarded St. Vincent de Paul a grant of \$35,000 to purchase food for our dining rooms and Reclamation Center.

One of our 3,500 Vincentian volunteers recently indicated to this Commission that St. Vincent de Paul does not get any money from APS. This is simply incorrect as I have noted above.

It was also stated by our Vincentian that APS people would have their eyes opened if they volunteered at a food bank. I would again like to note that APS employees do volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul. In fact, our spring 2004 Vincentian newsletter features a picture of APS Chairman Bill Post volunteering in our family dining room in South Phoenix. Other issues of our newsletter have also included a picture of APS Executive Marty Shultz and have highlighted APS as one of our key corporate supporters.

What makes me most proud of APS is the fact that they were a driving force behind the building of the Human Services Campus in downtown Phoenix. Without the leadership of individuals like Bill Post and Marty Shultz, the Human Services Campus simply would not exist. In fact, for years St. Vincent de Paul and other non-profits had been collaborating to build such a facility. It was only when the business community, led by Bill and Marty, embraced this project that it actually came to fruition.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Human Services Campus, I can assure you that it is one of the finest facilities in the country. In fact, leaders from throughout the country have come to visit the campus to learn firsthand how their communities could undertake such an effort. Philip Mangano, Director of the Inter-Agency Council of Homelessness in Washington, D.C., has visited the campus on a number of occasions, and called it a model project for our country.

Additionally, two years ago, the Campus received one of the highest honors from the Association of County Governments in Washington, D.C. Simply put, this Campus would not exist without the financial support, and more importantly, the leadership efforts of APS.

I recognize that these are challenging economic times and certainly neither I, St. Vincent de Paul, nor the people we serve look forward to higher utility rates. At the same time, as a business school graduate and a former certified public accountant, I recognize how critical it is that any company, and in particular a utility, maintains a strong financial rating. Without such rating, APS will be further challenged to meet the needs of its customers and runs the risk of even higher utility rates if it's financing costs were to increase.

The Arizona Corporation Commission  
December 8, 2008  
Page 3

I would be happy to share any additional information with you regarding St. Vincent de Paul and how APS has assisted us over the years. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my direct line, 602-261-6801.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Zabilski  
Executive Director

SJZ:rcj  
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cc: Joseph J. Riley, President  
SVdP Board of Directors