

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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ORIGINAL

September 23, 2011

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Consumer comments in favor of decoupling, Southwest Gas Company rate case, #G-01551A-10-0458

Dear Chairman Pierce and Commissioners:

As a Southwest Gas customer and an Arizonan who is very concerned about the costs of energy and energy waste, I strongly urge you to support the adoption of both energy efficiency *and* decoupling in the Southwest Gas rate case.

Our current system isn't working for me or others who are interested in conserving energy and lowering utility bills. We are sending billions of dollars and many jobs out of the state to buy fuel for our energy needs. If we don't fix the problem now, we are setting ourselves up to pay higher energy bills because utilities will buy more fuel from out of state and build more infrastructure, which we will ultimately pay for on our utility bills (*PLUS* interest!). To make matters worse, the current system financially rewards utilities for selling us more energy than we need. This results in wasteful energy use that drives bills UP and UP.

The Commission and the utilities should be helping Arizonans lower energy bills. We can do this through increased energy efficiency and through decoupling, which removes the utility incentive to waste.

I also support higher efficiency natural gas furnaces. Unlike efficiency standards for electricity, little has been done in the past decade to reduce energy consumption for heating homes and businesses. As a country we need to be moving to a 90% AFUE standard, as Canada did several years ago.

As a ratepayer, I want you to support both decoupling and energy conservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Steuter
2508 E. Heatherbrae
Phoenix, AZ 85016

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