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TO: ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
1200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY CONTROL

SUBJECT: DOCKET # E-01345A-11-0224

I am very upset that APS wants to raise the electric rates "AGAIN". It's pretty clear that they (APS) have no concept of living within a budget like the rest of us have to. When they need to squander more money all they got to do is ask for another rate increase and they usually get it. Let's face it; the country is in an economic downturn with no end in sight. Where are the rate payers (like me) suppose to get all this extra money to pay for their 20% rate increase. I see APS advertising constantly on TV, radio, billboards and lots of other places. They even have the gall to hire high priced athletes to do their bidding. I shudder to think what all the upper echelon in management get paid and what kind of bonuses they get.

I'm enclosing an editorial comment from the West Valley View about the rate increase that APS and others are proposing. Consumer can't win. Please do not give APS any rate increase. Make them live within their means just the rest of us have to. Thanks for listening to my comments.

Sincerely,

John Buker

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

OCT 18 2011

DOCKETED BY

OUR VIEWPOINT

EDITORIAL

Conservation: Damned if you do, damned if you don't

For years, we've all been urged to help conserve natural resources, mainly fossil fuels, by reducing our consumption. Not only is it good for the environment, it's also good for our pocketbooks — or so we've been told.

While conservation might be good for the environment, we're learning it's not necessarily good for our pocketbooks.

Two utility companies — Arizona Public Service Co. and Southwest Gas Corp. — are losing money because of their customers' conservation efforts. The more efficient consumers become in their use of electricity and natural gas, the less money the utility companies make. When their profits go down, their first impulse is to raise rates.

Southwest and APS have both gone to the Arizona Corporation Commission, the agency that regulates utilities in this state, in search of rate increases for their customers.

Before the Great Recession, when the Valley was growing by leaps and bounds and demand was on the rise, utility companies hiked their rates because they had to build more and bigger plants to supply gas and electricity to their consumers. Now that demand has gone down ... they want higher rates.

Consumers can't win. We're penalized when we use too much and we're penalized when we use too little.

Unless we take a stand.

The ACC has scheduled two public meetings to get public comment on the utility companies' requests. The first is at 10 a.m. Oct. 7 in the Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave. in Sun City, and the second will be at 6 p.m. Oct. 12 at the commission's headquarters, 1200 W. Washington St. in Phoenix. If you can, attend those public hearings and make your voice be heard.