



Casa Grande Regional Medical Center

"Your Community Partner in Healthcare"

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ORIGINAL

Arizona Public Service Company
E-01345A-11-0224



0000132378

April 2, 2012

Chairman Gary Pierce
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: APS 2011 Rate Case (Docket No. E-01345A-11-0224)

Dear Chairman Pierce:

Casa Grande Regional Medical Center (CGRMC) is a community hospital who in FY 2011 served 8,399 inpatients; 58,155 Emergency and urgent care patients; and 51,522 outpatients. In Feb 2012 we were named as one of AZ Best Companies Top 100. In addition, CGRMC provides significant charitable care to Arizona's citizens, particularly in Pinal County.

CGRMC urges the Arizona Corporation Commission ("ACC") to authorize retail market access for hospitals throughout the state as a means of reducing the significant energy costs that burden our healthcare mission. Since the majority of hospital revenues are derived from government sources, including Medicare and Medicaid, every dollar reduction in energy costs yields a fifty cent savings to the taxpayers. CGRMC is located within the Arizona Public Service ("APS") territory and therefore we have a special interest in opening retail market access in the current rate case.

Wholesale and retail competition in power markets is already working for the benefit of hospitals across the country. We hope to have the same opportunity to obtain market savings in Arizona.

We favor the proposed new APS rate schedule, AG-1, which will allow large customers the potential opportunity to shop directly in the market while at the same time ensuring that APS remains the load serving entity. However, we are concerned that the AG-1 rate is limited only to customers that can aggregate their metered sites to a minimum of 10 megawatts.

Therefore, we urge you, for the benefit of the Arizona healthcare system and the patients we serve, to modify the proposed AG-1 rate schedule to specifically allow acute care hospitals the benefit of rate AG-1 regardless of the size of their aggregated load. Please do not lose this opportunity to save our taxpayer-supported healthcare funds and ensure Arizona's best patient care.

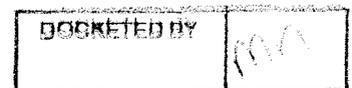
Sincerely,

Rona Curphy
President/CEO
Casa Grande Regional Medical Center

Arizona Corporation Commission

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cc: Commissioner Paul Newman, Commissioner Sandra D. Kennedy, Commissioner Bob Stump

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