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From: Douglas Julian <julian@vtc.net>
Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2013 4:13 PM
To: BitterSmith-Web
Subject: Unfair Electric Rates

ORIGINAL

Attention: Commissioner Bitter Smith.

I live in the small village of Portal, Ariizona, located about six miles from the New Mexico / Arizona state line. The residents in both states receive their electric service from Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Since this company is a coop, I have always assumed that the residents in both states paid their equal share of the costs. It has been brought to my attention that this is not the case.

New Mexico pays a slighter higher rate for consumption of electricity but pays only between 75 cents and \$5.00 for their Adjusted Fuel Rate. I have no idea how the adjusted rate is determined, but there is a huge discrepancy between what I pay and what my New Mexico neighbors pay. This year our household used approximately the same amount of electricity in the months of January and February, yet our Adjusted Fuel Rate was \$123.74 for January and \$13.76 for February. The average Adjusted Fuel Rate over the last eleven months has been \$60.59, a far cry from \$5.00

It is my understanding that Arizona Corporate Commission will review the rates of Columbus Electric at their March meeting. Hopefully, they will address the issue of the lack of parity between New Mexico and Arizona residents who deal with the same utility company. If Arizona adopts the same usage rate, hopefully they will also correct the fluctuating Adjusted Rate where the multiplying factor ranges from .0105134 to .0889555.

My husband and I live on a fixed income. The huge fluctuations in our electric bill makes it impossibile to budget expenses. I never know when we will be charged an exorbitant amount due to the Adjusted Rate.

I bring this to your attention so that your office will investigate and help bring about the needed change to this frustrating situation.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Julian
P.O. Box 16455
Portal, AZ 85632

Arizona Corporation Commission

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