

E-04230A-14-0011
E-01933A-14-0011

ORIGINAL



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Al Amezcua

Phone:

Fax:

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Arizona Corporation Commission

Opinion No. 2014 - 116706

DOCKETED
Date: 6/18/2014
JUN 19 2014

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

DOCKETED BY
NR

Complaint By: First: J. L. Last: Evans

Account Name: J. L. Evans

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street:

Work: (000) 000-0000

City: Tucson

CBR:

State: AZ Zip: 85745

RECEIVED
2014 JUN 19 9:17 AM
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Utility Company: Tucson Electric Power Company

Division: Electric

Contact Name: Cara Roll

Contact Phone:

Nature of Complaint:

J. L. Evans

June 10, 2014

re Docket E-04230A-14-0011 Tucson Electric/UNS and Fortis; comment for hearing of June 16, 2014

Arizona Corporation Commission
Consumer Services Section
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, Az 85007

To the Arizona Corporation Commission:

I would like to comment for the hearing scheduled June 16, 2014, concerning Fortis's buyout of UNS/Tucson Electric.

I cannot believe that as a customer of Tucson Electric I will be paying a company located in Newfoundland. This makes no sense, and is actually offensive in that such a locally-oriented business as a city's electric utility will be foreign-owned.

With ownership transferred to a Canadian company, access to those in power becomes more difficult. In a publicly-traded locally-headquartered company, a customer, if he or she desires, can buy shares on the open market, and then attend the annual meeting as an owner. While customers will never control enough shares to exert financial pressure, just showing up and stating one's views, or introducing an initiative to vote on, can have some influence on the leadership and board. Up to now, such customer-shareholders could drive downtown to undertake such an effort should they choose. Now they will have to buy a round-trip ticket to St. John's, Newfoundland, and compete for attention with the other utilities in Fortis's portfolio (Newfoundland, New York, British Columbia, Turks and Caicos, Belize, etc.).

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It is instructive to note that the reverse of this transaction would likely not take place. Canada, which understands ownership, control, and where profits go better than we do, often limits foreign ownership of its companies to a minority interest. Partly as a result of its greater protection, Canadian companies generally have grown strong and are buying American assets. Other examples include the Keystone XL pipeline (where much of the opposition concerns a

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foreign company exerting public domain rights-of-way on American ranchers and farmers), and Pima County's proposed Rosemont mine. Now that Rosemont may be drawing closer to approval, its financially weak parent Augusta is the target of a takeover bid -- from another Canadian company.

In 2010, when plans to open Canadian telecom services to greater foreign ownership were being discussed, CRTC* Chairman Konrad Von Finckenstein labeled the idea of allowing such assets to fall into foreign control as turning the enterprise into a "branch plant".

Such will be Tucson Electric if this takeover is approved.

Someday, hopefully, our government will once again seek to preserve native ownership of American companies, and the health of our industry generally, which were key parts of Alexander Hamilton's economic prescription. It would be even better if this were part of a broader policy of promoting local control of local affairs, as was championed by Thomas Jefferson.

Thank you for reading my comment.

Sincerely,

J. L. Evans

* CRTC =Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, which is the federal regulator for these industries.

End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

6/18/14 Comments noted for the record and docketed. CLOSED.

End of Comments

Date Completed: 6/18/2014

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