

E-01933A-15-0239

E-01933A-15-0322

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Arizona Corporation Commiss

Utilities Complaint Form



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Investigator: Deborah Reagan Phone: <<< REDACTED >>> Opinion Date: 9/27/2016
Opinion Number: 2016 - 134867 Priority: Respond within 5 business days
Opinion Codes: Rate Case Items - Opposed Closed Date: 9/27/2016 3:03 PM

First Name: Matthew Last Name: Parks Account Name: Matthew Parks
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City: Sahuarita State: AZ SEP 28 2016 Zip Code: 85629
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DOCKETED BY

[Signature]

Company: Tucson Electric Power Company Division: Electric

Nature Of Opinion

Docket Number: E-01933A-15-0239 Docket Position: Agent

As elected officials representing the citizens of Arizona, know that I am counting on you to say no to all of Tucson Electric Power's misguided attempts to charge and collect higher rates in dockets E-01933A-16-0235, E-01933A-15-0239, E-01933A-07-0400, and E-01933A-15-0322. And I'm counting on you to continue to say no to any further dockets TEP submits in which they attempt to increase rates, fees, or anything that negatively affects the return-on-investment time for citizens installing their own electrical generation technology. It is pretty apparent to anyone (at least anyone that isn't irretrievably in the pocket of utilities) that TEP is attempting to increase the return-on-investment time for citizens who wish to install their own electrical generation technology, in order to slow public adoption of renewable energy, and maintain their customer base and profits. I'm sure you're reading a lot of comments decrying this on global-warming grounds, or even flagrant-conflict-of-interest/money-in-politics/corruption-in-government grounds. And all of that is true and terrible, as I'm guessing each of you do know. You're not blind. So I'll comment instead about something I haven't heard much talk of: this is about the right to provide for yourself, unencumbered by government. And in my youth, that was terra firma of the GOP. Arizonans who have the means are attempting to generate their own power. TEP of course isn't asking you to deny ratepayers the theoretical ability, but they're asking you to allow them to make it more expensive, just when the tech that allows people to generate their own power from the free and abundant energy of the sun has finally become affordable. Affordable enough that TEP is afraid of losing customer demand and profits. Saying no to TEP won't harm non-generating customers as they have claimed (which even their own creative math makes apparent as soon as you divide it among all ratepayers). And saying no to TEP could actually benefit them. Because utilities are going to be far better served learning to accept the reality that renewable energy technology will continue to become more affordable, that people want renewable energy, and that if utilities don't adapt to what their customers want and learn to profit from that, other companies will (see Exhibit A Solar City). No matter how many continued millions they throw into campaign contributions. Voters are watching closely to see who will do the right thing. The Corporation Commission can't seem to stay out of the headlines, and when something as intrinsically boring as utility regulation can't manage to stay out of the headlines, that's of course a sign that people have had enough. You know what the citizens of this bright sunny state want: for the commission to say no to TEP and other Arizona utilities trying to stem the inevitable tide of customers seeking to exercise their individual liberty to generate their own power. TEP is choosing the wrong path to pursue in the retention of profits, struggling to maintain business as usual instead of adapting to what customers want and profiting from it. And most importantly, it's against the fundamental fabric of our nation: the right to provide for ourselves, unencumbered by government. I can't imagine any one of you disagrees with that. Despite the money that may or may not have been contributed to your campaign by utilities. Let them know that you appreciate their support, but you cannot support their misguided and ultimately hopeless attempts to preserve profits through regulation, when they should instead be utilizing their unique position to seize new opportunities to profit, that other companies are clearly successfully using to take ratepayer demand away from them.

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