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From: Darrell Baranowski [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Jul 3, 2014 at 3:09 PM

Subject: RMP Application for General Rate Increase (Docket Number 13-035-184)

To: rallen@utah.gov

Dear Chairman Allen,

It has come to my attention that Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) has proposed a 4% (76.3 million) increase to their General Rate in order to reach the authorized ROE of 9.8%, although the company's request further references 10.0%, in which it appears to adopt Dr. Hadaway's recommendation as authority.

The drivers cited for the requested rate increase are possibly poor business decisions made on the part of a private company and not burdens that citizens or the State should bear. Capital investment decisions (section 9a-b of the Application for General Rate Increase - January 3, 2014) that were not made by customers who have limited access to alternate energy suppliers should in no way sentence these same citizens to increased energy prices. This rationale appears to be an attempt by the company to recover inadequately planned for costs from its customers. Instead, the company should re-visit its investment decision-making process and appraise the performance of those who authorize such investments. While I do not dispute the company's claim that the projects were necessary, I am skeptical that RMP implemented these projects in the most cost-effective manner and instead, spared little expense, having the safety net of anticipated sales revenue to foot the bill. The company further attempts to justify a rate increase based on downward trending residential usage to which I respond, "Welcome to Business. Customers are dissatisfied and seeking substitutes. Adjust your business strategy to attract and retain customers by providing value." Coercion via State-sanctioned rate increases is not an option.

I take particular exception to the justification for increased Customer Charge; "To address challenges the Company is facing as a result of increased customer self-generation and declining customer usage... the Company is proposing certain necessary changes to rate design." This is ludicrous. In essence, the company is asking for the State's approval to squeeze more from its customers as a consequence for not continuing to pay the already high prices associated with power consumption. Additionally, the company wishes to more than double the minimum monthly bill to recover money, in situations where residents' usage falls below minimum usage, that does not rightfully belong to the company. Would a grocery store INCREASE its prices because sales dropped from people having their own gardens? No, because people would go to a different grocery store. Unfortunately, people have limited options available when it comes to power providers. While it is understandable and must be accepted that upstream costs are rising for businesses in all industries and that many of these increased costs are cascaded down to the customer, it must be equally understood and accepted that customers in most other industries have viable substitutes available and are not pinned down with the aid of government.

I earnestly request that the Commission uphold its responsibilities to Utah residents and deny Rocky Mountain Power's request (Docket No. 13-035-184) in its entirety, requiring revisions to be submitted in the form of a new request. Furthermore, I request that the company is censured for making such a frivolous request, based on overstated rationale.

Please remove and/or obliterate my personal contact information (email address and phone number) from this communication prior to making it publicly available.

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Regards,

Darrell Baranowski
[REDACTED]