

Gentlemen,

In the Wednesday, Sept. 28,2005 edition of the Appalachian News-Express is an article referring to a rate increase by A.E.P. that was to go into effect in October, 2005. This is the first I have heard of the proposed rate increase by A.P.E. We are supposed to be informed ***in advance*** of rate adjustment proposals. Fighting unnecessary rate increases seems to be a never ending battle. The newspaper article mentions a 1990 rate reduction. I don't recall hearing of that either.

I want to see all companies make a reasonable profit and be able to pay their investors a reasonable return on their investment. We, the consumers, also deserve consideration since the money comes out of our pockets.

This is one time I do not oppose some adjustment in the rates charged by A.E.P. But I feel that a 26% increase is far too much. Something in the area of 5% to 7% would be more palatable.

I can't go to Social Security and tell them I have to have a 26% increase in my check to cover the 26% increase in my electric bill. I can't go to the banks with which I do business and tell them I have to have a 26% increase in my interest payments to cover the 26% increase in my electric bill. In short, this increase, of what ever amount, is money that I won't have for other things. ie. natural gas-already granted a 46% increase and still another rate increase request for 39% more-gasoline?we don't need to even talk about that price.

We need a strong government that will control the price of energy and the price of medicine. The two most expensive items in every families budget.

I urge you to drastically cut the amount of increase but be fair to both sides of the coin.

Gary K. Hughes  
218 Mullins Add. Dr.  
Piikeville, Ky. 41501  
ghughes@setel.com