

Hutcherson, Susan G (PSC)

From: Melnykovich, Andrew (PSC)
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2006 8:57 AM
To:
Subject: Case no 2006-00172 - Duke Energy

Ms. Lycans:

Thank you for your comments regarding the application by Duke Energy for a rate increase. Your comments will be placed into the case file for consideration by the Public Service Commission as it deliberates in this matter. For your future reference, the case number in this matter is 2006-00172.

Because the proposed settlement in this case is currently before the Commission, I am unable to answer your questions regarding how the PSC might ultimately rule in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovich
Director of Communications
Kentucky Public Service Commission
(502) 564-3940 x 208

From: PSC - Public Information Officer
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 4:40 PM
To: Melnykovich, Andrew (PSC)
Subject: FW: Duke Energy Electric Rate Increase

From: Lycans, Donna
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2006 4:40:12 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer; PSC - Consumer Web Inquiry
Subject: Duke Energy Electric Rate Increase
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I am a homeowner and resident in Covington, Kenton County, Kentucky, and I just received a letter from Duke Energy that a proposed electric rate increase is now before the Commission for approval this month. Is this a done deal, or is there any possibility that this rate increase will be denied? Do the citizens of Kentucky have any influence whatsoever on this decision?

How many times and in how many ways will these utility monopolies be allowed to continue raising and raising and raising our rates? First, there were numerous gas rate increases from Cinergy, not only year after year, but month after month within the same winter seasons. Then they decided that all of our gas meters must be faulty because they weren't recording high enough numbers for Cinergy to cash in on us, so most of our residential meters were replaced at great expense and mass destruction of our neighborhoods. Not only did we have no say as to where these meters were installed (mine is in the middle of my garden in the front yard and now an ugly eyesore), but they tore up our streets, our sidewalks, our gardens and our lawns to do it. And do not believe for one minute that they restored anyone's property to the condition it was in before they bulldozed through it. Also, since then, I have compared my rates and total utility bills with neighbors who did and did not have their meters replaced, as well as with my Cincinnati friends, and believe me, they found a way to stiff Kentuckians once again in the process.

12/5/2006

Water rates and usage costs are up, sanitation is up, sewage is up, gas is up, and now they want to increase the electric rate. Does anybody wonder why there are fewer homeowners and more people in apartments, collecting welfare and on the street? Does anybody at the Commission care about these trends?

Since Duke Energy took over, every single storm of any kind is always followed by an immediate power outage in one or many areas, and it takes them 10 times longer to restore power than it ever took Cinergy. What is wrong with this picture? Obviously, the customers are not receiving any benefits from these already exorbitant rates, so why are we demanded to pay more and more and more of them? Is there no end to what these monopolies are allowed to do to us?

I am appealing to you because you are the Kentucky Public Service Commission, not Duke Energy shareholders who want to see their pockets fill up with all of our money. Please help. Our financial backs are breaking. The only way many of us can continue to counteract the cost of utilities is to decrease our use of them (i.e., set the thermostat at 65 degrees and freeze all winter). Some people I know replaced their gas heaters with electric heating systems in their homes to combat the rising costs of natural gas. Then to counteract us, Duke increases the rates so they can make the same money. It's a vicious cycle that is now in your control to stop. Will you do it? Who does the Commission serve, the residents of Kentucky or Duke Energy? I hope your answer is the residents of Kentucky.

I would greatly appreciate your reply, and thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Donna Lycans
Covington, KY 41014