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CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Please be seated. This public hearing will now come to order. Well, good evening to everyone. We are delighted to see such a good attendance tonight. We are looking forward to hearing from each of you who would like to speak, to hear what you have to say.

And before we proceed with that part of it, I just wanted to tell you a little bit about what we are going to do. First I'm going to ask our attorney for the reading of the docket, then he's going to talk a little bit about the rules and procedures for tonight. And then, we received a stipulation this morning right before our hearing began, and so I have asked Mr. Burgess if he will give us an overview of that stipulation. I thought it was important for you to understand what is being recommended to us at this time, before you speak.

So having said that, at this time I'm going to ask David Butler for the reading of the docket.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the Commission. My name is David Butler, and I'm Senior Counsel to the Commission. This is a local public hearing for Docket No.
2009-489-E, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's application for an increase in their rates and charges.

In just a moment I will be calling the names of those signed up, who signed up to come forward and give their statement to the Commission regarding the rate increase proposed by the company. And by the way, I just wanted to say as a word of caution, if you have cell phones, if you would please cut them off or put them on vibrate, that would be very much appreciated.

Tonight's hearing is part of the overall process that the Commission goes through when considering a rate case. Just to give you a basic summary of the process, the company files an application for its rate changes; notice of that request is then published to the public; and in a case like this one, the Commission sets up one or more evening public hearings so that the public may be heard regarding any concerns about the company's application. And as you know, if you have been reading the paper, there have been several public hearings already held throughout the State of South Carolina.

Also, as you probably know, starting today the
Commission is actually continuing the process by hearing from, among other witnesses, accountants and engineers who have analyzed the company's rate increase request, and they have come in and have been sworn or will be sworn and give their testimony before the Commission on this rate increase.

At this particular point, I'd like to ask a couple of groups of attorneys to introduce themselves. First, to my left, we have the company attorneys in this case, and I would like to ask them please to stand up and introduce themselves.

**MR. BURGESS:** Good evening, Madam Chairman and members of the Commission. My name is Chad Burgess and with me is Matthew Gissendanner, Mitchell Willoughby, and Belton Zeigler. We are all members of the South Carolina Bar and we appear before you on behalf of SCE&G.

I would also like to point out that we also have members from our corporate communications team, Customer Services Department, as well as senior management with us this evening, and we are here to listen to our customers' concerns, and if any customers do have concerns or want to talk with us about certain issues, we do have a table out in...
the foyer that is manned by a couple of customer service representatives, and we're happy to answer any questions or address any concerns our customers have. Thank you.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Burgess. Also, to my right, we have attorneys representing the Office of Regulatory Staff. If you would, please, stand up and introduce yourselves.

MR. NELSON: Good evening, Madam Chairman and members of the Commission. I'm Jeff Nelson, together with Nanette Edwards. We represent the Office of Regulatory Staff.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, very much. And I do want to emphasize again, as Mr. Burgess has said, if anyone has questions that they want answered, please see any of these people or their designees after the hearing. And there's a lot of expertise in this room, and I know they'll be glad to help you. And that does go for both the company and the Office of Regulatory Staff, as well. Okay.

Tonight's hearing is actually about you. Our court reporter in front of us will record everything you say, and you will be sworn in. This is just another -- a court hearing. So, when we do call your names, if you will come up here to the
front, come over here to the witness stand. We will swear you, and we'll ask you to please speak into the microphone that you will see right there on the stand, because we do want everything you say to be picked up by the court reporter. This is your opportunity to place your thoughts regarding the proposed rate increase on the record. This is not the time for you to ask the Commissioners questions. Again, the Commissioners cannot discuss the case with you, really, or answer questions regarding the case, but again, as I said just a moment ago, representatives of the Office of Regulatory Staff are here, representatives of SCE&G are here, and they can answer your questions at the conclusion of the hearing.

The Commission will continue to gather evidence in this case until the conclusion of the hearings this week; and thereafter, the Commission will consider all the information it gets from all the hearings and will render a decision on this matter on or before July 20th, 2010.

I did want to mention that due to the large number of people that we have here tonight and the fact that we want to give everybody an equal chance to speak, the Commission has requested a time limit
of five minutes for each speaker. And just so that you can keep up with the time, we do have a clock over here, on the right, that you'll be able to see during the course of your discussion. And again, please recognize that we do have a number of speakers who have signed up to be heard, so you can really help us out a lot if you tell us what you want to tell us within a short period of time.

And I did want to tell you that when you do come up and give your discussion to the Commission, that you will be subject to questions from the parties out here, and from the Commissioners as well, and possible objections from the parties. So, as I stated, please do come up to the witness stand and give your speech when you're called on. Please remain on the witness stand for a moment after giving your statement, so that the Commissioners or lawyers may ask you any questions that they may have.

And one other thing, if another person before you happens to say what you want to say, it is okay to just decline to speak when it comes to your turn. And we don't say that to discourage anybody from speaking your piece tonight. The Commission is here, the Commission wants to hear from you, but
just in the event that somebody happens to speak
ahead of you and says exactly what you want to say,
it's perfectly okay to decline to speak when it
becomes your turn if you want to.

So at this point, Madam Chairman, I do have
the list of names before me. Did you want to
introduce the members of the Commission before we
begin?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: I do. And we need to hear
from Mr. Burgess, as well.

MR. BUTLER: Certainly.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: I am Lib Fleming, and I'm
Chair of the Commission. To my far left is
Commissioner O'Neal Hamilton. Next to him is
Commissioner David Wright. Next to him is
Commissioner Butch Howard, and he is Vice Chair of
the Commission. And to my far right is
Commissioner Swain Whitfield, and next to him is
Commissioner Randy Mitchell.

And as I said, we are looking forward to
hearing from you tonight. At this time I'd like to
ask Mr. Burgess if he would give us a quick
overview of the stipulation that was presented to
us today.

MR. BURGESS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'm
happy and pleased to inform everybody here, as well as the Commissioners again, as we did this morning, about the third stipulation that the parties of record entered into -- certain parties of record entered into earlier today. The third stipulation is a consensus agreement among certain parties in this case, in which --

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Excuse me, can you -- yes, it's a little soft.

MR. BURGESS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: We want you to be heard.

MR. BURGESS: Thank you. The third stipulation is a consensus agreement among certain parties of record in this case, parties who represent all of our customers' classes among SCE&G's system. The third stipulation resolves all the contested issues in this case. It also incorporates by reference the first two stipulations that were entered into by certain parties along the way. The first of those stipulations was dated May 3rd, and that first stipulation is the stipulation in which the parties agreed to an ROE of 10.7. The parties also agreed to the implementation -- or recommended to this Commission the implementation of a weather
normalization mechanism. That weather normalization mechanism is designed to mitigate the impact on customers' bills such as we saw over the first quarter of 2010 and in the month of December for 2009 when SCE&G's service territory and its customers experienced one of the coldest winters on record, which had the effect of increasing or causing a spike in customers' bills.

So, in order to mitigate that from happening in the future, the parties agreed to a weather normalization mechanism that they're recommending that this Commission approve. If that is approved, the company is willing to credit back to its residential and small general service class of customers $25 million over 12 months, and that credit will be applied to customers' bills via a decremental rider. That is stipulation number one.

Number two involves the ORS pro forma accounting adjustments that were set forth in the Office of Regulatory Staff's direct testimony, and those were laid out in the audit exhibit of Sharon Scott. I believe that's page number Audit Exhibit No. 2, pages one through five. Also, there was an economic impact zone investment tax credit of approximately $48.7 million, and the company and
the other parties have agreed to recommend to this Commission to flow that credit back to customers, which will also be in the form of a decremental rider which will appear on customers' bills for the next two years. And those credits will be issued to customers until the credit is exhausted at the end of two years. There were also some other accounting adjustments in that second stipulation, as well.

At the end of the day, the question probably is where does that leave the rate adjustment. And what we have here [indicating] is a chart. I'm not sure if everybody can see it, if you're sitting directly behind me, but I'll walk through it for you. If you look on the far left corner there, with all the ORS adjustments and all the agreements that were reached among the parties, you have an initial rate increase in Year 1 of 2.5 percent. Now it's 2.5 percent because there are two sets of credits; one is the WNA credit, which is the $25 million I just mentioned, and the second is the EIZ tax credit. Now, after Year 1, the WNA credit will expire. Those credits will be exhausted, and there will be a 1.2 percent incremental increase in the rate in Year 2. Then at the end of the second
year, when the EIZ tax credits expire, there will be another incremental 1.18 percent increase that will happen in Year 3.

So, at the end of the day, whereas the company had originally requested a 9.52 percent increase, it is 2.5 in Year 1; another 1.2, which equals 3.7 in Year 2; and then 1.18 in Year 3, which equals 4.88 at the end of Year 3.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Could you just tell us what EIZ stands for, and WNA?

MR. BURGESS: Absolutely. EIZ stands for economic impact zone investment tax credit, and WNA stands for weather normalization adjustment.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you.

MR. BURGESS: Thank you, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Mr. Butler, if you would call our first witness.

MR. BUTLER: Yes, ma'am. I'll be glad to do so. The first witness signed up to be heard tonight is Mr. Charles Kneecce. Mr. Kneecce, would you come forward please, to the stand?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came, 

CHARLES KNEECE,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
MR. BUTLER: Yes, sir. If you would give us your name and address and then say your statement, please.

WITNESS: My name is Charles Kneece. I live at 1025 Old Sloan Road, Columbia, South Carolina.

I know that what I've got to say may not be very much, but between November 2009 and this year, up until this month in May, I spent about $2,000 on replacing appliances. Now, if I'm going to be replacing appliances and then all of a sudden my rates keep going up, it's false economy. Because why am I putting money out to lower my rates and yet they keep coming in wanting more money? After awhile there ain't no more blood in the turnip. It's done gone.

But I'm just not satisfied with the thing of the power company keep wanting to get more money, more money. I just don't like that. I know they've got to have money to operate with. I understand that. But, there's got to be a break somewhere. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay.

[Applause]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: If I could just ask the people in the audience to refrain from clapping or
spontaneous --

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: -- outbursts. This is just like a civil court proceeding, so we do have to have order maintained. I know you feel very passionate and strongly about these issues, and they appreciate your support, but if you would refrain from that.

Now, Mr. Kneece, let's see if there are any questions for you.

MR. BURGESS: We have no questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right.

MR. NELSON: No questions, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right, you may step down. Thank you.

WITNESS: Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Wendell Bedenbaugh, please. Wendell Bedenbaugh.

[Witness sworn]

<
THEREUPON came,

WENDELL BEDENBAUGH,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes, please go ahead.

WITNESS: Just a few comments about the way I think SCE&G is run, in a business way. I see no need for SCE&G to spend money on advertisements. Most of the time, if you will notice, there's only one power line in front of your house. You take the available electricity or you do without. Also, we've had a big change in Lake Murray.

By the way, I'm Wendell Bedenbaugh, 311 Barr Woods Road, Saluda, South Carolina 29138. Sorry about that.

Back to the Lake Murray situation. Lake Murray has become, in my opinion, a recreational lake instead of an electrical lake. Lake Murray was built to generate electricity. Is that the number one priority today? I know of no one paying any kind of boater's fee to use Lake Murray, which my electric bill helps keep Lake Murray up. Also, there's people using Lake Murray, fishing as a business. Does SCE&G benefit from that fishing business?

The State parks: for one, Billy Dreher Island.
They charge a fee to use Billy Dreher Island; the State does. What makes Billy Dreher Island is Lake Murray. Why should SCE&G not get a portion of the fees for Billy Dreher Island?

Also, a very touchy matter is the high property taxes around Lake Murray. What creates the benefit -- I mean, what creates the value for the high property taxes is Lake Murray. Why should us consumers keep up a big pond for people to use if we're not going to benefit some from it?

And as far as the new reactors go, you know, whenever the farmers buy some land to go with the land they already have, they use the proceeds from the old land and the new land to pay for the new land; and if it won't work, they don't buy it.

Also, I wonder, is SCE&G being run like the State of South Carolina?

**VOICE:** All right.

**WITNESS:** If you will read Sunday's paper, you will see -- the Columbia *State Paper* -- you will see where 8,300 people of the top salaried people have received 10 percent raises or more, since 2004. But yet, in the same paper, you'll see where teachers have got to be furloughed because we can't meet the budget. We haven't got our priorities in
order.

The bottom line is, in my opinion, we are creating electric bills that people cannot pay. We have people now that cannot pay their electric bill, and as rates go up and Social Security stagnates and pensions stagnate, then the onliest people who can pay their bill is these people that's getting the raises when nobody else gets them.

And so, in my opinion, we are creating a nightmare in years to come for people that cannot pay the bills. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you.

[Applause]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions, Madam Chair. Thank you, Mr. Bedenbaugh.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right, you may step down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Mr. Joe
Wojcicki, please. Mr. Joe?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

J O E   W O J C I C K I ,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Good evening.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Good evening, Mr. Joe.

WITNESS: Thank you, very much, especially to our Madam Chair. And ladies and gentlemen, first I have to introduce myself. I'm Joe Wojcicki. A strange name. I'm an South Carolinian with an accent, because I was adopted by Senator Thurmond as to the 4 million South Carolinian family. So, this is my time to repay to this beautiful family, the people of the South Carolina.

[Ref: PowerPoint Slide 1]

This is my expertise, but what I want to do today, I want to show some kind of engineering point of view to the two reactors, the nuclear reactors that they plan to build. Because, what? These two reactors are the reason that we need -- or really, South Carolina Electric & Gas need more money to build this kind of very big production of electricity.

[Ref: PowerPoint Slide 2]
This is what I try to tell you a little bit about this one. I was teaching for three years in the economical electrical engineers. There are things that some question if you're going to have, I'll be glad to answer.

[Ref: PowerPoint Slide 3]

First, of course, is, do we need extra electricity, electrical power, in the South Carolina? And this is probably how we would be -- have class, from the South Carolina Electric & Gas, because my answer is yes. We need more electricity. But not everybody needs this more electricity, only practically industrial, which is supposed to be 25 percent this year in sales, and other. In "other," we see transportation. And in probably few years, maybe five, ten years, most of the transportation would be powered by electricity, because this is only one way that we can leave alone all this oil brought to us from the Middle East, and we still have this kind of problem; the dependence of the oil.

So again, to get electricity, we can get from the nuclear, which is the project done right now by South Carolina Electric & Gas, and this is pretty big one because there are two reactors and give you
over two gigawatts. "Giga" means billion of watts.

   The coal -- coal is pretty old technology and, but right now, for example, in Poland -- I was born in this country -- in July 2009 they built the first big generator station using that so-called cleaner technology. Again, we're going to probably have for another 200 years a lot of coal, not exactly in South Carolina, but Tennessee and other close country. And we probably still have to run our existing coal station, just maybe a little bit retrofitting.

   Natural gas and bio-gas and also renewables. It's a lot of idea that renewable is good, it's good for the people. If you want to have independent source of electricity, just put something in your house, for example, a solar panel or -- no, don't put any this wind, because this is something that is going to probably remove your birds from your backyards.

   So, inevitably it's not something that's going to give this big load to industrial and the transportation. Also, I'm going to show later the water.

   [Ref: PowerPoint Slide 4]

   What I was looking for -- the first protests I
found, I found these few statements. I think maybe it's good to look at least for the last statement by Mr. Baron Davis, that we cannot really -- I don't get it, how we supposed to have so high increase in the rates.

[Ref: PowerPoint Slide 5]

Next protest one I found is the people are talking about how much we're going to pay in the future because of the rates. And these are some numbers. I have not too much time to go through all the presentation for this reason. If you're going to get ability to have it sometimes, I can deliver this kind of information in written form or, I believe, also it's going to be available on the website of our Public Service Commission.

Because of this kind of situation, it's -- also I was here on the hearing about smart grid. The smart grid's supposed to give you in your house some kind of meter that lets you to make a decision. If this would be really smart, we probably going to go to this kind of situation: I have a meter, so maybe I can select my company that's going to deliver this one, like I have a telephone; I can take AT&T or some other company. Maybe this is going to be solution for the future.
But, right now for next few years, I will have to say that South Carolina Electric & Gas is going to be a monopoly in this delivery of electricity to our homes.

So, in this case, we have to think about if really these gentlemen needs money.

[Ref: PowerPoint Slide 6]

It's also -- this is something I don't really like to read, this one, because this is telling you how Mr. Timmerman, the president and CEO was $6,821,202. This is something that probably make several of us -- make a little bit mad. But, now my question is, how much really SCANA pays to their electrical engineers. What is my question here on the end of this statement? Because when I was on the hearing about the project for the building the two nuclear, there was the preparation of the project from the engineering point of view. It was very bad, really, very bad. So, it really was -- this part of the project was done by electrical engineer or somebody else?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Joe, I hate to interrupt you, but I need you to wind up. It's been over five minutes.

WITNESS: Okay. Let's go. So, this rate,
yes, because we need to build these two reactors.

[Ref: PowerPoint Slide 9]
This is some kind of showing that very important for the electric companies to have as many as possible customers, because also it's possible to get this $12 per month even not delivering electricity. So, this is something we call *in reductio ad absurdum* -- probably lawyers know.

[Ref: PowerPoint Slide 10]
This is location of the people, so again, here is our South Carolina, Columbia area. This is Charleston. And area of these two reactors is going to cover this area. Now, here is --

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Joe?

WITNESS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Joe, we will put this on the website like we do the witnesses' testimony, but what we need to do is give everyone a chance to speak tonight. So, if you could -- I'm going to have to ask you to --

WITNESS: Speed up, yes.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: No, I'm going to have to ask you to conclude right now, so that we can let others speak.
WITNESS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: If there's time at the end of the hearing, we may consider a little more time for you, but right now --

WITNESS: Yeah, okay, so just a few moments because this part is important now.

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Joe, I'm going to have to ask you to sit down.

WITNESS: Okay. So, in conclusion, I would like to tell -- the problems right now, two things. It's not proper location, because electricity and also it's going to take a lot of the water. If somebody's going to --

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Joe.

WITNESS: If somebody's going to address this, there's some information --

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Joe, I need you to step down.

WITNESS: Yes, okay. I would like to just deliver some kind of request [indicating].

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you.

MR. BURGESS: Madam Chairman, we have no questions of Mr. Joe.

[Laughter]
MR. NELSON: [Shaking head.]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: No questions. Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: No questions. Thank you. [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: Okay. We'd like to call Doris --

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Joe, if you would like to leave a copy of that for the reporter.

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Doris Fletcher, please. Doris Fletcher.

[WHEREUPON, Ms. Fletcher came forward]

COURT REPORTER: Ma'am, if you would raise your right hand, please. Do you solemnly swear the testimony you're about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

MS. FLETCHER: Well, it came out of this book and out of the newspaper, so I don't know how true it is, honey.

[Laughter]

MS. FLETCHER: What do you want me to do?

MR. BUTLER: Yes, ma'am. If you would go on and state your name and address, and go ahead and give your statement, if you will.

MS. FLETCHER: It's Doris A. Fletcher, 1305
A-d-k-i-n-s Circle, West Columbia, South Carolina. That's A-d-k-i-n-s, not A-t-.

MR. BUTLER: Okay. Before you go ahead there, I understood what you said a minute ago about the stuff coming out of the newspaper, but we really do need you to swear that everything you're going to say is a matter of truth, to the best of your ability, if you would.

MS. FLETCHER: I will, to the best of my ability.

MR. BUTLER: Okay. All right. That's fine. Thank you.

THEREUPON came,

D O R I S   F L E T C H E R , who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

MR. BUTLER: If you will go ahead -- go ahead and proceed.

WITNESS: I don't know what this is but it says -- this is what I'm trying to find out. Does anyone know how much 1,000 kilowatt-hours amount to? Because I just see 1,000, 800, whatever, and it will go up $5.79 a month, or more, and to $69.48 a year. That's out of this paper on 5/15. Who believes that?

Less than two weeks ago they lowered the
request to about 6.55 percent. As of Friday, was asking for a 4.88 percent jump. The Office of Regulatory Staff, who is supposed to represent us, recommended a 4.87 percent; 1 percent less. That is what you call looking after customers? We need to have a Public Service Commission looking after us, and ORS looking after corporations. Never happen.

The Public Service Commission has approved everything ORS suggested, but will never have -- no, they have not approved what Office of Regulatory Staff suggested. They suggested things, but y'all have not approved. I remember that, from another paper. This is 5/15. They have always given to South Carolina Electric & Gas. They want $1 billion end of quarter. All their earnings rose 11.4 percent over a year ago, rose 24.6 percent higher than results from a year ago.

There's some newspaper articles back there that's got what this is on here [indicating], and y'all can look at them. Says results from a year ago, Jenkins from Wisconsin Investment Board said a refund was unusual; meanwhile, the company plans to request another rate hike this month.

$9.8 billion for nuclear plant takes effect in
October -- this is the raise, but the plants, they're not going to be working yet. We're going to be paying for something that's not even producing. Reduced contract to -- oh, I was at my cousin's. She kept me for six months because I've been paralyzed, and I died in November. But, I happen to see these trucks cutting the limbs down. And I walked down there, and the license tag said Michigan, and the doors on the truck said he was from Texas. And I was looking around and it was either six or eight Mexicans, and I thought -- I thought South Carolina doesn't have no jobs; wonder why they're not out here doing this job. But, we understand South Carolina Electric & Gas is saving all they can so they can get more from everybody else, when we need jobs. Addison said without extreme weather, it would have been up by 3.7 percent, and then he said in another article, federal environmental mandates, equipment, upgrades, shareholders -- praise God for them -- and other items, but it doesn't say what other items.

Now, on 5/4, now to 11.69 by 2011 for $280 million scrubber. How many do they need? I don't know what scrubbers are.
[Laughter]

State agency, ORS, who we pay, and then we pay these people. But, you know, I'm proud of y'all. The last time I attended, most of them were sleeping. I'm really proud of y'all staying awake and listening to us. It makes me feel good.

[Laughter]

Now, the cut -- non-related -- this is what -- Office of Regulatory, they want cuts bringing electricity to our homes and businesses. Waste, in the article in the paper. Marsh, who is employed by our wonderful South Carolina Electric & Gas, his salary is $580,000. Total, $2,108,101. His concern -- his concern to the customers is to raise capital, keep operating expenses. The main concern are shareholders -- and thank God, because my ex-in-laws had plenty of your shares, and she said, "You ought to buy shares." I said, "I can't even pay my bill."

[Laughter]

Concern of shareholders, them as well, who expect a decent return at our expense. Praise God. Their return dropped one-third. I know they're starving.

Waiting for formal approval to add reactors --
it's not been approved -- although raising money
from us as a separate hike and approved by the
Public Service Commission, 37 percent. This is in
the paper 3/18. Then it says 3/14, phasing in
annual rate hikes to raise $1 billion. Two
reactors, won't go on-line for several years. Not
approved yet. Timmerman stock award, $4 million.
Raise in compensation, 74 percent. I want him to
come live with me in my cold house and my hot
house. 119 in the summer. I'm on oxygen. I have
breathing machines, and then I have a gadget I have
to do my pacemaker every morning between 3 and 4.
I have to have utilities. But I feel sorry for
someone who'd come spend a couple of days with me.
And then it says 74 percent top pay and bonuses.
Already won approval for rate hikes, paying for
something not approved, will never lower bills. In
the long run, they'll never do it.

Boost $40 a month. Court action -- court
action, read to audience. I've got that in this
book from South Carolina Electric & Gas. This is a
very interesting book from South Carolina Electric
& Gas. It would make you sick. Every other
paragraph, it's got ratepayers will pay. It says 6
percent rate increases in the past eight quarters.
I've got the book and you're welcome to read it. I may never get another one, so read this one.

Need to recover investment, strong credit rating. Since 2007, added 24,000 customers, requested 4 percent increase. Now we pay transmission lines, transformers, and generation plants. I know there's somebody in South Carolina that would be willing to take Timmerman's job, because so many don't have jobs. They could take his job and pay him $100,000; they'd be grateful for $100,000.

First of all, I want to thank our State legislators, Public Service Commission, and State Regulatory for giving South Carolina Electric & Gas blank checks, everything they want. There's no end to their wanting from us. We have no choice, but they have a monopoly. We have no one to turn to. How come the people can't have a Public Service Commission to represent us? Public Service now only represents big corporations. We pay them big salaries. We don't know what else they get after the big salaries.

And then on page -- I've got these pages in here where they okayed a whole bunch of stuff for South Carolina Electric & Gas. So, we don't know
if they're letting them use their airplanes or
taking them out. We don't know.

They have the best advertisement at our
expense. We go out and borrow money to do what
they tell us to do, then I've got to -- I have
borrowed $1,000 to have some windows put in. I
didn't even have it. And that didn't help a bit,
and somebody come around to my back and said, "Are
you Doris?" I said, "Yes," I said, "who are you?"
She said, "My name is Doris also, South Carolina
Electric & Gas." I guess she didn't believe me.
We talked a minute and she wanted to see inside my
house. I said, "You don't want to go in there,"
and she said, "Yes, I do." So, we walked in. She
said, "How do you live in here?" I said, "It's not
easy." And she was to come back, and I guess she
didn't believe I had an oxygen machine, and she
come back to see that -- praise God. But they sent
somebody out there, and they put some more windows
in my house. Praise God. And I understand through
my termite man that they really did a good job in
insulating underneath my house, but I don't know
about the roof. I don't think anybody -- and I
don't have the money.

Says they have the best advertisement, I read
you that. And a few months after we borrowed the money, they'll still go back up. We got two or three bills, like that man said before, and it says -- and I told you about my house, and it says 4/11 -- I can't talk. There was an article from a doctor where he bought a gas heater, thinking his was going to go down. His didn't go down. They have the best attorney lawyers at our expense -- praise God. We pay if they get sued for their greed, selling where they're not supposed to, contaminating our land, air, and water.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Fletcher?

WITNESS: Wait, he talked a long time, and he's got lots of money.

[Laughter]

Still, they even use our legislature attorney -- I'll be hurrying -- at our expense. DHEC gives them everything they want at our expense. We have to pay our attorneys, which most people don't have any money for paying utility bills. No job; I cannot work. They hired out-of-town people to come to work here.

And then it says they have the best lobbyists, at our expense. We can't afford a lobbyist. The lobbyist is one employed to influence legislators
to introduce, to vote for measures favorable to the South Carolina Electric & Gas they represent. Let me tell you, the directors -- there are 11 of them. Several of them from out-of-state. They have three-year terms, but usually they get to stay. They had seven meetings in 2009, on page ten. They received $668,900 total salaries and stock awards -- not all of that's included -- endowment plan after the second term, estimated $716,339 plan funded through the premium, page 53, and retainer fees, annual -- common stock.

Then it says Mid-Carolina. I called them, and they have all volunteers on their boards. They are elected by customers three years, no pay. Have close contact with their customers during the year.

Senior officers, like Mr. Timmerman, company salaries compared to mostly utility companies mostly -- some general industry. If they're like South Carolina Electric & Gas, they're ripping us off, and they've got the qualifications and salaries. Mr. Timmerman made $5,000,033 --

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Fletcher?

WITNESS: Just a little bit more. That man has a long time. I just don't have the money he has. Addison, $1,324,335; Marsh, $2,108,101;
Bullwinkel, $1,567,052; Byrne, $1,434,000 --

VOICE: Okay, just stop right here. Please stop.

WITNESS: I'm being nice. I don't have but just one thing.

VOICE: Well, they don't give a shit, so come on.

WITNESS: No, I -- can I just finish this? You let that man have ten minutes.

VOICE: No, they asked you to leave.

WITNESS: Can I finish?

[Applause.]

VOICE: They asked you to leave.

WITNESS: I have this -- I don't have the money like that man did. I'm poor.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Fletcher, if you'd like to submit what you have written into the evidence of the case, we'll be happy to accept it, and it will go into the file, if you'll submit that written information. Would you do that?

WITNESS: Yeah.

VOICE: Yes, ma'am.

WITNESS: But it's not fair.

VOICE: It's not fair, but go ahead. Go sit down. They don't care.
CHAIRMAN FLEMING: We do care.

VOICE: Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. That means a lot. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Would you like to submit that paper into the evidence?

[Applause]

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Do we want to reserve a place for that? What is the exhibit number?

MR. BUTLER: It will be No. 18.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. Her written information will be entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 18.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: And I do want to say that we all very much care about each and every one of you and hearing what you have to say. That is the reason we have put a time limit on that, so that everyone will have an opportunity to speak and for us to hear what you have to say. And if we didn't do that, there would not be the opportunity but for only a handful of people.

With that having been said, would you please call the next witness?

MR. BUTLER: Yes, Madam Chairman. The next
witness would be Mr. Ralph Lewis. Ralph Lewis, please?

[WHEREUPON, Mr. Lewis came forward.]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: And I just want to indicate that the clock is right here [indicating], so that you can --

MR. LEWIS: I'm blind.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: You're blind? If we could get somebody to help him, please? Somebody help him.

MR. RICHARDSON: [Indicating.]

MR. LEWIS: I'm Ralph Lewis. 1421 Pine Street, West Columbia, South Carolina 29172.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Can you sit there?

MR. BUTLER: Can you have a seat there, Mr. Lewis?

MR. LEWIS: I can, yes.

MR. BUTLER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: I think it will be more comfortable for you.

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came, RALPH LEWIS, who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: I'm Ralph Lewis. Address, 1421 Pine
Street, West Columbia, South Carolina 29172.

I had originally had mostly questions, but you say we can't ask questions.

There is people out there that's trying to live on less than $1,000 a month. Can't even buy their medicine. I know, because I know some of them. Can't buy their medicine. Some of them don't have food to go on their tables. I know.

These people, the CEO makes between $2 and $5 million a year or more, plus he gets all his expenses paid. He doesn't do without anything to eat, he doesn't do without his medicine. I don't believe either one of you up here does without your food and medicine. You're probably making over $100,000 a year, too.

If I have a business and I want to expand my business, I've got to have the resources or I have to get stock -- people to buy into my business to start another business. But these people don't have to do that. All they got to do is come to the Public Service Commission and say, "We need more money. We need more money," and the Public Service Commission gives it to them!

VOICE: That's right.

WITNESS: You give it to them. I would like
to ask you one question. In the past 20 years, how many times have you ever turned these people down for a raise? Tell me. Nobody got nothing to say, have you? Because you know good and well you have never turned them down for nothing. You might have reduced it a little bit, but you haven't ever turned them down.

Jesse James used a gun. These utility companies uses the Public Service Commission to get what they want.

VOICE: Right.

WITNESS: That's all I have to say. I think that's enough.

[Applause]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Please. This is a court hearing, and we need you to maintain order during the hearing.

MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chair.

MR. NELSON: No questions, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: And, Mr. Lewis, as we said earlier, we're not able --

WITNESS: Speak up please. I can't hear you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: We are not able up here to
answer questions. That's part of the rules of law that we have in a court proceeding. But, anyway, if you go -- if someone can go on-line, and you can get a lot of that information.

WITNESS: I don't have a computer, and I don't have anybody to go on-line for me, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Well, you can ask the parties after the hearing. If you'll go up to the Office of Regulatory Staff or to the people for South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, they can give you the answer to your question.

WITNESS: They can give me the answers to my questions? They can give me their answers, but can they give me the answer? No, they will not.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: They should give you a truthful answer.

WITNESS: Ma'am, I trust them and you like I trust a rattlesnake and it fixin' to bite.

[Laughter]

WITNESS: Anything else before I move? Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: Okay. I'd like to call Debi Hacker, please. Debi Hacker?

[Witness affirmed]
THEREUPON came,

**DEBI HACKER**,

who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

**WITNESS**: I'll be within five minutes, so we can catch up. My name is Debi Hacker. I live at 861 Arbutus Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29205. I've been a citizen of South Carolina, voting and paying taxes, for over 25 years. Although that's not what my accent says.

Just real quickly, this is all that I need to say: Electricity is required for daily life in the United States. We need it for refrigeration of food, we need it for cooking the food, we need it for lights, and we need it for HVAC. God forbid, you don't have air conditioning, you'll end up having the fire department take you down to a shelter in July or August.

In most of South Carolina's 46 counties, SCE&G maintains a monopoly, and we have no option to choose another provider. I do not live in Clarendon County. I do not live in Sumter or Orangeburg. I live in Richland County. SCE&G does not offer variable use rates, which allow customers to make the choice to pay less by using energy during low-volume hours and pay more during high-
peak hours. Hello, I'd be more than glad to do my laundry in the middle of the night to make less volume on y'all, and I pay less for being a little bit out of my way.

What are the reasons for the increase request? To pay for the $6 million cleaners that are needed to comply with federal government requirements; what everybody else has to do. $6 million is less than 1/2 of 1 percent of SCANA's total value, and about one year of salaries and benefits for the top executives of SCANA and SCE&G. And I bet y'all don't get your socks at Wal-Mart, either.

[Laughter]

When executives have that much compensation, the company itself is immoral to ask customers to pay for requirements from the federal government. Requirements that every other electric company in our country has to comply with.

SCE&G employees have not had a raise since 2008. Wow, I am astonished. Because my company hasn't had a raise since 9/11 occurred.

VOICE: That's right.

WITNESS: We have had to cut employees at my company since 9/11 occurred. I cannot go to my clients and say, "Wow, electricity has gone up
again, so my price for doing work for your company is going to go up." They won't choose me. I'm not a monopoly. It's not fair.

Many companies, State agencies, are requiring unpaid furloughs. When we have fourth-graders in the State of South Carolina that cannot read at a first-grade level and we are furloughing teachers, it is not a good time to be asking for the rest of us to pay for the scrubbers -- which are entirely necessary; I can explain them to people.

For these reasons, the Public Service Commission, if it grants this increase, will be in immoral collusion with SCE&G. Just like all the other for-profit companies in the United States, they need to save their money, they need to invest their money, they need to use their money properly and not lay it entirely on the feet of the forced customers of the State of South Carolina.

And in point of honesty, my husband has had SCANA stock for over 25 years. But also a point of honesty, I have a 95 percent disabled adult daughter. She's unable to work. She gets $600 a month. She is squeezing pennies. She cannot work. She can't push her electric wheelchair. She can feed herself, but she can't brush her teeth. Where
is she and other people in like situations supposed to come up with more money? SSI is not going to give her more money because ya'll need it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you, Ms. Hacker.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down. Thank you.

WITNESS: Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Sharon Taylor.

Sharon Taylor, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

S H A R O N   T A Y L O R ,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Sharon Taylor, 26 Misty Morning Drive, Columbia, South Carolina.

My concern is that we're attempting to raise rates when South Carolinians are already suffering,
okay, with the high cost of energy, and we have the highest unemployment rate in the nation at this time. So, we're trying to burden our customers with higher energy costs. Any percentage, whether it's 1 percent, 4 percent, or anything, would be a disservice to your members in South Carolina.

They already do not have any discretionary income to afford anything other than what they are already paying. My understanding is the unemployment -- excuse me -- the minimum wage is $7 or $7.55. Even to raise it 4 percent, 4.88 percent on a $150 bill would be $7.32, which is an hour's salary for a person.

Businesses are suffering because every time you raise the rates on SCE&G, you are suffering the small business. Small business is your lifeline in South Carolina. Businesses are not going to grow if they have to pay more money -- if the person has to pay more money out of their pocket, they're going to buy less things at the store, less disposable income, less discretionary income to use for other things. People have children, summer is coming, they're not going to be able to go anywhere because they're too busy paying SCE&G for their services.
Now, I know that in the wintertime they said that the bill went higher. Yes, that's true. However, no one used their services any differently. I personally did everything that was on their website to do, to make my bill lower, okay? I insulated my home. I put in those bulbs that you cannot dispose of, okay? I went and took out this Carrier thing that was draining my bill. So, I went around the house and I did everything they told me to do, and my bill still doubled. So, if I'm going to do what you tell me to do and I'm going to freeze to death in the winter, then I deserve a price break. Okay?

SCE&G, as everybody has said, is a monopoly. This is the first state I have ever been where you do not have a choice. Okay? If I don't like the restaurant that I eat in, I can go to another restaurant. If I don't like the landscaper I have, I can look in the Yellow Pages and find how many. However, because I don't like what SCE&G does, I'm stuck with it. Too bad, so sad, you're stuck with it. Okay? If this is a democratic society, okay, that we live in -- this country was built on competition, yet SCE&G has none. How possible is that in 2010? We have no freedoms when it comes to
our services.

I ask that you reconsider this, because it is a way of our life at stake, okay? If you don't change this, we're not going to be able to turn on our lights. Okay? If you have to do this, then you need to really reconsider this and table this at least until next year. Let our economy get back on track, let people get jobs, let people pay their other bills. Let people feed their children, let people clothe their children before you change this rule and make it cost us more for our electricity. And I'm very energy conscious. I turn off all my lights. I do everything. And our bill still keeps going up. So, it's unfair to us to make us do stuff and buy new things, and then you turn around and you still put us back in the same position of a higher bill. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you, Ms. Taylor. Are there any questions?

MR. BURGESS: No questions for Ms. Taylor.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. NELSON:

Q Ms. Taylor, I didn't get your address. Could you give me your address?
26 Misty Morning Drive.

MR. NELSON: No more questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. And Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Before the next witness comes up, we just realized that we failed to put Mr. Joe's slides into the evidence of the case. And we are reserving a space for that, Mr. Joe, as Hearing Exhibit No. 19.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Madam Chairman. With that, we'd like to call Dametris Thompson. Dametris Thompson, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

DAMETRIS THOMPSON, who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Dametris Thompson. I stay at 917 Stebondale Road in Columbia, South Carolina.

And I just want to say I am concerned that SCE&G requires rate hikes to do their business. I don't -- it's my concern that they weren't
originally set up to operate in this fashion. If they get money from kilowatt-hours, that would be understandable, but I don't see what would discourage them from keep coming to these rate hikes if you all keep giving them money. They seem to make more business off getting rate hikes than in selling kilowatt-hours. So, that's my concern.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Any questions?

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

MR. NELSON: No questions, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down. Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Doris Caldwell. Doris Caldwell, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

DORIS CALDWELL, who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Doris Caldwell.

MR. BUTLER: Can you come a little closer to the mike, Ms. Caldwell, please?
WITNESS: Yes, sir [indicating].

MR. BUTLER: Thank you.

WITNESS: My name is Doris Caldwell. I live at 5729 Colonial Drive.

This is a cry for mercy to anyone who will listen. Thank you for this chance to make this plea on behalf of so many people who feel they have no voice. For South Carolina Electric & Gas to request a rate increase in this day and time, it seems to be insensitive to our customers. We cannot afford a rate increase on our electric bills.

We're the elderly who are on fixed incomes and are already stretching our dollar most of the time and do not know where the next dollar is coming from in these economy times, when just meeting the necessary bills to survive is so hard now. It has people -- we have people who are losing their homes probably because of losing their jobs or because they cannot get assistance to meet these necessary bills. Having electric and gas is not an option; it's necessary. So this bill must be paid or without service.

What are we going to do when we cannot pay the bill? The summertime, when the temperature gets so
hot, it gets in the 90s and even 100s. And what about when the winter comes and there's no heat to protect us from the chilling and freezing temperature? We're living in a time when we are not getting a cost-of-living increase or raises on jobs, so how are we going to pay an increase with the same amount of money that is already not enough to pay the bills?

I make a plea to the Public Service Commission to please think of the residents of this great community and deny the rate increase that South Carolina Electric & Gas requests. To South Carolina Electric & Gas: think of your loyal customer who, in so many cases, are struggling to pay their bills now. Please have mercy.

Thank you so much for listening, and I pray that these words do not fall on deaf ears.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you, Ms. Caldwell.

Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: You may step down. Thank
you.

WITNESS: Thank you. Can I get some water?

MR. BUTLER: Sure.

WITNESS: [Indicating.]

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Joel Z. Price, please. Joel Z. Price?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

JOEL Z. PRICE,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Joel Price. I reside at 1747 Holly Hill Drive, West Columbia, South Carolina 29169.

SCE&G's original request was for a 9.5 percent increase. We were led to believe this was for required governmental environmental upgrades of plants. We have since become aware that part of the increase was as follows: $12.6 million for employee bonuses and raises; $228,000 for employee service awards and newsletters; $260,000 for lobbying expenses; $52,604 for aircraft fees; $101,800 for meals and entertainment; $52,300 for membership dues. This totals $13,294,700. That request has subsequently been changed to a 4.88
percent increase, as it was deemed that those charges have nothing to do with the required upgrades.

If the 4.88 percent increase, which is an average -- residential rates I'm advised will be higher, but we don't know what that figure will be until after the Public Service Commission makes their decision. As Mr. Burgess said, increases in the bills will be 2.5 percent in July of 2010, 1.2 percent in July of 2011, and 1.18 percent in July of 2012. The question that I have is, when does SCE&G project the money for this mandate to be raised? Will that be a year after the final rate increase would go into effect, if all 4.88 percent were approved?

If the Public Service Commission authorizes this or any other request concerning the required governmental mandate, when the money has been raised, SCE&G should be required to reduce the bills by the same percent as they were raised to pay for the governmental mandate. Likewise, SCE&G can raise rates each year until 2019 to pay for the two reactors in Fairfield County. It is expected to raise monthly bills by $40 a month by the end of the decade, or a 37 percent increase through this
period. Since this will be paid for by 2019 or 2020, SCE&G should be required to lower the bills by the same percentage as they were raised to pay for the reactors.

I believe that there has existed a certain level of trust between SCE&G and most of its customers. Your initial request, and subsequently what some of the increase was for, has certainly tainted this trust. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you, Mr. Price.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down.

WITNESS: Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Iona Hunter. Iona Hunter, please?

[Witness sworn]
THEREUPON came,

I O N A   H U N T E R ,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: I too am against a rate hike, and I would like to ask that the Commissioners and those representative of SCE&G consider gravely the concept of instituting a change that is a veritable way -- use of electricity. And I'm going to say it very plainly, so that it's understood by all in attendance or all who read or consider. There are hours at night until early in the morning that we can use our electricity for household chores, that cost us less. I have never heard of our electric company considering such.

I find this appalling. I'm looking at our country, and I'm seeing what's happening to it, and it's time we in South Carolina -- we good people, who claim to be Christians, you see; we have churches on every corner, sometimes two or three -- it is time we put this act together. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Just a minute please. We need to --

WITNESS: I am Iona Hunter. I have for years been a resident over in Columbia, South Carolina. I am currently a resident of Lexington County. I
haven't been here 90 years yet, so I don't know if I'm considered a member of the community yet, but I am currently a member of Lexington County. I live at 103 Robin Forest Drive, West Columbia, South Carolina. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Hunter, if you would just wait just a minute and let's see if there are any questions.

MR. BURGESS: No questions for Ms. Hunter. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you, Ms. Hunter.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

WITNESS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. You may step down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Mark Harris. Mark Harris, please?

MR. HARRIS: I decline.

MR. BUTLER: Thank you, sir. What about Denise Rodgers? Denise Rodgers, please?

VOICE: Did you call Doris Berry?
MR. BUTLER: No, ma'am.

[Witness affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

DENISE RODGERS,

who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: I'm Denise Rodgers. My business is in Batesburg, which is Lexington County -- that's why I'm here -- at 567 West Church Street. My house, though, is in Ridge Spring, South Carolina. So, I have two bills that I have to pay to SCE&G.

I'm a single mom; I have two kids. I have a small pet grooming shop in Batesburg, and this past payment with two bills combined, was more than my house payment. And my house payment includes insurance and taxes.

And I just need to put that out there that I cannot afford to keep paying this if it keeps going up. I'm not in favor of this increase. Thank you for listening to me.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. Ms. Rodgers, if you'll just wait and see if there are questions.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you, Ms. Rodgers.
CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right.

WITNESS: Sorry.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: You beat me to the draw.

You may step down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Gerald Rudolph.

Gerald Rudolph, please?

[Witness affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

GERALD RUDOLPH,

who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Is it possible to have that first slide put up, with the chart?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: If you'll give us just a minute.

[Brief pause]

WITNESS: If I understand what they said correctly, the yellow represents money that was taken and is being returned. It was taken inappropriately, and because of the normalization and these other monies that they're giving back, that they're now giving it back to you and calling it a reduction in your rate increase. I think it's
more appropriate to see this as it is; it's 4.88 percent all the way across. But instead of giving you a lump sum check, they're going to dole your money back to you little by little over the next two years. So, I think they're inappropriately characterizing this.

I think this whole thing, this whole scheme that they're -- SCE&G asked for more rates, the public -- their service commission grants their rates to it. It's all a mechanism for SCE&G getting more easy money. I think they spend money on lobbying, so that they can get more easy money from that, pay the lobbyists -- get -- but through that, SCE&G is able to select the people that they have on the Public Service Commission. I think the people that are there are not interested in the public's interest; they're interested in serving the people who have managed to put them there.

I think that as the public we should start calling for deregulation of the production of energy and so that we can have competition in the production of energy, so that we don't have to have this monopoly here that will continue to give them rates as they want them and provide more easy money for Timmerman and his company and the people on
this Commission. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you, Mr. Rudolph.

Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Just a minute.

MR. NELSON: No questions, Madam Chair.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: No questions?

Commissioners.

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I call Carman Daniels. Carman Daniels, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came, C A R M A N   D A N I E L S ,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Hi. Got the clock running. My name is Carman Daniels. I'm originally from Wilmington, Delaware. I met my husband in Branson, Missouri, who lived here in South Carolina, in 2007.

We have an agreement between us, and the electric bill is my bill; I have to pay that bill.
And when I came here in 2007, the electric bill was $89. Today, the electric bill is $286. During the winter the bill went up to like $400-and-something, and I -- there's nobody in our home but me and my husband.

I wash my clothes at night. I'm a student at the University of Phoenix. I do everything at night. And during the day -- and I keep the electric -- I changed the light bulbs like the other lady. I've done everything I could to energize it. I'm not understanding why. I'm not using more electricity, yet the bill is going up. I really need some understanding and help with that.

And listening to the others that I've listened to that spoke here tonight, the money that they're asking us for, basically they're asking us to give them money to pay for their -- their free -- the money that they -- their wages, basically. Their wages, their play time, all the other services they need in their company. They're asking us to pay that. So, if you're running a company and if you are getting the money from the public, the money that you get for -- that you gain from what you get from your employment, that's all your money and you
don't never have to use it. You just keep using money from people that don't have it, and elderly people who just -- they're based on a fixed income. They don't have the money.

When I paid this electric bill, there's a group -- there's like X amount of dollars in this pile, and I have to pay everything I have to pay out of that pile. If you increase that rate, I would have to take money from somewhere -- where am I going to get this money from, this other place, to fill in for the increase in that rate? So, that means I can't go to the beach, or I can't get a new car, or I can't do something that I desire to do because I have to take that money from there to do that. And it's money that I don't have. So, you're going to have to cut something in order to get something if they get this rate, and I am totally, totally against them receiving this increase. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you, Ms. Daniels.

Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: I don't have any questions. But, Ms. Daniels, if you could see Brad Kirby, one of
our Consumer Services Department reps -- Brad's
back there by the door -- he could take a look at
your bill.

WITNESS: Thank you. Yes.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners? Yes,
Commissioner Wright.

EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:

Q An address? I don't know that I caught your address.

A Yes, it's 7201 Hunt Club Road, Columbia, South Carolina.

It's 29223.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Any others?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. You may step
down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Helen L. Jett.

Helen L. Jett, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

HELEN L. JETT,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Good evening. I'm here because I'm
very concerned, because I'm on a fixed income, and
I'm speaking for myself. And I live in a one-family home; first home I've ever bought. I came to South Carolina from upstate New York, and I came here to start a new life for myself.

But, my point is, we come out, we vote, we support the politicians. And I don't see any politician, any representatives here tonight. But when it comes to election time, they're all up in your face, they want you to put the signs in front of your house, and you know, they're begging you for this and they're begging you for that.

But the point is, these are hard times, sirs, ma'am. You know, we need your help. You know, we just don't have it. People are crying, people are hurting. People are killing people, robbing people, because they can't afford to eat or to take care of their kids, you know. And I really wish you would really consider not giving SCE&G -- we should be able to have another electrical company to choose from, like other counties. We should not be just stuck with one electrical company, because see, when you give these people the opportunity to just dog people over and over and over again, they don't have a choice, then things get way out of control.
But, we need your help on this decision. Please vote in the people's favor this one time, and give us some consideration. I thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Let's see, are there any questions?

MR. BURGESS: No, ma'am, no questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. NELSON:

Q Ms. Jett, I didn't get your address.

A Oh, I'm sorry. I live at 804 Wickham Lane in Columbia, South Carolina. 29229 is my ZIP Code.

MR. NELSON: Thank you. No further questions, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down.

WITNESS: Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I call Vince Scotti. Vince Scotti, please?

[ Witness sworn]
THEREUPON came,

VINCE SCOTTI,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Vince Scotti. I live at 1015 Majestic Circle, Northeast Columbia, 29223.

I'm honored to be here, given how eloquent -- how eloquently so many other people have expressed what we all feel. This is the first time I've come to a session like this. It will be the last.

The problem we have -- everyone that sat here has been preaching to the choir. We all have the same feeling. I would be willing to bet no one came here to support the increase.

[Laughter]

Just a guess. We talked about rates. 1,000 kilowatt-hours for SCE&G is $118.79 today, which represents -- which is between 20 and 30 percent more than Duke, Progress, or Santee Cooper. Now, if they were providing electricity in another state -- and I made this comparison -- I could understand there might be variations that would allow that. These people are giving us -- giving South Carolina electricity at a considerably lower rate than SCE&G is. But, excellent points made. The problem is, who is really listening? I mean, I'm beginning to
feel like this was a large rhetorical discussion. The feeling I get from some of these people -- one of my favorite movies is *Frankenstein*. And at one part, of course, all the villagers come out with pitchforks and torches and everything, storm the castle, and they're going to take care of Frankenstein. I don't have to illustrate who Frankenstein is here. And I say I'm not coming to another one of these because, you know, they both have said any number of times that they have no questions. Well, the problem is we all have questions, and no one is required to give any sort of an answer.

So again, this is all just a large rhetorical discussion. And that's unfortunate. That's all I have.

**MR. BURGESS:** No questions for Mr. Scotti.

[Laughter]

**MR. NELSON:** I hesitate to say this, but no questions.

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Commissioners?

[No response]

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may step down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]
CHAIRMAN FLEMING: At this time we're going to take a ten-minute break, so we'll start back between 20 and 15 till.

[WHEREUPON, a recess was taken from 7:30 to 7:45 p.m.]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Please be seated. This hearing will now come to order. Mr. Butler, if you would call the next witness, please?

MR. BUTLER: Yes, Madam Chairman. The next witness is Mr. William Bevel. William Bevel, please?

[No response]

MR. BUTLER: Has anyone seen Mr. Bevel? Okay. What about Doris Berry?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

DORIS BERRY,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Doris Berry. I live at 51 Bear Creek Road, Little Mountain, South Carolina.

This is the first time I've ever had a complaint with the South Carolina Electric & Gas. For nearly 60 years I've had their electricity.

Now, I called them concerning my bills, and I was
told that they would help. I wasn't asking them to help me pay the bill; I was asking for some time. When I called them, they told me that I would be subject to a late charge, the unpaid balance. Now, that's not helping. That's not helping a person.

First of all, I'm on a fixed income. I'm the only person using this electricity. My house is heavily insulated in the roof; the windows are also insulated. My house has hardwood flooring in it, with an undercover underneath that hardwood flooring. It is well insulated. All right, I'm going to give you some numbers from the first of the year. January, my bill was $238.45. February, it was $330.48. For March, after I called them and talked to them and gave them a good discussion, it went down to $273 in March. April is $249.17.

Now, I'm against any raises that South Carolina Electric & Gas would have. I'm against it. And I live about ten miles, maybe a little bit more, from the reactor there in Little Mountain now. That's in Jenkinsville. And every time that alarm goes off, you get scared, because you don't know what's happening. Okay? I live there. I've lived there 25 years. Now, I've had South Carolina Electric & Gas since I was in my early twenties.
I've had South Carolina Electric & Gas that long, since I was in my early twenties. This is my first complaint.

Now, I can't continue taking and paying these bills. And if you people keep giving these raises, we're not going to be able to make it. Now, I've cut back, because like I said, I'm on a fixed income. A lot of these people that's been up here have been on a fixed income. I can't continue paying these bills. I'm not going to eat. And I don't know whether any of you care at all. I don't know.

But, this is all I have to say at this time. I'm the only person that lives in this house, and I have been there 25 years, and I've seen -- they put a new meter in my house, on my house. I asked them not to do it, because I felt that was going to be bad news, and it has been.

[Indiscernible vocalizations from audience]

It's been bad news. So since they put the new meter on that house at their -- they wanted to do it. I did not want them to do it. I asked them not to. They went and took my old meter off and put in a new digital. So now I have these big
bills that I cannot pay. I'm asking you as
Commissioners not to give them a raise. I'm
against it. 60 years is a long time with no
complaints. Thank you.

MR. BUTLER: Ms. Berry, could you hold on just
a second?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Berry, let's see if
there are any questions.

WITNESS: Okay.

MR. BURGESS: We have no questions for Ms.
Berry.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: I don't have any questions of Ms.
Berry. If you could see Brad Kirby, who is with
our Consumer Affairs Office, I would appreciate it.

WITNESS: Oh, okay.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Berry?

WITNESS: Who are you with? I don't want to
talk to just anybody.

MR. NELSON: The Office of Regulatory Staff.

WITNESS: Who?

MR. NELSON: The Office of Regulatory Staff.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Berry?

WITNESS: Yeah, I'll talk to him.

WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: If you could just wait and let's see if the Commissioners have any questions.

WITNESS: All right.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Are there any questions?

[No response]

EXAMINATION

BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:

Q  Well, I do have one. Ms. Berry?
A  All right.

Q  You gave us your bills starting in January.
A  Uh-huh.

Q  What did it run before the new meter was put in?
A  A lot less. When the old meter was in, it was a lot less. Now, I realize we had a very cold winter. I realize that. And I took that in consideration for the first two months, but when I got that $330 -- I can't keep that up.

Q  So, your bill did go up considerably --
A  Considerably.

Q  -- with the new meter?
A  Yeah, you figure these bills up, you've got over $1,000 in just a few months. I don't have that kind of money.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. Thank you.

WITNESS: Thank you.
[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'll call Lorena Hildebrand.

Lorena Hildebrand, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

LORENA HILDEBRAND,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Hello, Public Service Commission members and members of the public. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Lorena Hildebrand. My address is 100 Riverbend Drive, West Columbia, South Carolina 29169.

I'm a rising senior at Winthrop University and as a resident in this area, I'm also an SCE&G customer. I'm here to address the proposed rate hikes by SCE&G in the context of SCE&G's overall energy plans for South Carolina. I would also like to submit my written comments for the record.

In February 2010, the Public Service Commission approved SCE&G's plan to build two new nuclear reactor plants at VC Summer Station. This approval was granted on a demonstrated public need and necessity on the assumption that, one, there was an increased need for the base-load capacity because energy efficiency, renewables, and other
alternatives were considered inefficient and/or too costly. Two, SCE&G could meet the overnight cost of $9.8 billion for the two plants. This assumes that everything in the contract can be delivered in 24 hours without inflation, construction costs, or interest. That SCE&G could be allowed to assess their customers a construction-work-in-progress rate hike of 37 percent over 11 years. This would amount to an increase for the average customer of nearly $40 a month by 2020, or $470 per year. This increase has been marketed as interest savings to the ratepayer on the $1.2 billion construction cost, but it is an unsecured expense, exclusive of any other charges, and it will occur whether the reactors are completed or not. And finally, SCE&G's current capacity of 5,745 megawatts is insufficient to support demand projects forecast in 2008. These are the four assumptions.

But clearly, as the other members of the public have demonstrated, a lot has happened since 2008. Namely, a devastating recession that has wiped out trillions of dollars in taxpayer assets and has also hurt my family, personally. Today, several million homeowners are in foreclosure and some 10 million without jobs. South Carolina has
among the highest unemployment rates in the country.

Reflecting this steep downturn in the economy, SCE&G has developed three projection scenarios. The final one is titled a low-load scenario. It shows a complete loss of the projected electricity market, approximately 1,200 megawatts. This is a striking number. It's the entire share of SCE&G's ownership of two reactors. It is the same number of megawatts that were used by SCE&G to make its case for a public need and necessity to build two plants.

We do not know what the future economy holds, but dozens of leading economists are projecting a slow and painful recovery from the current recession. Even if they're not, shouldn't SCE&G have to explain what contingency plans it has in place if demand remains stagnant and negates the need for even one of these two plants?

How does 1,200 megawatts of surplus capacity meet the public need and necessity standard used to justify the plants? Who will buy these 1,200 megawatts of surplus electricity? And at what price? Who will bear the cost of these unneeded reactors? The ratepayers? And at what cost?
If these plants are not built, what happens to the $1.2 billion that SCE&G is charging ratepayers upfront to build the plants? At this point, no one in the public knows. Don't we have a right to know?

VOICE: That's right.

WITNESS: Thank you.

MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chair.

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Just a minute, please.

Commissioners, are there any questions?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You wanted to enter your written information into the evidence of the case?

WITNESS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. That will be entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 20. And if you'll just give that to Ms. Wheat. If you need a copy, we -- all right. Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 20 was marked and received in evidence.]

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: Madam Chairman, I'll call Mary
Gillard. Mary Gillard, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

MARY GILLARD,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: I may have to sit and stand. I've had back surgery.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay, whatever is most comfortable for you.

WITNESS: My name is Mary Gillard. My address is 1104 Bentley Court, Columbia, 29210.

I'm here also to talk in not allowing SCE&G to have this rate increase. We speak about the Bible, okay? Not one time did we open up in prayer as one nation under God. Are we one nation under God? In God we trust; we have that on the money. Are we using his money -- his money; 100 percent is his. You know, even though he gives you 80 percent, but all of it belongs to him to do a good deed; not to do, you know, your own personal gain.

You know, so we have to look at ourselves in the mirror and ask ourselves, have we helped somebody with the increase that we have gotten? Do I need all this money? Do I need ten cars? You know, so, I mean, let us be our brothers' keepers
if that's -- you know, if we are Christians. Let us learn to live together and smile and love one another. You know, so, I mean, that was one of the things that, you know, I hear a lot of people talking about, based on how much money the CEO is getting and all of that. But, we have to be accountable, held accountable, and not for each other but for those of us who are hoping to make it to a higher place, when we go, we have to be accountable to that person, whoever your God is.

And also, I'm on disability, and I'm only 47 years old. And that's not a choice that I want to be on disability. I had an accident. I was with the nursing, and lifting the patients over a period of time caused my back to go out. And I've been dealing with back pain for ten years because I refused to have the surgery. It had gotten so bad that the nerves were -- the bone was on the nerve, so I had to have surgery. Okay, that was last year in November. I'm in worse shape now, after surgery, than before. I had some things that happened. So now, medicines; I need catheters. I have to catheter about six or seven times a day. You know, so all this costs money, and if SCE&G gets this raise, how are we disability -- the
people that are on disability and those that are handicapped, SSI and SSID, how we going to get that money? And also, we weren't given a raise this year.

VOICE: That's right.

WITNESS: We were not eligible because they say that the rate did not increase; therefore, we didn't get a raise. So, it's like a balanced scale. I mean, if you've got 100 over here and you've got ten over here, we need to, like I said, go right back to the beginning, be our brothers' keepers. Do a good deed for somebody, you know? You'd be amazed; the more you give, the more you get. Not the more you get, the more you keep. You know.

[Laughter]

You know, so hey, you will have to answer. And as far as the stimulus, why give us something that you're going to take back from us? That's not -- that's not helping nobody. And the reactor? The people in Crane Creek had just -- I think a couple of years ago -- had just turned down the option of having a reactor over there. And they said they have researched it and over a couple of years it's going to drain into your water, you...
know, an accident is going to happen.

VOICE: That's right. Yeah.

WITNESS: Okay. You remember what happened to the oil well? So, you know, when it comes to certain things like that, South Carolina not ready for that. You know, so we really need to not have that reactor.

And, let's see. And we do need a choice. Lexington County, they have choices. SCE&G is the only choice that I have made ever since, wow, ever since I've become -- ever since I became grown and on my own. So, we do need a choice. And we are the people; if we say no, then we need to hit you in the pocketbook where it hurts.

VOICE: That's right.

WITNESS: You know, so, let's just pull together and be one, and love everybody. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]
CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Wiley Cooper.

Wiley Cooper, please?

[Witness affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

WILEY COOPER,

who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Wiley Cooper. I'm a United Methodist pastor, retired. 5314 Colonial Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29203.

I'm trying to get some things around my head, and it just doesn't seem to work. The power company with the highest rates in the State, between 25 and 30 percent higher than even the other major investor-owned power company; the power company that refuses to be assertive in giving incentives for energy conservation that are realistic -- try to get Rate 6. I dare you. Try to get Rate 6 -- the power company that, when a church pays the bill of a needy person, still charges the penalty to the church, when they would've gotten nothing otherwise; the power company that has built itself a mansion that makes Village at Sandhills look pretty shabby; that power
company tells you, "We can't make it without a raise." And before this hearing began, we heard, quote, "The major people, the principals, have already come to an agreement." I hope that the Public Service Commission has not already made your decision in relation to that agreement.

It's telling to me that the questions have been none for SCE&G, none from the representatives of the public, and maybe three from Commissioners. When people are interested in knowing, they ask questions. These folks have sat and heard people impugn their integrity, challenge their numbers, raise heartrending personal instances, without one question. That doesn't parse. Please, think. This rate increase needs to be rejected. Thank you, very much.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Cooper, if you would just wait and see if there any questions of you.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

MR. NELSON: I can't think of anything to ask, Reverend Cooper. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Reverend Cooper, I'm sorry. Commissioners?

[No response]
BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:  

Q  I wanted to -- if you would -- I wanted to ask you to elaborate on the energy conservation that you said was very difficult to --

A  Compare the initiatives of the publicly owned power companies and what they provide in incentives and helps for people to make their homes more energy efficient, the fact that the publicly owned power companies went to the Legislature and had just gotten a bill through that says if I need to insulate my house, they'll take care of that and we'll pay off the loan this way: a third of it goes to me paying off the -- for doing it, and two-thirds of the savings goes to the power company until it's paid off. SCE&G hasn't even asked.

Look at Rate 6. I have reduced -- I have spent close to $20,000 reducing my rate -- my power usage, and I still can't make 6 because the CEER rating on my air conditioning is not high enough, despite the fact that on a 2,800-square-foot house I'm spending no more this year, including the bad months, of $300 a month. I can't meet Rate 6. Rate 6 is a sham.

Look at the difference between Duke Power and what it provides and what it works for, the testimony of the head of Duke Power, state and federal, and SCE&G. It
will either make you laugh or cry. I hope it will make you cry.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. You may step down.

WITNESS: Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Jan Gilligan.

Jan Gilligan, please?

[Witness affirmed]

THEREUPON came, 

J A N   G I L L I G A N ,

who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Well, I must say, this is my second time here. First time I found out it was a different process. And I guess this is -- I guess you can hear me. Can you hear me?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Uh-huh.

WITNESS: It's been a learning process for sure, listening to a lot of other people here. I was saying that we probably need a larger facility here and invite more people to hear more voices, and I think the transparency is very important here.

About these Commissioners, I'm hearing things about these Commissioners. I'm hearing things about our SCE&G. I was raised in these parts, as
the saying goes, and I never knew SCE&G had this
many enemies. I'm learning, though. SC, look out.
This might be for good reason. It sounds like our
Legislature is the one that is doing us a dirty
deed, because if -- like I'm talking to these
gentlemen, and we haven't got a monopoly here, but
yet you've got an awful lot of people here tonight
that's saying this is a monopoly, okay? So -- and
it's okay, because the Legislature of South
Carolina said it's okay. Well, if we're having
this much difficulty with people not wanting these
nuclear plants, okay -- if I counted correctly,
there are five. Now most people in this country
know South Carolina is not the biggest state in
this nation, so, you know, five nuclear plants is a
little too many. That's what I'm counting. And
when you look at these rates and the reason for the
rates, and you say hey, you know, we've got other
avenues, you know, here, of biomass, wind -- we
have wonderful wind down there on our beaches,
thank God. And what's the other one? We've got
biomass, we've got -- gosh, there's another one.

VOICE: Solar.

WITNESS: Solar, there you go. Solar. All
right, so there's other areas, and SCE&G can get
their digs into this. But, especially to save us money. We need to save. You've heard the stories of these people, and we need to save money.

Now, not to run out of time here. I was here the last time about senior discount rates. Now, let me tell you, the answers I got on this was a little absurd: that it's discrimination if seniors, and we're talking about elderly, or 65 and up. It's not quite elderly, but most people are on limited income at 65 and up. And most of us don't have a full-time job -- and you won't either, probably, even if times change. But, that being the case, you've got to factor this in, SCE&G, that these people -- it's not discrimination, for heaven's sake. You've got theaters that give you discounts, you've got grocery stores that give you discounts, you have -- what else? I mean, give me a break. There's a lot of discounts, you know, for senior citizens, and they're deserved. We worked for years to get those discounts.

And so think about it. And I was here the wrong time last time. This time it's about rates. I'm here the right time this time, and I'll leave you with a comedy here -- and it won't put you in tears, but it's very true. We all know about
Dagwood, and he's talking to his power company and he says, "My power bill is outrageous, and I refuse to pay it." So, the person on the phone says, "You refuse to pay it?" "Yes, I do." That's Dagwood. Everything goes dark, completely black.

[Laughter]

There's no lights, there's no appliances, there's no nothing. What does Dagwood say? "Okay, I'll bring it in this afternoon."

So, think about the people that's on limited income. Think about the people that's losing their jobs. Think -- we've heard it over and over again, we've got to do something. And if you've got to go to the Legislature to get it done, go to the Legislature. Thank you.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

WITNESS: Oh, I've got one second. I forgot to say, these people that are asking questions -- I'm making a request to the Commission that each one of those questions be answered. You've got their addresses. You've got their names. I didn't ask a question except about the rate, and I did
not, the last time I was here, get an answer
either. I had to call all kind of people to get my
answers, and I got "discrimination." Wow. But
anyway, every one of these people that came here
tonight deserve a response, and you should send it
to them in writing, whatever they questioned when
they came here tonight. Thank you.

[Applause]

EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:

Q  Ms. Gilligan. Ms. Gilligan? I don't know that we got
your address.

A  Oh. It's 302 Willow Winds -- that's two words -- Willow
Winds Drive, Columbia 29210.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'd like to call Erick -- and I
guess this is Sliest, or Sleist. S-l-i-e-s-t.
Would you come forward, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

E R I C K   S K I E S T ,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Erick Skiest. I live at
23 Northgrove Court, Columbia, South Carolina
And I really wasn't expecting to speak tonight, but I am a single parent and my rates keep going up and up, and it's hard. I'm actually in the solar industry, and I should be all for a rate increase because that would just help our industry. The higher the rates go, the more people want to use alternative energy and clean energy. But, being in the solar industry, I see the people -- so many people that are in straits, they don't have the money to pay their bills. The older people, the people retired realizing there's two major bills that they can't control: that's their medical bills and their utility bills. And then there's the young people, I see young couples out there, young people buy houses or in their apartments, and they can't afford to pay their bills now, and we're just talking about increased rates, increased rates, increased rates.

I don't hear much about renewable energy -- enough. I moved down from Massachusetts five years ago for the abundant sunshine, the warmth of South Carolina, and it surprises me South Carolina has so little to do with any type of renewable energy. It's starting to come on now, but -- instead of
SCE&G building their new behemoth buildings and their lavish benefits they have for all their employees and wanting to spend millions and millions on the buildings and billions and billions on reactors, they could be spending or investing in the future of solar power, wind power, and they wouldn't need as big of an investment upfront. They could pay for it as they go and add on as they go.

So, I'm dead set against the rate increases, even though it could help me personally, for the good of everybody. I mean, in this economy, there's no quick answer, there's no quick solution. It's not going to be turned around tomorrow, next month, or probably not even next year. So, I'm dead set against the rate increase. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: Eric B. Hopkins. Eric B. Hopkins, please?
MS. HOPKINS: Ernette.

MR. BUTLER: Oh, Ernette. Okay, sorry about that.

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

ERNETTE B. HOPKINS,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Good evening. My name is Ernette Hopkins, and I live at 195 Brook Pines Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

Most of everything I wanted to say has been said. But, first I just want to make a comment. I am so proud of everyone that has come out this evening and how they articulated everything that they had to say and how they did their homework and how they weren't afraid to come out. Now, what disappoints me is this format. People are here for answers. They're here for -- yes, answers. And they're not given the opportunity to get these answers. This system blows me away. I've been in nonprofit organizing for 15 years. I've never been to a forum like this where people come out with legitimate concerns, and they get no answers.

Can I ask everyone who is with SCE&G to stand up? There's more of you in here now than there are
of us here. Someone should be able to stand up and give some answers, for goodness' sake. It makes no sense. It -- I just don't understand it.

But, the main reason I came here is for the same reason everyone else is here for. I live in a one-bedroom apartment. The utility bills generally run about -- the electric bill generally runs about $50-some-odd a month. Somewhere in 2009, the -- no, no. This past winter, I'm sorry -- yeah, 2009, the bills jumped up to almost $160. I was gone for a week, a complete week. I unplugged everything. Everything but the refrigerator. I mean, the TV, the microwave, my electric toothbrush, everything. The bill did not change one penny. It makes no sense.

I can't understand how you justify this. Also, I wanted to ask -- because I'm from Cleveland, Ohio, in case you couldn't -- well, you probably could pick up the accent, but -- back when Bush first got into office -- and I'm not saying he's the reason; it could be just coincidence. When he first got into -- shortly after he first got into office, my gas bill used to be like $89 in the winter. All of a sudden that doubled. And when we had a community meeting -- where they did
answer questions, by the way -- they told us that it was a transportation fee. I want to know, is that what you're charging us and you're just not saying it? Because another thing, your bill is not itemized. How do you have a bill and it's not itemized? That's -- there's just so many things I don't understand.

But, the last thing I just want to say is, if we all organize ourselves, we can get them to give us answers. This is crazy. Look at the people who are in here, look at the questions that you've asked, look at the homework that you've done. We need to organize ourselves and get our -- you don't see any politicians in here, so you know they're not going to get the answers for us. We have to get the answers for ourselves.

That's all I have to say. Any questions? No.

[Applause; laughter]

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

MR. NELSON: Do you have copies of those bills for like --

WITNESS: I can get them. I don't have them now. I just have one -- I have the current bill, which I'm not behind, you know, by the grace of God. But, I'm one of the few fortunate, I guess.
MR. NELSON: Would you do me a favor and see Brad Kirby who is with our Consumer Services Office, in the back of the room, and let us take a look at your bills for you, please?

WITNESS: Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Would you like to enter that into the evidence of the case?

WITNESS: It's just scribble-scrabble.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: No, the bill --

WITNESS: My bill?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: -- that they were asking about.

WITNESS: I don't have them on me. I'd have to -- like I told him, they're at home. I have my current bill, but it's current.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Well, I mean, if you wanted to, you could send them to Ms. Wheat and --

WITNESS: Okay. Give me her contact information.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: -- that would be entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 21. I take it that the Commissioners have no questions.

[No response]

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]
MR. BUTLER: I'll call Patrick, and I'll just have to spell this last name; N-h-i-g-u-l-a. Anybody here by that name?

[No response]

MR. BUTLER: Okay. In that case, how about Percy Courts? Percy Courts?

[Witness affirmed]

THEREUPON came, P E R C Y   C O U R T S, who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Percy Courts. I live at 111 Millhouse Court, Columbia, South Carolina. I'd like to say I am totally against giving an increase to SCE&G. We are in the midst of a recession. People do not have the money now. We have high unemployment. People are unable to pay their bills. During this past winter we had bills in the amount of $400, $500. Some people had to take out loans to pay for those bills. If SCE&G wants to build or if they want to build a nuclear plant, take out a loan.

[Laughter]

Pay for it yourself. What do you do with the money that you get from your ratepayers? I'm serious, what do you do with the money? Do you
reinvest it into the company? You say that you need to upgrade your equipment. Isn't that part of reinvesting into your company?

In 1994, my family and I went on vacation. We were gone for about 13 days. On return, we received our electric bill and it was as if we had been there 30 days at the house, paying for the neighborhood. There was no decrease in the amount of the bill. I asked my neighbor what his bill was. It was about the same as the bill that I got. I went to SCE&G to complain. I told them what we had done; unplugging appliances, just leaving on the necessities that had to be on. Like you can't unplug an air conditioner. But, they asked me if I turned off the circuit breaker. This is totally ridiculous. You're telling me that if I'm not using my appliances that if I don't turn off the circuit breaker, I'm still using the same amount of energy? That was their answer, "Did you turn off your circuit breaker?" I said, no, and there was no recourse for me, there was no reduction in the bill, no nothing. That's all I have. This was 1994, so I do not have a copy of that bill.

[Laughter]

MR. BURGESS: No questions.
MR. NELSON: It's 16 years ago, so we probably can't look at that bill. But on your way out if you would see someone from our Consumer Services Office just to get some information from us, so if you have a problem like that in the future with your bill, you can call our Consumer Services and talk to somebody.

WITNESS: All right.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: I have a question.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes.

EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:

Q Yes, sir. You mentioned that you had $300 and $400 bills. Was that abnormal from what your normal billing -- I believe you stated that you had $300 or $400 recently. Would that be out of normal from your other bills or was that about normal?

A Those were abnormal bills for December and January, yes.

Q What had your bill been averaging?

A Those months would be about like between $250 and sometimes maybe $300.

Q Could you get those bills together for us? Would you have a copy of those at home and maybe you could get them to Ms. Wheat, if you would like for someone to look
Okay, sure.

COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes, just a minute please.

Commissioner Whitfield?

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD: Commissioner Mitchell asked the same question I was going to ask.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Oh, okay. All right. You may step down. That will be entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 22.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'll call Barbara Locklear.

Barbara Locklear, please?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came,

B A R B A R A   L O C K L E A R,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Hello. My name is Barbara Locklear. I live at 617 Lyndale Drive in West Columbia, and the ZIP is 29170.

All right. First of all, I want to thank you for letting us have this forum and this chance to disagree with the increase that SCE&G has proposed. My problem is that I am against any increase that is given to SCE&G. I have been late with my bill,
but I've been able to catch it up. In the December months and the January months, we've had a cold winter and my bill was running $200 a month.

I am one person living in my house. I had -- in the summer, I have my house at 78 degrees; in the winter, I have it at 64 degrees. I do maybe three loads of laundry a week, because I'm by myself. And I don't cook much. I like to eat out, because at the end of the day, teaching school, I am tired. I will not get a raise this year for my next school year, but thank goodness I still have a job.

But, my complaint is that SCE&G thinks that their bill is the only bill that I have to pay, and it's way too expensive for me. This past summer I was paying $56. When it got a little bit hotter, it was in the $80s. And in the fall, it was still in the $80s. The three months of the winter that it was so cold, it was $200, running right just below $200 a month, and that was for December, January, and February. And for some reason with the accounting that SCE&G uses, this bill that I got this month for April was $73, and I have not seen a $73 bill since the summer of the year or the spring of the year. And I thought that was
strange, why from $193 it falls down to $73. I don't know if they've already given us some money back from the money that they took from us in those rebates that were mentioned on the PowerPoint, but it was a strange thing to me, that now that I have my nephew living with me -- because he can't afford to have a place of his own, because he works a job that is minimum wage -- it was $73, when I thought it should have been a lot more since there are two of us at the house now. So, I didn't understand the accounting that was done with the bill that we had. I think they did some refiguring by kilowatt-hour or whatever it was. I didn't understand that because I don't know anything about energy.

I did my homework, and this past weekend I listened to one of the engineers from SCE&G, and he was explaining that the cost for coal that South Carolina has to import to run its facilities to generate energy is a billion dollars, $1 billion. And I think with that $1 billion that they could do a much better job and invest in much more efficient and cleaner and environmentally friendly energy sources, because the $1 billion -- and burning coal, that is 19th century.

[Laughter]
And our school -- it's 19th century, yes. We need to invest in -- we have beautiful blue skies all year long. We should invest in solar energy. That's much more efficient, much more environmentally friendly. I don't know why we don't do it. They said -- the professor -- the engineer said, "Oh, it's too much investment. It's too much money." Well, I think $1 billion a year that we have to buy coal with, to get the energy that we need to run our computers, to run our ovens and all that, is way too much. And I want to SCE&G to become energy efficient with reusable sources of energy, and that's what I want from SCE&G.

I'm tired of the -- of the power outages. When I come home from work -- and this year has been extreme. I've had four or five times that my -- let's see -- my microwave has said that there was a power failure. And that has never happened with SCE&G. It may be that they have construction going on in my neighborhood in West Columbia, right close to the airport, or something, but so many times this past year I've had power failure, power failure, power failure. The power has come off.

And I would like for them to address that and figure out why there's a constant power failure,
because in the past years -- and I've been living in my childhood home for 47 years, almost, and it's never been where we've had one year where the power outage has been so often and so recurrent.

And so -- but, we need to be 21st-century and that's what the Governor says, and that's what the superintendent of my school district, Lexington 1, says; we are building or making our school's students 21st-century global citizens, and that's what I want from SCE&G. I don't want coal burning in this day and time, in the 21st century. And so I would like them to reconsider that because $1 billion, you can do a lot with $1 billion. And the engineer said that was way too much money for us to invest, or for SCE&G to invest in renewable sources of energy, wind energy, solar energy, and I think $1 billion can go a far way to invest in renewable energies.

SCE&G needs to stop being corporate greedy and stop asking us for pay raises, and we shouldn't have to pay for a power reactor when it's not even up. That's not our business; that's why they have investors, to put money into their operation, and that's where I think the nuclear plants that they are wanting to be built should be coming from, from
the investors. When they get them up then I would
be glad to pay for the energy that I get from them.
But that's just operation business and it should
come from the investors. That's my -- that's all I
have to say. Thank you for listening.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Are there any
questions?.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

MR. NELSON: I don't have any questions, but,
Ms. Locklear, if you have copies of those bills --

WITNESS: I'm not complaining -- I mean, I
thought it was extremely high, but when I hear
everyone else's bills -- I have a 1,500-square-foot
house, and I freeze in the wintertime, but I have
my sweats that I wear, so I'm not complaining. It
went to $74, I don't know why. Magically it just
dropped to $74.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. NELSON:

Q Did you say there was some kind of recalculation?

A Yes, there was. I read that in it, but I -- you know, I
don't know anything about energy, and there was a
recalculation, and I think that's why they said some of
that came down. And of course, the weather was a lot
more pleasant in April, also.
Q If you do want to ask somebody about those, if you could get those bills at some time, again, if you could check with our Consumer Services people, April Sharpe and Brad Kirby, in the back--
A Kirby, right.
Q -- they'll give you some contact information.
A That's fine. I've been late paying for my bill those three months that it was so cold and it was $200, but I was having to try to scrounge, figuring out where I'm going to get the money to pay SCE&G, because they are not my only bill that I have to pay. And that's what they need to realize. Everyone in here has many more bills than just SCE&G, and that's what I want them to reconsider, and I don't think they need a raise. I know they're very wonderful in the community. They're very engaged in the community and give a lot to the community, but maybe they can find some other money some other way and keep us from having to pay in these hard times, because I'm not getting a raise this year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?
[No response]
CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down.

WITNESS: Thank you.
[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: Elaine Cooper? Calling Elaine Cooper.

[WHEREUPON, Ms. Cooper came forward]

MR. BUTLER: Ms. Cooper, did you testify in Aiken?

MS. COOPER: Yes I did. Graniteville.

MR. BUTLER: Okay. Well, I'm sorry. We can't hear from you again.

MS. COOPER: The public cannot speak twice?

MR. BUTLER: No, ma'am.

MS. COOPER: Really?

MR. BUTLER: No, ma'am. I'm sorry. No, ma'am, we heard from you in Aiken.

MS. COOPER: Okay. That's interesting. I just want you to know that, okay?

MR. BUTLER: Okay. I'm sorry. We'll call Marlena Schooler. Marlena Schooler, please?

[No response]

MR. BUTLER: Okay. Marc Sanders, please?

Marc Sanders?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came, M A R C S A N D E R S ,

who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
WITNESS: My name is Marc Sanders, 1786 Charles Avenue, Elgin, South Carolina 29045.

And I am going to go ahead and say up front, I am against this rate increase. I don't see the purpose in it. I'm thinking about some of those that are disabled, elderly. And the Bible says, the poor you'll have with you always. I'm also in the ministry. And so, we need to take care of our poor, the disabled, and we can't do this by keep going up on fixed incomes, so I'm against it.

I was originally with Fairfield Electric Co-op, loved them. But when I moved, I moved to off of Highway 12, and on one side of the road is Fairfield and on the other side SCE&G. So I ended up getting on the wrong side of the road.

[Laughter]

And it doesn't make any sense to me because Elgin is Fairfield, and the other side, which is -- or Elgin is SCE&G, and SCE&G is on my side, but on the Fort Jackson side is Fairfield. I was thinking maybe I could just pull power from across the street and get it to work, because I love them. You can get money back with them. My dad's been with them for many years.

I also experienced, when the new meter come
in, about a $75-a-month rate increase. I also, being self-employed, being in construction -- everybody knows construction has been down, so I'm not working. Or even when we go to work, I go take the thermostat, I cut it way down. I know they said they did it. Well, I've tried it the other way by leaving it where the climate would be normal, but that didn't work, so I did go and change it. And when I was home, I would go around in the wintertime with a whole bunch of clothes on, and I have a fireplace in my house, and still didn't see no change. In the summer, we keep it about 76 and run the ceiling fans, and still haven't seen any change.

So, I haven't seen the ways I've tried help. I did see on the back of one of my invoices, it says, "If you need help paying your bill, contact SCE&G," and there's a certain number. I called that number, and they gave me a number for another organization that may help me. And so it didn't do what it was supposed to do, and they offer someone else that can help you.

And I don't understand either -- I'm being self-employed in drywall work, also in the ministry of a smaller church. If I want to make more money,
I do the whole job. And I see out there these tree-service people that are subcontracted out to do the work, but yet I can go watch three people watch one man up there changing a transformer or just putting the breaker back in. The other two, instead of watching him, could be cutting the limbs while the one is making sure the guy is safe, and that could be saving some money for us consumers also. So, I see that.

I'm freezing in the wintertime, I'm burning up in the summer, trying to do everything -- but it's my house. My house is my mansion. I shouldn't have to -- have to want to freeze in the wintertime and burn up just to pay a utility. It shouldn't be something that I have to be doing that way. I ought to be comfortable. I come home, I ought to be able to sit in my recliner and enjoy my day off, because I've been out in the sun all day or in the winter all day with the heater on in a job. I shouldn't have to do these things. So I am still very much against this.

Back in August of last year, word came out SCE&G was having a rate increase. I called the Public Commission. I talked to them; they told me what I needed. I sent in a reply that I want to
protest it, and the Public Commission sent me back -- I don't have it with me, but I've got the letter from their lawyer saying I am premature in my wanting to go against the rate increase. Well, in November, y'all got a rate increase. And then a week later it said, SCE&G -- Public Commission has approved a rate increase for all gas customers. Go look, it's been on the WIS website. They've now taken it down because it's been a few months. But I was premature, but yet the rate increase happened, and now we're soon to be getting another one.

Well, you know, Jesus talked in parables. Since I can't ask a question, so I might talk in a parable. Being self-employed, that if I want to make more money, and when construction was going good, I would have to hire another crew, I would have to buy the tools and go do the work. Now, if I went up to my building contractor and said, "Here is my bill for my new benches, my new tools, my new everything," he would laugh me to death, but that's what was happening to us. They are supposed to maintain their own equipment, their own instruments, keep them up, but yet they're saying, "Hey, we had a rate increase. Can you pay for that
bill?" Or, "We've got to do some other stuff, we've got to increase it." And that's what they're doing.

One more thing. Being in construction, I see the new work that has went on. That's your new income. The new consumers moving in, that's where -- and when the economy is going good, guess what I learned to do? It's called a savings. I put my money up, I kept it, and I made it through these rainy days. It's called a savings. They should have took that money and invested it. Just so if you don't know, and I just found out today, I had them down as having 642,000 electric customers, 309,000 -- 307,00 gas customers. Y'all, let's just say your bill is only a $100 month. That is -- there are 6,500 now; that is $65 million a month just off the electric customers. Where is that money going? Where is that money going?

We shouldn't have to do that. We shouldn't have to pay for these things. They should be taken care of. But right here on this piece of paper I've got, SCANA Corporation, a Fortune 500 Company. Proud of that.

[Laughter]

It shouldn't be that way. I've checked into
wind power, I've checked into creek power -- I've
got a creek behind my house. I've checked into
solar power; solar power is $60,000. I don't hate
SCE&G, the people, but I hate the company. I hate
the company. They have disappointed me. I want to
be with Fairfield Electric so bad, but I've got a
nice piece of property I like, and I guess I'm just
going to have to put up with them, but I'm not
going to put up with the bill. When I get $60,000,
y'all are paying me to use my electricity.

[Laughter]

That's what they're going to do. When I get
it, that's what I'm going to do.

But, I want to say this to our Public
Commission. Y'all said I was premature. Well, if
y'all allow this to go through, then I'm going to
say with everything you've heard, y'all have
already made up your mind before you ever came in
this room.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Burgess?

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

MR. NELSON: I don't have any questions.

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners? Yes,

Commissioner Whitfield.
EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:

Q  Mr. Sanders, could you share with us what your bill, monthly bill, is or was?

A  Well, before the new meter come in, it would roughly be about $200 to $250. Since then, it's anywhere from $350, and when in the cold months when I was running the fireplace, not working, cut the heat off, it was $495 for two months. I was in shock. And that's when I called for help, and the number they gave me put me through to some other company to help. They just passed the buck on to someone else. And we don't need to pass the buck today on to someone else.

[Applause]

COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD: I don't have anything further, Madam. You may want to enter those into the record or something, but I don't have anything further, Madam Chairman.

WITNESS: All I've got is what's in my mind, what the Lord gave me.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: So, you don't want to enter them?

WITNESS: Whatever you -- I'll come up with it, write it down if y'all got to record it, whatever you need. I've got my bills. Whatever
you want, I'll bring it.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Well, you can bring the
bills to Ms. Wheat, and we can enter them into the
evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 23.

WITNESS: And y'all have in your documents
where I did send in to protest the last one, so
y'all already have it on record that y'all declined
me, saying I was premature.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: And did you send it -- do
you know the address to where you sent that letter?

WITNESS: Oh, yes, ma'am, because I talked to
one of the ladies up here, and I got it all wrote
down at the house and sent it up here, and then
your all's lawyer sent it back saying it wasn't
happening, and then in November we all got a rate
increase.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: I'm just wondering if it
was sent -- if you have that letter, I'd like it.

WITNESS: I've got it filed away. Matter of
fact, I can produce my electric bills from 1994.

[Laughter]

WITNESS: I'm self-employed. I've got to keep
all my records. I can show the rate increase for
years.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. If you could
just -- we'll add that letter with your bills. If you could get in touch with Ms. Wheat to give us a copy of that?

WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: And the envelope, if you have it.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: Okay, we call Juanita Smith, please. Juanita Smith? All right. Is she here? Yeah, here she comes.

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came, J U A N I T A   S M I T H , who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: I was trying to go home. I was trying to leave.

[Laughter]

Well, I don't really have a whole lot to say, and I'm not much of a speaker. But, I just have four acronyms that I just want to say. And it's DDCD, if you want to write that down. It's DDCD, and that means: the first D, we Don't need it. The second D, we Don't want it. C, we Can't afford it. We just can't afford it. The last D, Don't do it. Don't do it. And that's all I have to say.
CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Ms. Smith, if you'll wait just a minute.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. NELSON:

Q Ms. Smith, could you tell us your address, please?

A 330 Gaston Fort Drive, Gaston.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'll call Najee Karim, please.

K-a-r-i-m.

[Witness affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

N A J E E K A R I M ,

who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Najee Karim. I live at 1320 Winter Wood Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29203. First of all I'm going to say, I don't think they need the rate hike, and the reason being -- I'm telling you this because last year my utility -- I don't usually question the utilities, but last
year it got outrageous. So, when the month of December came, I decided I'm going to go out and write down the days, the months, the days and check how much the meter jump up.

So, I goes outside with my pencil and paper and say, "Well, I'm going to get Jessie James this time." So, I goes out, write down the number, the meter don't change. 444. I sat there for a whole hour; 444. So, I got tired, went back in the house, come back out again. 444. So there's no way you could check to see what's going on. So I was real puzzled. My electricity jumped from like $200 to $500 in one month. I said, "Golly," and I was cutting off the hot water heater, turning off all my utilities I needed, the heating and air, turned it off. Still goes up. The next month, I said, "Well, I'm just going to let everything run." I leave the hot water heater on, leave the air and heat on, the light bill starts coming down. I said, "God, I'm better to just let it run." I don't have a cat, I don't have a dog, ain't nobody home but me. I'm the only person in my house, and I'm gone all through the day. I couldn't figure out why it was going up.

So, if it's going to go up like that, why get
a rate increase if it's going to do that? I've got 
to admit, Jessie James ain't got nothing on them 
guys. Shoot, that kind of stuff. They don't need 
it; they don't need a rate increase. And if we're 
going to let go on, see, that get back to you guys. 
If that happens, that's just like putting the fox 
in the chicken house to watch over the chickens 
while I'm gone. 

[Laughter]

I mean, you can't do it. That's all I got to 
say about it.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. NELSON:

Q Mr. Karim, do you have -- going back to those bills a 
little bit. You went from $200 to $500, that was like 
December and January of this past --

A It actually started -- normally my bill run like $100-
and-something. Right now it came out this month $159.

I was so happy, man.

Q So, you went through those $500 bills over the 
wintertime?

A $500 in one month. It jumped in the month of December, 
it went up to $500. I was going to write down, you know 
-- the old meter, you could write the numbers down, how
much kilowatts you use in a day. The meters they got now, it just jumps, just blink, blink, blink. You can't --

Q I'm going to tell you what I've told a couple of other people. If you want us to take a look at your bills, our Consumer Services will be happy to look over those bills for you. And if you can see Brad Kirby at the back of the room, back there, when you get off the stand, we would be happy to talk to you about those.

A All right.

MR. NELSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. You may step down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'll call Ebony Woods, please.

Ebony Woods?

[Witness affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

EBONY WOODS,

who, having been first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Good evening. My name is Ebony Woods, and I live at 1738 Springfield Avenue, Columbia, South Carolina 29223.
As of yesterday, I've been a resident of my home for one year. I find that, in the line of work that I am in, we encourage homeownership, and we talk to people about making sure they balance their budget and things of that nature. But, how can we increase homeownership when people cannot afford to pay their utility bills to even stay in their homes?

I'm a full-time employee. I'm a full-time student. I'm faithful in my community in community service, and I attend church. I know last year I had some work done as a medical thing in January, I had no heat on, and I had a bill of $179. And it's a shame. No heat on, a sweatshirt, and I went and got heaters from Wal-Mart.

The coldest night in January, a tree limb fell down and broke the power line that serviced the electricity to my home. I called SCE&G and nobody came until 10 o'clock the next morning. So, I had to drive 30 minutes across town to go stay at my mom's house. And then when a person told me I could call them and ask them to cut the tree down, I called; they told me that it was not a hazard, and they put a little yellow cord over it to keep it from breaking again. Now, you could clearly see....
the limbs growing up around this tree.

I recently attended an energy conference, I won't say where, but a representative from SCE&G got up to give a presentation and all they did was try to sell the whole time. I have natural gas; it is not cheap. Of my $177 electric bill, only $30 -- only $30 of it was electricity. The rest was gas. I wash clothes once a month. My mother will tell you that. I have Energy Star appliances. I also run the thermostat at 85, use ceiling fans. And like I said, in the winter I was using heaters.

I just find it ridiculous when I get an electric bill that is one-third of my mortgage and I'm being furloughed, have not received a raise in three years, and I'm planning to go to school full-time and I'm working full-time.

I know what it's like. I put on public hearings for a living. I've never sat in a forum like this and not have anyone to answer my questions. I know about equity and fairness. I will receive a Master's in Public Administration in December. I know about free-riders, common community problems, and everything else there is, but I also work with issues of discrimination. And it is discriminatory. No offense, but I do not
expect any of you all to understand me, because as I sit and watch you all discuss and not listen to what the people are saying, none of you look like me or half the people in this room. And it's sad.

And I work hard. I'm 26 years old. And I've just experienced so much, and no one has an answer, no one stood up for SCE&G. But y'all make all this money.

[Laughter]

And it's like, if -- I'm serious -- I went into the wrong line of work.

You know, I hear about geothermal heating and energy. No one had any questions for the gentleman that is in actual renewable energy. That just amazes me. And I just think that -- I understand the forum and I understand what's going on, but please believe as I speak to you all today, I know how the system works, any kind of system. And I will do what I have to do -- if it's wait outside to get phone numbers from every person that is here -- to make a change in this system. And y'all better believe that. I'm 26 years old, and I'm about to head up my Word Club. I have connections, and I'm willing to make those phone calls.

How many of you all have stock in SCE&G?
Because I can't afford it. I had a professor to
tell me that's the best stock to get because that's
how you get your payback off your electric bills.
I don't get to go out often. Don't let the glasses
fool you, don't let the jewelry fool you; I don't
even shop. And it is a shame when I hear people
having been in their homes -- I have a grandmother
on fixed income. My mother and grandmother gets
$500 electric bills. I live alone. I should not
have $177 electric bill when I'm gone from 7
o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night,
three or four times a week.

So, I feel that you all owe us answers, and I
am going to push, and I promise y'all, I will push
and push and push, as a former page that used to
work at the Statehouse, until we get these answers.
Thank you for your time.

[Applause]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. Ms. Woods, if
you -- if you could just wait to see if there are
any questions.

MR. BURGESS: No questions.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: I don't have any questions.

Thank you, ma'am.
CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: I'll call Wade Fulmer. Wade Fulmer, please?

VOICE: I think he had to go.


[No response]

MR. BUTLER: No? Okay. How about Leslie Minard?

[Witness sworn]

THEREUPON came, L E S L I E   M I N A R D , who, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Hello, everybody. I just scratched down a few notes on my shopping list. And I've been in the ICU for two weeks with a relative, so I didn't eat dinner. I just ate some crackers, so my blood sugar dropped, but I'll try to remain sane up here. I didn't wear my barrel, so -- anyway, let's see, my notes here.

The first word I have down is "oligarchy," and that's what, you know, this country is and this
State is. The nation is run by Wall Street and South Carolina's kind of run by the utilities. And they sort of get what they want.

And my second thing that I have written is "consumer advocacy." There was a sort of consumer advocate group at one time that kind of monitored SCE&G, but they were working a little too well. I'm paraphrasing this history here. And so I'm supposing that at SCE&G's request, they were gotten rid of and replaced with the Office of Regulatory Staff, which -- I don't know, you guys are kind of lap-doggish. You could do a little more advocating for us, and that would be great if you could step up to the bat some. And the Public Service Commission -- I mean, yeah, I heard somebody say they were in the wrong line of work. You know, I -- well, I don't know if I -- well, I would never get hired for your all's job. But yeah, I'd like to see a little different -- I'd like to see it where the Legislature does not appoint the Public Service Commission and where you guys probably make a little less money.

But anyway, it was Mr. Karim who was talking about fox in the chicken house. Well, you guys, SCE&G are the foxes, and the chickens are our
legislators. And what everybody needs to do is go home, whoever is left here, and tell your friends -- you need to figure out who your legislator is; you can figure that out online -- you need to call them and ask them why in tarnation -- that's a Southern word -- did they vote to approve for the Base Load Review Act, which I'm sure you've already heard about tonight, which basically gives -- oh, which was written by SCE&G lawyers, and gives SCE&G the right to fleece us. And every legislator needs to be asked that point-blank. And if they voted in such a way, they need to go the way of these other incumbents who are on their way out. And you guys need to really work for that, because the legislators are not working for us. The chickens are working for the foxes. So, that's your all's homework.

And, I guess you can tell I'm against the rate hike, for these nuclear power plants that we do not need here in South Carolina. It's too hard on us. There could be so much of this money going into conservation. I'm hearing the people's bills -- my bill actually isn't that high because I did take some money and insulated my house, insulated the heck out of it, and it made a big difference. A
lot of people can't afford that. Instead of spending billions and billions on your reactors that we don't need, that money should be spent on the people in fixing their houses up. Okay.

And does anybody want to ask me a question?

MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Nelson?

MR. NELSON: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

Commissioner Wright.

EXAMINATION

BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:

Q  Can you give us your address?

A  Pardon me?

Q  Can you give us your address?

A  Oh, sure. It's 2716 Blossom Street, Columbia.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Any other questions?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. BUTLER: Madam Chairman, that does complete the list of witnesses that I have at this time.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Do you want to see if there's anyone else that wants to speak?
MR. BUTLER: Sure. Is there anyone else in the audience that wishes to be heard on this issue?

Yes, sir. Come forward, please.

MR. PRICE: I just had --

MR. BUTLER: Oh, you spoke?

MR. PRICE: I spoke a little earlier. May I submit this as the evidence, please?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Yes, you may.

MR. BUTLER: Yes, sir.

MR. PRICE: Joel Price.

MR. BUTLER: Mr. Price?

MR. PRICE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: That would be entered -- is this what you -- the comments you made?

MR. PRICE: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. That'll be entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing Exhibit No. 24.

[WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 24 was marked and received in evidence.]

MR. BUTLER: All right. Anyone else?

MR. NELSON: What is that exhibit?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: It's his comments that he made. I think it's about some of the accounting issues. That's correct, right?
MR. PRICE: That's correct.

MR. BUTLER: All right, Madam Chairman, hearing no response, I'll turn it back over to you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Well, we appreciate everyone coming out tonight, and we certainly do take into consideration everything that people have to say. And at this time, we would invite you to come to the hearing if you're able, tomorrow, and I think you might get some answers to some of your questions if you are here for that. Anyway, this hearing --

VOICE: What time?

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: It starts at 11 tomorrow.

This hearing is now adjourned.

[WHEREUPON, at 9:10 p.m., the hearing in the above-entitled matter was adjourned, to reconvene at 11:00 a.m. on May 25, 2010.]

[WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit Nos. 18 and 19 were marked and received in evidence.] [WHEREUPON, Late-filed Hearing Exhibit Nos. 21, 22, and 23 shall be marked and received in evidence, upon receipt]
CERTIFICATE

I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, Notary
Public in and for the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had and testimony adduced in an evening public hearing held in the above-captioned matter before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina;

That the witnesses appearing during said hearing were sworn or affirmed by me to state the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, on this the 17th day of June, 2010.

Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC

ATTEST:

Jocelyn G. Boyd
INTERIM CHIEF CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR