Dear Mr. Stachelski,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments has been placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission’s Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

Docket No. 2016-223-E - Petition of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company for Updates and Revisions to Schedules Related to the Construction of a Nuclear Base Load Generation Facility at Jenkinsville, South Carolina.

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Executive Assistant
803-896-5133
Dear Thomas,

This time last year, the South Carolina Sierra Club was preparing to intervene before the state's Public Service Commission to attempt to stop the then-eighth straight SCE&G schedule delay and cost overrun in completing its V.C. Summer nuclear reactors. And, yet again, the PSC unanimously approved the SCE&G cost-overrun in its typical machine-like voting fashion. These cost overruns allow the utility to pass the construction and delay costs on to their consumers, which has led to the continuous rate hikes you've seen over the past several years.

That's right, in South Carolina, a state law called the Base Load Review Act allows SCE&G to legally pass the buck of their own capital costs on to their ratepayers, rather than to their own stockholders.

"I don't know of any other business model where this is legally allowable," Sierra Conservation Chair Bob Guild noted.

These ratepayer and consumer hikes have "been compared to making payments on a new car without knowing the final price and before it leaves the assembly line. The monthly payments continue to rise, but it's not certain whether the customer making those payments will ever drive the car."

Yet here we are again ... for the ninth straight time. You will not get the money back that you've paid out-of-pocket thus far even if the facilities are never finished or used!

This is happening all the while Duke Energy is considering bringing new nuclear reactors on-line in Cherokee County, which would be subject to the same legal construction and
cost-schedule requirements and, therefore, could lead to the same ratepayer disaster for Upstate South Carolinians as we are experiencing in the Midlands and Lowcountry today.

Part of the problem is that the Public Service Commission is a group of legislatively appointed Commissioners who, in continuing to allow for these rate hikes and cost overruns, are clearly lacking the accountability necessary to look out for taxpayer interests. Their job is consumer and public protection. When are they going to start looking out for our interests?

So far, the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, AARP South Carolina, the state’s electric co-operatives and the South Carolina Energy Users Committee have spoken out against the latest cost overrun and rate hike, but we need to raise more awareness.

The South Carolina Sierra Club stands with taxpayers not only in fighting for their pocketbooks but also in opposing bad electric and energy decisions. It's high time the PSC told SCE&G to pay for cost overruns itself or to put an end to the construction of these reactors!

Find your Public Service Commissioners here.

Find your legislators here, by searching in the "Find Your Legislator" application.

Read more here:

Consumers keep footing the bill for nuclear project.

SCE&G asking for $852 million more to finish Summer nuclear plants.

SCE&G wants $850 million for 2 nuclear reactors.

You can count on the South Carolina Sierra Club to continue to fight this in the days and months ahead, but we need you to speak out early and often! Tell your family, friends and neighbors. Spread the word that this is happening, and we must stop it or change the law.

Sincerely,
Chris Hall, Chair
SC Sierra Club

This email was sent to

This email was sent by the Sierra Club South Carolina Chapter
1314 Lincoln St, Suite 211 Columbia, SC 29201

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