Easterling, Deborah

23620

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 3:40 PM
To: 'Tim Camp'
Subject: RE:

Dear Mr. Camp

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to the Public Service Commission. I am forwarding your email to our Clerk's Office for processing. Your email will become a part of Docket No. 2011-271-E and will be posted on our website under this docket.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling
Administrative Assistant

From: Tim Camp [mailto:tcamp@carolinaalliancebank.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Contact
Subject: FW:

Please see attached

RECEIVED
MAIL / DMS

J. Timothy Camp

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August 17, 2011

Duke Energy South Carolina
325 W. McBee Ave.
Greenville, SC 29601

To Whom It May Concern:

I read your recent brochure justifying the need for Duke Energy to increase electric rates to be effective February 2012. The first item that caught my attention was the conspicuous location of Duke Energy's mailing and email addresses; however, I could not find the Public Service Commission of South Carolina contact information anywhere on your literature. I do intend to investigate and hope to forward this to the above agency.

It is my understanding that the proposed rate increase is to recoup capital improvements to various plants and infrastructure of Duke that presumably serves South Carolina. And the cost to residential customers will increase by an average of 17%. My family and I live at 317 Matchlock Common in Spartanburg, SC. This summer, one of the hottest summers on record, our street lost power on three separate occasions. I would very much like to know how these improvements benefitted my family. Maybe Duke Energy should invest in underground lines thus reducing power outages caused by storms and trees, and reducing the cost of emergency work on above ground wires to restore power. I will not mention the number times we've lost power during ice and snow storms.

I would also like for Duke Energy to consider creating a credit for our family to offset the proposed 17% rate increase. By my calculation we've thrown away approximately $2,250 worth of refrigerated food because of power outages over the last five – six years (18 power outages X $125 per throw out). This is probably low but I feel generous today. Please add another $600 for hotel stays, $400 for being forced to dine out, and another $695 for the generator I eventually felt obligated to purchase (for the well being of my family – and my marriage). I will not charge for the emotion scaring of calling and being told the power will be on by a certain time only to see the power still out hours, if not days, after the announced time of restored power. So, a total credit of $3,945 is in order. Assuming my average bill is $160 per month an annualized billing would be $1,920. A 17% increase would amount to $326.40 per year. Therefore my credit, again deemed to be on the low side, should last a little over 12 years. After twelve years I would be more than happy to pay your 17% increase – assuming of course that we experience no more power outages and no more loss of groceries.

On a more somber note, the time of your increase seems a bit odd to me. The economy in South Carolina is not as strong as many thought even two months ago. Your customers are struggling. The SC Department of Employment reported in June that our state's May unemployment rate increased from 9.8% to 10% (above the national average). Union County was 16.1% and Cherokee County was 13.3%. I find it very disheartening that these kind of conditions were not considered in your decision making process.

Unfortunately we, the consumers, do not have a choice. We are stuck with Duke Energy. You may have legitimate reasons for raising rates but until service improved and outages decrease it is hard for me to understand the benefit associated with your proposed rate increase.

I am happy to discuss if appropriate.

Thank You,

J. Timothy Camp
864.573.4339