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E-2 Sub 1142 / E-7 Sub 1146

North Carolina Utilities Commission
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

January 5, 2019

FILED

JAN 10 2019

Clerk's Office
North Carolina Utilities Commission

Refer: Duke Energy Rate Increase

Committee Members:

Although this letter will not have much consideration; I desire to express my thoughts on this issue and to be able to report to anyone inquiring, "what did you do in this matter", that I attempted to express my thoughts!

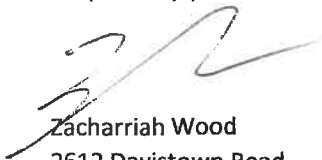
To begin with, I oppose this requested increase for several considerations, which I will now attempt to present:

- a. Every time there is a disaster caused by nature or other events that causes expense, utility companies want a rate increase to restore services and/or recover their losses to supply their service. This is fine and should be considered; however, long after the utility company has been compensated, the justified increase for this purpose remains and becomes additional profit. When the next event occurs another rate increase is requested and added to the prior rate.
- b. When the utility services report their losses and request a rate increase for compensation based upon this loss, they have not deducted the monies received from the state and federal governments, nor the insurance claim monies. This split of hand accounting affords more profit.
- c. I also don't see the high wages, benefits and bonus being affected when asking the public to tighten their belts to absorb this increase in their cost of living. The question I ask, "where is their skin in this process"?
- d. Finally, the segment of fixed income can't absorb this rate increase. The low income receives government subsidies, the working-class struggle, but have increases in income available and the upper income doesn't care, it doesn't affect their life style.

Modern big corporate world has forgotten that they are in business for profit; however, there is no guarantee that because they are in business that they will make a profit, just ask any small business owner. If you plan well, invest in the growth of the business, hold operational cost low (that doesn't mean short change the operational cost) and manage (that doesn't mean have all this overlapping bureaucracy to cover upper management/owners when they make a mistake) a company will be profitable.

Once again, I feel that a rate increase is not justified, when Duke Energy is already working with high profit increases that have not been adjusted down.

Respectfully yours,



Zachariah Wood
2612 Davistown Road
Wendell, NC 27591

cc: Spectrum News/Capital Report