

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COMMISSION
4325 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
N.C. UTILITIES COMMISSION
RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-4325
AND ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JULY 1, 08
REG. DOCKET NOG-5 SUB 495

DEAR SIRS, MMS. OR TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I RECEIVED YOUR NOTICE OF HEARING FOR GASTON
COUNTY PSNC RATE INCREASE. I AM SENDING THIS
LETTER TO PROTEST ANOTHER INCREASE. I ALREADY

SWITCHED FROM GAS HEATER TO HEAT PUMP, FROM GAS
WATER HEATER TO ELECTRIC AND DON'T EVEN USE THE
3 GAS COOKING BURNER IN ~~LOW~~ OF MICROWAVE, AND
STILL WITH NO USAGE I GET A MONTHLY BILL OF
AVERAGE \$12.68 PLUS FOR NO USAGE FROM PSNC.

GASTON COUNTY ALREADY PAYS HIGHER ELECTRIC,
WATER, SEWER, STORM WATER ETC. THEN THE SIX (6)
SURROUNDING COUNTIES WITH AN INCREASE THIS
SPRING OF 6.25% ALREADY. WE NEED MORE
JOBS, AND BETTER PAYING JOBS WITH PAY INCREASES
BEFORE WE CAN SUSTAIN THESE ONGOING INCREASES

IN EVERYTHING. EVERYONE IS ALREADY IN SO
MUCH FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WITH RESULTING PAIN
FROM ALL THE ADDITIONAL INCREASES. FROM
WHERE SHOULD THIS MONEY COME?? I'M
ENCLOSING AN ARTICLE TITLED "MORE US HOUSE-
HOLDS SEEK HELP WITH UTILITIES" FROM
WALL ST. JOURNAL THIS SPRING. I'M AWARE,
YOU ALREADY TOOK A 16% INCREASE!

IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY, BUT YOU SHOULD
KNOW GASTONIA RESIDENTS ALREADY PAY
HIGHER ENERGY COSTS THAN SIX SURROUNDING
COUNTIES! PLEASE STOP THIS BURDENING
WEIGHT OF EXTRA PAYMENTS TO PSNC. THIS
WILL BE DISASTEROUS FOR GASTON COUNTY
RESIDENTS, WE ARE IN THE WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS
SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. PLEASE DON'T INCREASE
OUR GAS BILL! TRULY SINCERELY

JULY 9, 08 2:00 PM
FILED
JUL 07 2008
Clerk's Office
N.C. Utilities Commission

ORIGINAL COPY

Clerk
7 Comm.
K. By
Legal
GAS

Sincerely
J. PIETT

into legislation and asked, "why won't the FDA weigh in on the same question for pharmaceutical manufacturers?"

[ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT]

U.S. Consumer Confidence Falls to 26-Year Low

U.S. consumer confidence in April fell to its lowest level since March 1982, according to a report Friday.

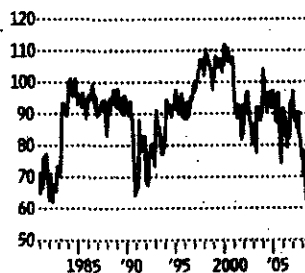
The Reuters/University of Michigan consumer-sentiment survey declined to 62.6 in April from 69.5 in March. Nine out of 10 respondents said they believed the economy is now in recession, and many said they expect to use government rebate checks to pay down debt or increase sav-

ings. That could keep consumer spending, a main engine of economic growth, sluggish.

"Sentiment is mired at levels that historically have been associated with recessions," said Steven Wood, chief economist at Insight Economics. "This largely reflects the job losses, the housing market meltdown, turmoil and volatility in the financial markets, and higher food and energy prices. These are all squeezing consumer spending."

The one-year inflation expectations reading was 4.8%, up from the prior month's 4.2%; the five-year inflation reading was 3.2%, up from 2.8% in March, the report showed. The overall Consumer Price Index rose 4% in March on a year-over-year basis while core CPI, stripped of food and energy factors, rose by 2.4%.

University of Michigan
index of consumer sentiment



Sources: St. Louis Federal Reserve;
Reuters/University of Michigan

More U.S. Households Seek Help With Utilities

BY REBECCA SMITH

More U.S. households are falling behind on their utility bills and seeking public assistance, according to groups that arrange for help. They fear a record number of families will face utility shutoffs in coming months, reflecting fallout from a distressed housing market and rising prices for food and energy.

"The underlying problem is many families are becoming poorer and have to pick which bills to pay," said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, a group that represents state directors of energy-assistance programs. Some states are attempting to buy some time by delaying the date at which utilities are allowed to begin disconnections. That is often prohibited during the winter because it could be life-threatening. Connecticut extended a moratorium on shutoffs to May 1 from April 15 this year.

"There was concern it still would be cold when people had

their service shut off," said Carlene Taylor, manager for energy services at the Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Some states have seen double-digit increases in the number of families receiving public assistance to pay their utility and fuel bills. The increases go as high as 80% in Nevada and 44% in Oklahoma. States control how they dole out their share of the \$2.5 billion in federal funds distributed under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Many states are asking Congress to provide more funds for energy assistance.

A preliminary survey by the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association found that the number of families receiving federal energy-assistance funds is the largest in 16 years. For the 2008 federal fiscal year, it topped 5.8 million, a 3.8% increase over fiscal-year 2007.

Preliminary data from the association found that delinquencies are rising. Among the states showing increases were California, with 1.7 million households behind by \$300 million.

Address from envelope:
PO Box 550312
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CM Nominates Coke's Isdell