

Smell Gone, Stink Remains: Revisited

Liberty Utilities Ratepayers: Beware A Hike is Coming...

Fellow Ratepayers, there have been some additional **positive** developments in the rate case scheduled to be heard in mid-September by the Arizona Corporate Commission (ACC).

These are important developments because they are related to “head-to-head” financial opposition to Liberty’s justification for a 41% rate increase to residents and a 32% increase to the business community. Specifically, very highly qualified Financial Staff members of the ACC and the Resident Utility Consumer Office (RUCO) have taken point by point opposition to Liberty’s Overall Rate Proposal and their conclusions related to the increase are now:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Percent Increase Proposed*</u>
Liberty Utilities	35.53%
ACC Staff	(0.57%)
RUCO Staff	(3.29%)

*Note: these are net percentages and do not include the “rate case expense surcharge of \$4.26 / month” which would increase the percentage to gross.

In addition, both the City of Scottsdale and the Town of Carefree have passed formal Resolutions opposing this proposed Liberty Rate increase!

So now you can either add this to the letter “you were going to write” to the ACC with last month’s (August) editorial content, or you can write another letter to the ACC stating your support of the ACC’s and RUCO’s position on this matter.

And, you might wish to insert that, the ACC Staff, in their August Surrebuttal, testimony stated, “During Staff’s review of the Company’s (Liberty’s) support (documents), Staff found there was a lack of compliance with basic accounting principles...” Further, “ACC Staff would characterize the Company’s books and records as overly complex and convoluted.” And further, that Staff stated, “The

Company failed to provide the requested reports, records, and documentation for the costs the Company seeks to recover in this rate case.”

RUCO Staff in their August Surrebuttal, “estimates that approximately that \$4.9 million of Liberty’s (aka Black Mountain) excess cash has been moved upstream (to Canada) to APUC over the past five years...”

Note: APUC is Liberty’s Canadian parent Company.

Liberty then accused RUCO’s veteran Staff member of 28 years of experience, of stating facts on their depreciation adjustments as being “twisted” and “concocted”

Fellow Ratepayers: The Arizona Corporate Commissioners not only need to see the studied and learned opposition to this rate from the ACC’s own Staff, and from RUCO, they need to hear and see your words of protest. Please write to them at:

Arizona Corporate Commission

1200 W. Washington Street

Phoenix, AZ 85007

And be sure to note the Docket No. SW-02361A-19-0139

Many thanks,

Bob Moore

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Don’t forget, there is an ACC election coming up in November, 3 seats are open!

