

Texas Citizen Action

FACT SHEET: TEXAS CITIZEN ACTION OPPOSES PROPOSED ELECTRIC BILL INCREASE, SUPPORTS PUBLIC UTILITY COUNSEL, DEMANDS P.U.C. HEARINGS IN SERVICE AREA

Texas Utilites (T. U.), the state's largest electric utility monopoly, has requested an annual revenue increase in excess of 15%. This unprecedented proposed increase represents another utility breach of faith. For years the utility made public claims that the proposed increase would not exceed 10%. The Office of Public Utility Counsel recommends a revenue increase of no more than 2.5%, a slash of the proposed increase of at least 83%.

T. U. was not allowed to ask for another rate increase, their last was in 1991, until they completed construction of the second nuclear reactor at Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Station. This plagued construction project was first begun twenty years ago. The second reactor was finally licensed for operation in the spring of 1993.

Texas Citizen Action opposed the last rate increase and insisted that then Public Utility Commission (P.U.C.) Chairman Paul Meeks had a conflict of interest and should not participate in the rate case. Seven months after he voted in favor of the increase our campaign to have him removed from office succeeded. We now have two new members of the PUC.

Texas Citizen Action has filed as an intervenor on your, the average residential consumer's, behalf to make certain that your interests are represented before the P U C. We are also demanding public hearings in the service area so that you and other consumers like you will have access to the process...

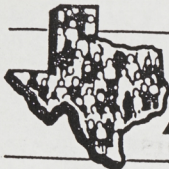
Many experts maintain that the new facility that we are being asked to pay for was in fact unnecessary in the first place. It was only built because of inadequate regulation of the utility's desire to build more and more plants and pass more and more costs off to the consumer through their enlarged rate base.

Not only was the need for this facility in doubt, but it has been mismanaged throughout the twenty year construction period. These "imprudent" costs due to management mistakes should not be passed on to you the consumer. Management and shareholders should be held responsible for cost overruns not ratepayers.

* "Phantom" taxes are again included in the rate base. T U overestimates its tax bill, collects from you for it and keeps the difference. Help us fight "phantom" taxes.

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Texas Citizen Action

Our Special Interest is You

Texas Citizen Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1989 and supported financially by over 100,000 members. TCA and its members work together to offset the influence of the big money special interests in Austin and to promote the interests of consumers in the legislative and regulatory process.

Saving you money

TCA is saving Texas consumers millions of dollars. From challenging utility company rate increases and leading efforts to reduce health care costs to protecting consumers from inadequate or dishonest pricing and advertising. Texas Citizen Action has earned the reputation of an effective public watchdog.

No Strings Attached

TCA relies on its door-to-door and phone canvases to build grassroots public support through petition signatures and contributions. TCA is entirely citizen funded, with the exception of a few institutional and foundation grants.

Chairman Bob Gee
c/o P.U.C.
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd
Austin, TX 78757

Current Issues

Texas Citizen Action is currently concentrating its efforts on:

- ★ Keeping utility bills down through PUC reform and conservation and efficiency programs;
- ★ Protecting hard won reforms of the insurance industry;
- ★ Assuring adequate and affordable health care for all Texas residents;
- ★ Forcing our state regulatory system to protect Texans, not big business.

You Can Help

Your contribution will further the research, education and lobbying efforts of Texas Citizen Action and Texas Citizen Fund. Because it works to influence legislation, contributions made to TCA are not deductible on income tax returns. Contributions made to TCF are tax deductible, but cannot be used to influence legislation.

Thank You For Your Support!

Receipt
Date 6-2-93
Amount 10.00 TCA/TCF
Cash/Check No. 4303
Received by Angela Martin

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*Public hearings in the area 926-1995

Recent Texas Citizen Action Accomplishments

Texas Citizen Action is the state's largest consumer organization, with over 100,000 members. A non-profit, non-partisan group, Texas Citizen Action was founded in February, 1989. Here is some of what Citizen Action has accomplished since its founding.

- 1989 Citizen Action produces a study of the Texas work force which indicates potential savings to the workers compensation system of over \$1 billion through increased safety measures.
- 1989 Citizen Action protects consumers from attempts in the Texas Legislature to weaken product safety laws by out-of-state manufacturers and large insurance companies.
- 1990 Citizen Action and a large coalition of North Texas organizations force the first public hearing in North Texas on utility rate increases connected to the Commanche Peak Nuclear Project cost overruns.
- 1990 Citizen Action reveals that Freeport McMoran, the owners of Travis County property marked for development upstream from Barton Springs (Barton Creek PUD), are the nation's largest water polluters.
- 1991 Citizen Action collects over 20,000 signatures to force the Austin city council to continue support and funding for energy and water conservation, development of renewable fuels, recycling, and environmental protection.
- 1991 Citizen Action successfully pushes comprehensive reform of insurance regulation through the Texas Legislature, eliminating the industry's exemption from anti-trust laws and creating an independent Office of Public Insurance Counsel.
- 1992 Citizen Action and the consumer coalition wins the largest disallowance in state history of cost overruns and mismanagement at Texas Utilities Commanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant totaling over \$1.5 billion.
- 1992 Citizen Action forces anti-consumer Commissioner Paul Meek to resign as chair of the Public Utility Commission, making room for the appointment of pro-consumer Commissioner Karl Rabago.
- 1992 Citizen Action places the SOS Initiative to protect Barton Springs before Austin voters and wins landslide approval of a tough new water quality ordinance.
- 1992 Citizen Action wins Sunset approval of Integrated Resource Least Cost planning for electric utilities in Texas, with emphasis on conservation and renewable technologies.