Dear Bob,

This letter is an appeal to yourself and the other members of the Arizona Corporation Commission for help.

Ten years ago Arizona Power Service (APS) was selling conventional power at expensive prices but touting methods to bring prices down. The commissioners mumbled thoughts about hydroelectric power being much cheaper but noted that melding the Western power grids was sure to bring prices down. No luck there; but the rate payers continued to pay.

APS then got a new idea. What about a nuclear power plant? The commissioners seemed comfortable with the idea even though APS didn’t know straight up about nuclear power generation. As they learned how to build and run a nuclear plant they stumbled through millions of dollars of Federal penalties for screw ups, near misses, and bad deadlines. The stalwart ratepayers paid and paid. Poor APS still couldn’t figure out how to bring the cost of electricity down.

Then came another idea to reduce costs; why not throw out the business models from around the world and allow APS to comingle a utility company with a REIT company? Wow! Surlly this would reduce the cost of electricity. The commissioners seemed to cleave to the idea. Then Obama’s economy went down the tubes and everybody in America was losing money on real estate. Not APS though; their REIT investors made money, full salaries and bonuses while they proceeded to whack their ratepayers like a money piñata.

The Arizona Corporation Commission must freeze electricity prices and allow APS the luxury of failing comfortably. They can figure out how to reduce costs or go through bankruptcy. You can resist appeals while they stumble through the vagaries of trying to monopolize sunshine. The reality is that APS is incompetent. In a decade I’ve seen our monthly bill increase from below $93 to the current $210. I’ve watched enormous generators being hauled across the West because APS didn’t have spare parts. And most of the power still gets delivered by poles and wires.
I implore you to exert yourselves; please help APS ratepayers now. Don't allow APS to experiment with solar. No new tricks or schemes. Remind them about "lean and mean" and gently nudge them to the bankruptcy court. The entire valley will love you for it and each of you will prosper and lead a full life; just like ratepayers are trying to do....and on the brighter side it should be a lot easier than fixing Detroit.

Thank you. Any efforts on your part will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stephen Spoonamore  

Peggy Spoonamore