

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF HORRY)

In Re:) PUBLIC COMMENT
SANTEE COOPER,) MEETING
PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT)
)

DATE: Tuesday, September 17th, 2024

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Santee Cooper Horry-Georgetown Office
Auditorium
305 Gardner Lacy Road
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

REPORTED BY:

Cara-Leigh V. Richardson

A P P E A R A N C E S

SANTEE COOPER BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Charles (Sam) Bennett, 1st District
Kristopher Clark, 3rd District
Charles Dalton, 4th District
Steve Mudge, At Large
Dan Ray, Georgetown County
David Singleton, Horry County
Stacy Taylor, 2nd District

SANTEE COOPER EXECUTIVE STAFF MEMBERS:

Jimmy Staton, President & Chief Executive Officer
Vicky Budreau, Chief Customer Officer
Pamela Williams, Chief Public Affairs
Officer & General Counsel

STAFF MEMBERS & OUTSIDE COUNSEL:

Nicole Aiello, Manager-Corporate Communications
Stephanie Burgess, Senior Manager-Retail
Services & Customer Exp.
John Calhoun, Financial Analyst III
Jennifer Dittbenner, Senior Customer
Services Representative
Nanette Edwards, Partner, Burr Forman
B. Shawn Gillans, Director Sustainability
& Associate General Counsel
Mollie Gore, Director-Corporate Communications
& External Affairs
Traci Grant, Director-Inclusive
Strategies & Corporate Sec.
Tracey Green, Partner, Burr Forman

A P P E A R A N C E S

STAFF MEMBERS & OUTSIDE COUNSEL (continued):

Jack Grooms, Financial Analyst III
Brandy Incorvia, Manager-Community Relations
Neil James, Director Distribution
Engineering & Operations
Bryan Lewis, Director-Customer Service Retail
Jerry McGill, Network Analyst III
Devin Ritter, Manager-Pricing
Ken Sandiford, Manager-Retail Office
Matthew Singleton, Special Agent III
Leah Smith, Customer Service Representative III
Mike Smith, Director-Billing & Pricing
Jack Stewart, Deputy Chief Law Enforcement & Security
Anna Strickland, Economic Development
& Local Government Spec. III
Tracy Vreeland, Public Relations Specialist III
Lindsey Whitley, Attorney III
Paul Zoeller, Creative Specialist III

OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF:

Shane Hyatt, Program Manager
Ben Mustian, Chief of Legal Affairs
& Strategic Communications

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1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MS. BUDREAU: Good evening, everyone. At this time,
3 I'll call the Public Comment Meeting to order. So,
4 thank you for everybody that's here tonight. We
5 appreciate y'all coming out and spending the
6 evening with us. I'm Vicky Budreau and I'm the
7 Chief Customer Officer. And at this time, may I
8 ask you to please stand and say the Pledge of
9 Allegiance?

10 (GROUP STANDS AND RECITES THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.)

11 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. So, at this time I'd like to
12 introduce Jimmy Staton, who is our President and
13 CEO.

14 MR. STATON: Thanks, Vicky, and welcome everybody.
15 Thank you for being here tonight. We really
16 appreciate you all. Santee Cooper, we've had the
17 privilege quite frankly of being able to serve our
18 customers with affordable, reliable energy for 90
19 years now. And again, we appreciate all of our
20 customers. We appreciate you allowing us to serve
21 you.

22 Now, Santee Cooper has the lowest rates in the
23 state of South Carolina amongst all of the other
24 utilities. We're very proud of that and we have
25 not changed those rates in over eight years. So,

1 we've been holding the line, and you all know
2 what's happened since over the last eight years.
3 Inflation is up something like 25 percent.
4 Interest rates have gone up significantly. The
5 cost of materials like steel and transformers and
6 those things have gone up in some instances as high
7 as a hundred percent. And during that eight year
8 timeframe, the team at Santee Cooper has been able
9 to manage those costs. We've been able to cut our
10 budgets in order to ensure that we didn't have to
11 change rates.

12 Unfortunately, that timeframe now has changed.
13 We need a rate increase. We've asked our Board for
14 a rate increase that is much below the rate of
15 inflation over this same timeframe, and the Board
16 is considering that that increase. So, we
17 appreciate the fact that nobody wants to experience
18 a rate increase, but again, we think this is
19 necessary for us to be able to continue to provide
20 the affordable and reliable service that you've
21 come to expect from us.

22 Now, some of you all may have seen some
23 reports in the media about our increase and about
24 the proposals that we have made. I have to tell
25 you that information is not our information. Much

1 of it is outdated, most of it is inaccurate, and so
2 we are going to have a challenge of being able to
3 respond to somebody else's information. We prefer
4 to be able to respond to the information that
5 Santee Cooper is providing you all.

6 And so, the Santee Cooper Board is here this
7 evening because they are ultimately going to make
8 the decision about what level and what type of rate
9 change is necessary. They are anxious to hear from
10 you all. This is part of the transparent process
11 that we put in place so that the Board, as they
12 consider this rate increase, has an opportunity to
13 hear your thoughts on the rate changes. And so,
14 that's what tonight is about. We look forward to
15 hearing from you all, and I'll turn it back over to
16 Vicky.

17 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. So, I'm going to go over the
18 agenda for this evening. So, first we'll make some
19 more introductions and then we'll give an overview
20 of the rate process and the proposed adjustments,
21 and then we'll move into the public comment period.

22 So, just for the record, the Notice of the
23 proposed rate adjustment and this meeting complies
24 with FOIA and South Carolina Code Section 58-31-
25 710. This Notice was provided on June 10th, 2024,

1 via First Class Mail or electronically to
2 customers. The Notice was also provided via the
3 press, a news release, and on Santee Cooper's
4 website. And finally, the Notice of this meeting
5 was posted online and provided to the media 24
6 hours in advance.

7 So, as Jimmy mentioned, we have members of our
8 Board here tonight and I'd like to introduce each
9 of them. So, we have Director Sam Bennett
10 representing the 1st District; Director Kristofer
11 Clark representing the 3rd District; Director
12 Charles Dalton representing the 4th District;
13 Director Steve Mudge, an At-Large Director;
14 Director Dan Ray representing Georgetown County;
15 Director David Singleton representing Horry County;
16 and then finally, Director Stacey Taylor
17 representing the 2nd District. So, for the record,
18 a quorum of the Board is present.

19 I'd also like to introduce, as I said, I'm
20 Vicky Budreau, the Chief Customer Officer. We also
21 have Pamela Williams who is our Chief Public
22 Affairs Officer and General Counsel, and then we
23 have Mike Smith who is our Director of Pricing and
24 Billing. We also have members of the ORS Staff in
25 the room with us tonight.

1 So, this is a public meeting. A court
2 reporter is present and will transcribe the meeting
3 to create a public record. This transcript will be
4 provided to the Board prior to its consideration
5 and vote on the proposed rate adjustment.

6 The purpose of this meeting is to provide an
7 overview of Santee Cooper's proposed rate
8 adjustment and receive information from you, our
9 customers, related specifically to the proposed
10 rate adjustments. We're looking forward to hearing
11 your comments and receiving information this
12 evening only with respect to the rate adjustment
13 process. So, if you have questions about your
14 account, we do have some Customer Service Reps on
15 site that can talk with you and help you with that.

16 With regard to the proposed rate adjustments,
17 no deliberations will be conducted today, no
18 decisions will be made today, and no votes will be
19 taken today.

20 So, before we begin the public comment, we'll
21 have a brief overview of the process and the need
22 for the proposed rate adjustments. I'm going to
23 turn it over to Mike Smith.

24 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much, Vicky. Good evening
25 and welcome to everyone. As Vicky said, my name is

1 Mike Smith and I'm the Director of Billing and
2 Pricing here at Santee Cooper and my purpose
3 tonight is threefold. First, I'll describe the
4 reasons for the rate adjustment itself, and then
5 I'll discuss some of the changes that are going to
6 be made in the rate adjustments, specifically the
7 residential general service rate. And then
8 finally, I'll talk about next steps in the process
9 and the process as we move forward. As I discuss
10 this process, I'll be walking through this handout
11 that you should have received when you came in the
12 building. If you do not have one, please raise
13 your hand; we'll be happy to find a way to get you
14 one. We'll be working this document.

15 First and foremost, why is Santee Cooper
16 proposing these changes? Why the rate adjustment?
17 If you look at the very top of your handout on the
18 first page, you see that it states "Inflation has
19 outgrown our ability to manage it and revenues and
20 current rates will not cover our expenses in 2025."
21 Effectively, our rates have been flat since 2017,
22 and the rates themselves that were developed for
23 2017 were actually produced in 2025 -- 2015, excuse
24 me. So, the rates have been consistent since 2017
25 and inflation has increased 25 percent during that

1 time. As a matter of fact, some of our other items
2 that we typically use in our manufacturing
3 facilities, steel and iron, those types of
4 commodities, those commodities have increased on
5 order of 50 to a hundred percent, so significantly
6 more than the 25 percent that we've just quoted.

7 In response to that, we've cut our budgets.
8 We've cut budgets a hundred million dollars in
9 total in 2022. We refinanced debt, saving our
10 customers over 765 million dollars over several
11 years. We reduced our headcount by 10 percent,
12 taking almost \$20 million out of the budget from a
13 headcount perspective. And we've taken other steps
14 to address rising prices. All of those steps were
15 not enough and we needed a rate adjustment.

16 We also need the adjustment to invest in our
17 system in order to maintain the high reliability
18 that you are used to and that you deserve, and also
19 to comply with new regulations related to the
20 environment, grid operations, and security. In
21 short, the costs on our system are simply higher
22 than the revenues we're receiving can bear.

23 One thing that is different about Santee
24 Cooper than say an investor-owned utility is that
25 Santee Cooper does not have profit and Santee

1 Cooper does not have shareholders. So, we do not
2 pay dividends to those shareholders because they do
3 not exist. The only shareholders we effectively
4 have are the citizens of the State of South
5 Carolina. We do pay a dividend in 1 percent of our
6 revenue, projected revenue, back to the State of
7 South Carolina. We are a not-for-profit state-
8 owned entity.

9 If you look in the middle part of that handout
10 on the first page, it talks about proposed changes
11 for residential customers. This is our most
12 significant change, and I'll read it says, "Rate
13 recommendations include a new rate structure that
14 lowers the energy charge by approximately 40
15 percent and adds a demand charge."

16 Most of the time, you are probably familiar or
17 you have been familiar with a rate that has two
18 parts, a customer charge and an energy charge.
19 We're proposing adding a demand charge, moving some
20 of the costs from the energy charge and into a
21 demand charge. We're doing this for several
22 reasons. Primarily we're doing it to provide a
23 price signal for our customers so they can save
24 money and they can help the system save money. If
25 we move customers off of our peak on a system peak

1 basis, then what happens is it's cheaper for us to
2 generate electricity and everyone benefits from
3 those savings. So, the rate's good from that
4 perspective.

5 It says here, "This new rate structure for the
6 RG rate, which covers most residential customers,
7 gives customers the power to lower their bills if
8 they shift use of high-demand appliances to the 21
9 hours outside of daily peak hours. Peak hours last
10 only three hours and are 3 to 6 p.m. in the summer,
11 and again 6 to 9 a.m. in the winter months."

12 So, what does that look like and how can you
13 save money? If you'll flip over, your handout, it
14 shows you how you can save money. Just after Green
15 Means Go, it says, "Use your higher-demand
16 appliances during the 21 'green' hours in a day to
17 avoid system peaks and help control your bill."

18 "Typically, the three highest demand
19 appliances are water heaters, clothes dryers, and
20 heat pumps. The higher your demand during the
21 three on-peak hours shown in orange below, the
22 higher your bill."

23 To put this in a nutshell, typically, in a 30-
24 day month, there are 720 total hours during the
25 month. If you totaled up every peak period for

1 every single day, that's going to be 90 of those
2 hours, just 90 of those hours. But your demand
3 charge will be based only on one of those hours.
4 Your peak demand, the most energy used in one hour
5 during the entire month, just one hour.

6 So, how could this impact your bill and what
7 could that look like for you? If you look in that
8 section, the middle section on the back, it says,
9 "Customers who choose to use high-demand appliances
10 outside of peak hours can significantly reduce
11 their monthly bills. On the chart below, note the
12 difference in the bills as the on-peak demand
13 changes."

14 I'll draw your attention down to that bottom
15 line, the green line, the very light green line on
16 that chart, it says, "Monthly bill proposed."
17 And if you look just to the right, it shows the on-
18 peak demand in kW, and that on-peak demand is, if
19 you look at the top number, it's 5.1 kW. That is
20 actually the mean or middle number for all of our
21 customers. 5.1 kW is the peak demand for our
22 residential customers, the middle demand.

23 If you look at the monthly energy, there's a
24 thousand kilowatt hours there, and what that means,
25 it's an average bill amount typically for our

1 customers, about a thousand kilowatt hours total in
2 a month. You can see that the average monthly bill
3 is projected to be, on the proposed rates, \$125.98.
4 That's about \$10.29 above where that bill would be
5 with our current rates, \$10.29 a month. But if you
6 can lower your demand simply by eight-tenths of a
7 kW, which is a fractional amount, if you look at
8 the chart just to the lower left for a water heater
9 or a heat pump or a clothes dryer or a dishwasher,
10 if you look at those numbers, they're much higher
11 than the eight-tenths of the kW that's listed here,
12 if you just lower your kilowatt demand in that one
13 hour during the month by eight-tenths of a kW, then
14 you can lower the amount of bill increase that you
15 see all the way down to \$3.66, not 10.29, 3.66.

16 The great thing about that is that just by
17 lowering your demand, you can use the same amount
18 of electricity, the exact same amount of
19 electricity, and yet pay a lower bill simply by
20 shifting your usage outside of the peak period, the
21 three-hour peak period during the month. This is
22 by far the largest change in this rate adjustment,
23 and this is something that we believe can be
24 positive for our customers as well as for the
25 entire Santee Cooper system.

1 And then finally, I'll talk about this process
2 going forward. Today is a Public Comment Meeting.
3 It's the second of two. We are having another
4 Public Comment Meeting which will be a virtual
5 meeting on the 24th of this month. We'll also have
6 a meeting on October 8th, and during that meeting
7 customers will be welcome to comment again.

8 Additionally, the Office of Regulatory Staff
9 and several other entities will comment during that
10 meeting on our rates as they've been proposed.
11 Other interested parties will have an opportunity
12 to comment as well.

13 At that meeting, the Board will receive a
14 report from one of my groups where we'll present
15 them with the comments have been received to-date,
16 as well as the transcripts of meetings just like
17 this one. We'll take that information, we'll feed
18 it back into our process, and any revisions that
19 need to be made to our posted rates will be made at
20 that point, and then, we'll present those back to
21 the Board of Directors on November 7th. And then
22 the Board will vote on the proposed rates on
23 December 9th.

24 Any rates that are approved by the Board will
25 not be implemented earlier than April 1st for

1 billing of 2025.

2 And that's all I have, and I would like to
3 recognize Pamela Williams.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mike. Good evening, everyone.

5 Again, I'm Pamela Williams. I'm the Chief Public
6 Affairs Officer and General Counsel, and my job
7 here tonight is to go over the ground rules for the
8 meeting and for receiving your comments.

9 So, I want to make you aware of some
10 information that will be public. So, the
11 registration list and the sign-in sheet will be
12 made part of the public record for this rates
13 proceeding. And as Vicky said, a court reporter is
14 here transcribing everything that is said in the
15 meeting, and that transcript will be provided to
16 our Board prior to their vote on the rates and will
17 also be on our website.

18 Now, we may decline to consider some of the
19 comments if the comments are inappropriate, that is
20 don't relate to the rate process or if someone
21 who's not a customer makes a comment tonight. This
22 meeting is to receive comments from our customers.

23 And so, as a matter of housekeeping, please
24 silence your cell phones and be courteous to those
25 who are speaking. And I would ask for you not to

1 make loud noises, clap, whistle, any of those types
2 of things while someone is speaking so the court
3 reporter can capture all of the comments from the
4 speaker.

5 So, only those who have registered to speak
6 will be called up here to speak. And if you want
7 to speak and you have not registered, please sign
8 up at the registration table and we will hear your
9 comments even if you haven't signed up yet.

10 So, when your name is called, please, I need
11 you to say a few things. We need to know your
12 name, and please speak into the microphone so the
13 court reporter can pick it up. So, your name, the
14 name of the street you live on but not your street
15 number, because if you say your street number, that
16 will be published in the record and we want to
17 respect your privacy. Your name, name of your
18 street, the town or county where you live, and
19 whether you, just confirm you are indeed a Santee
20 Cooper customer.

21 So, in the interest of time and to give
22 everyone an opportunity to speak, we're going to
23 limit comments of each speaker to three minutes.
24 And there's a clock over here that will count down
25 from three to zero so you'll know where you are in

1 terms of the three-minute timeframe.

2 As Mike said, in total, there are four public
3 meetings like this to take comments. We've already
4 had two of them. One was in Moncks Corner. One
5 was in Pawleys Island earlier today. This is the
6 third, and the fourth meeting will be a virtual
7 meeting where people can call in and make their
8 comments that way.

9 So, we will only allow you to make comments at
10 one of those meetings. So, if you speak tonight,
11 then you won't be entitled to speak at the virtual
12 meeting. But if you don't speak tonight and want
13 to speak at that meeting, then you will be able to
14 do that.

15 Also, as Mike said, there is a Board meeting
16 on October the 8th that will be here in this room,
17 and we will also be taking comments from the
18 public, from our customers and others that Mike
19 mentioned. We will be taking, you can submit
20 written questions or reasonable requests for
21 information to us through October 8th, the date of
22 that Board meeting.

23 If anyone is here with a question about an
24 existing account, we have account representatives
25 like Vicky said here, but this is really about

1 rates. If you have a question, a Santee Cooper
2 question, we have folks here who can help you with
3 that.

4 The Board members who are here are here to,
5 they are not in a position to respond to any
6 questions you might have. We are here to respond
7 to questions, and so they'll be listening but it
8 would not be appropriate for them to engage with
9 you in questions. So, direct your questions to us,
10 and with that, I think we can start. I'll hand it
11 back to Vicky, and she will call up those who have
12 registered to speak.

13 MS. BUDREAU: Okay. All right, before I start calling,
14 is there anybody that would like to sign up to
15 speak at this point that has not? (Pause for
16 response.) Okay, so the first person is Mike
17 Rallings.

18 MR. RALLINGS: Thank you, and thank you for the
19 opportunity to speak. Vicky, I think we've met
20 before.

21 MS. BUDREAU: We have. We have.

22 MR. RALLINGS: Is your husband still working?

23 MS. BUDREAU: Yes, sir.

24 MR. RALLINGS: Thank you for the opportunity again,
25 Board. I am a part-time resident of Bay Drive in

1 Garden City, Santee Cooper customer. Can you hear
2 me enough?

3 MS. WILLIAMS: We can hear you.

4 MR. RALLINGS: Okay. We're part-time. It's a second
5 home for my wife and I. We visit about every other
6 weekend, either Thursday or Friday through Sunday,
7 typically 80 to 90 days a year, and there's three
8 or four weeks a year where we are here for about an
9 entire week. But usually, it's just three to four
10 days, and two of those days being on the weekend,
11 which should be off peak.

12 I don't know if your peak is confined to the
13 five-day work week or not. I didn't see that in
14 any of the communications. Can my peak occur on a
15 Saturday or Sunday?

16 MR. SMITH: Yes.

17 MR. RALLINGS: Okay. So, because of my usage, I'd be
18 considered a low load factor customer, and I am
19 getting severely penalized as a low load factor
20 customer by this rate structure. I used your own
21 provided Calculate Your Bill tab in the
22 communication, and it is a 46 percent rate increase
23 for my account for the 12 months included in that
24 communication.

25 I think that is totally unfair to customers

1 like myself, and there are thousands of us in Horry
2 County due the transient nature of being a
3 retirement and tourism industry. Also, RV parks,
4 where the RVs are individually metered and people
5 come in on just the weekend, they're a very low
6 energy use and higher demand under this rate
7 structure. My average kW over those 12 months was
8 5.5. I think I hit 7.11 one month. 5.5 was the
9 average of 12 months. And that if you include the
10 \$20 customer fee, that equates to 46 percent rate
11 increase, and about 50 percent of that is the
12 demand charge. If you exclude the customer fee, a
13 67 percent component of my rate is just the demand
14 charge. I believe that's totally unfair to a low
15 load factor customer.

16 I've seen it before. I'm a 40 year retired
17 utility employee. I've seen similar rate
18 structures implemented and it severely impacts low
19 load factor customers, and it's just unfair. I
20 think some alternative rate structure needs to be
21 developed for similar type customers. Thank you
22 for your time.

23 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

24 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. All right, the next speaker
25 is Eugene Wu ---

1 MR. WOJCIECHOSKI: Wojciechoski. Yes, hi. Good evening,
2 everyone. So, my name is Eugene Wojciechoski
3 (phonetic), and I live at Zenith Way in Myrtle
4 Beach and I am customer of Santee Cooper with solar
5 panels installed on my roof of 3.2 kilowatts. So,
6 my questions and comments will be mostly related to
7 customers with solar products, because I did not
8 find on your website, I think, enough information.

9 So, the first question is what is the proposed
10 modified customer charge for solar customers? I
11 understand that the standby fee by \$4.40 per
12 kilowatts and some other fees of \$2 will be
13 eliminated on the proposal.

14 Number two, what is going to be the energy
15 credit for each kilowatt hour returned to the grid?
16 Is the credit going to be different for kilowatt
17 hours returned during the peak hours?

18 Regarding the customer rates RG-25 and RT-25,
19 can a customer opt to switch during the year from
20 one to another and how many times? And at the end,
21 you know, I run your rate analyzer application and
22 my new rates will have increased by 50 percent and
23 this is based on 3.4 kilowatts peak average. So,
24 to me the proposed system, based on the demand,
25 it's not really working well, and I believe this

1 might be the case for more customers with solar
2 powers. Okay, that's it. Thank you very much.

3 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you.

4 MR. SMITH: Sir, thank you for those comments. We do
5 appreciate that and we appreciate your interest.
6 You asked some specific questions associated with
7 the distributed generation rider for residential
8 customers and one of those questions was what is
9 the customer charge?

10 I'm sure you realize that for the RG-25 rate
11 there is a \$20 customer charge. What we're
12 proposing is an additional \$10 on top of that
13 customer charge. The purpose for that is to
14 recover costs that would not be recovered based on
15 the avoided energy that's being created. In other
16 words, there are still some fixed costs that are
17 located in the energy charge in RG-25 that are
18 being offset that need to be recovered. That's
19 really the bottom line and that's why the customer
20 charge is increasing by that amount.

21 You also asked about the kilowatt hours
22 returned and will it be different. Actually, the
23 pricing of the kilowatt hours are returned, and
24 will those be different based on, if I recall
25 correctly, peak periods was your question? The

1 intent is not to have in the current rate as it
2 exists right now, the current rider, to have that
3 value change based on whether it's a peak period or
4 a non-peak period. The kilowatt hour number of
5 return is going to be an avoided cost number
6 that'll be calculated every single year. So, it'll
7 just be an avoided cost for our system. Whatever
8 number is avoided will be what that number will be.

9 Can you switch between the RG-25 and other
10 rates? Yes, you can. If I recall correctly, I
11 believe the tariff says, and I'm going to ask my
12 rate expert Devin Ritter back there, he is the
13 expert, but typically we limit those changes to
14 once every year and I believe that's what the
15 tariff says now. It's on an annual basis. You can
16 change between one rate or another if you choose to
17 do so. And then -- thank you, Devin; I appreciate
18 the thumbs up. It's very helpful.

19 And sir, about the increase; that's difficult,
20 and I certainly understand that. Typically, we
21 have seen increases like that usually for lower
22 load factor customers, and by lower load factor we
23 mean that the is high relative to the amount of
24 energy that's used. It's kind of a usage metric
25 more or less; typically, we have seen that. What I

1 would suggest, sir, and we would be happy to do
2 this is tonight, we have people here who can
3 connect you with either an energy advisor or
4 someone who can look at your account and help you
5 understand maybe why that number is looking the way
6 that it is, and we can help you actually change
7 that to some extent. We'd more than happy to do
8 that for you.

9 I agree with you, 50 percent is difficult, but
10 we have seen some customers who have had very low
11 load factors whose increases are higher than the
12 class average. That may well be the case. Did I
13 address your question, sir?

14 MR. WOJCIECHOSKI: Yes, you did.

15 MS. BUDREAU: The next speaker, Carla Cummings.

16 MS. CENSULLO: I'm Carla Censullo, not Cummings.

17 MS. BUDREAU: Oh, well, maybe they wrote your last name
18 down wrong.

19 MS. CENSULLO: Yeah.

20 MS. BUDREAU: Sorry about that.

21 MS. CENSULLO: That's all right. Don't worry about it.

22 Hi, I'm Carla Censullo, and I live in the Bella
23 Vita Development on Tessera Way in Horry County.

24 I understand budget changes and increases and
25 growth, and the question that I sent into Santee

1 Cooper was: With all the development and the
2 building and the growth here and the money that's
3 coming back to you, how can you turn around and
4 bill us? I understand the cost of the supplies and
5 the demand and all that, but my bill just -- I'm
6 not going to get into percentages. When we first
7 moved here, it was \$60 a month. We were on a
8 budget. We lived in an energy efficient home. We
9 went to \$80 a month on a budget, and by your
10 estimation, we're going to be going to \$125 a month
11 on a budget, which raises our bill \$45 a month.

12 So, you say to somebody \$45 a month isn't a
13 lot of money, but if you do that over the year and
14 things keep increasing, not to mention car
15 insurance is increasing, the water bill, everything
16 here is increasing with no real explanation.

17 So, my question to you is how do you justify
18 increasing somebody's bill so much money with an
19 energy efficient home, and that's it, you're
20 getting raised \$45 in your bill and it could be
21 more once you guys tally up your rates. I don't
22 know. This is just us sitting here figuring it out
23 ourselves.

24 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you for those comments. All right,
25 that's the last person that was signed up to speak

1 tonight. I'll just take this minute and see if
2 there's somebody at this point that's interested in
3 speaking. Any customers. (Pause for response.)

4 Okay, well, none heard. We appreciate the
5 comments that we've received tonight. We
6 appreciate the time that everyone has taken to come
7 out tonight to be with us. And as I think a number
8 of people have said, if you have questions or if
9 you want to work with one of our energy advisors,
10 we have people that can connect you here in the
11 room tonight. So, with that, I will adjourn the
12 meeting. Thank you.

13 (There being nothing further, the
14 Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.)

15 (*This transcript may contain
16 quoted material. Such material
17 is reproduced as read or quoted
18 by the speaker.)

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