

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN)

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

DATE: Tuesday, September 17th, 2024
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Waccamaw Neck Library
DeBordieu Auditorium
41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island, South Carolina

REPORTED BY:

Cara-Leigh V. Richardson

A P P E A R A N C E S

SANTEE COOPER BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kristopher Clark, 3rd District
Charles Dalton, 4th District
Herb Leaird, 5th District
Steve Mudge, At Large
Dan Ray, Georgetown County
David Singleton, Horry County
Stacy Taylor, 2nd District
Robert Ardis, Ex Officio Member

SANTEE COOPER EXECUTIVE STAFF MEMBERS:

Jimmy Staton, President & Chief Executive Officer
Vicky Budreau, Chief Customer Officer
Rahul Dembla, Chief Planning Officer
Monique Washington, Chief Audit & Risk 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.

A P P E A R A N C E S

STAFF MEMBERS & OUTSIDE COUNSEL (continued):

Tracey Green, Partner, Burr Forman
Jack Grooms, Financial Analyst III
Jonathan Kitts, Manager, Network Services
Bryan Lewis, Director-Customer Service Retail
Kearney Gregory, Economic Development
& Local Government Spec. III
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
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 afternoon, y'all. I'd like to call
3 the Public Comment Meeting to order. I'd like to
4 thank all of our customers and others that are here
5 for this meeting today. I'm Vicky Budreau. I'm
6 the Chief Customer Officer, and at this time I'm
7 going to ask everybody to stand for the Pledge of
8 Allegiance.

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

10 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. So, to begin with, I'd like
11 to introduce Jimmy Staton, our President and CEO.

12 MR. STATON: Good afternoon and welcome to Santee
13 Cooper's Public Hearing. It's great to see you
14 all. It's great to be here. I will tell you, for
15 the last 90 years, Santee Cooper has been blessed
16 to be able to serve the people of South Carolina
17 with affordable, reliable energy. And that's been
18 even more challenging quite frankly over the last
19 eight years because as you all know, over the last
20 eight years we have not changed our prices. We've
21 been able to hold the line on costs and be able to
22 manage to keep our rates flat.

23 During that same timeframe, unfortunately, you
24 all probably know this as well as anyone, inflation
25 has gone up over 25 percent. The cost of

1 materials, the cost of steel, the cost of
2 transformers have gone up 60, 70 percent. And so,
3 while again I'm proud of the team at Santee Cooper,
4 they've been able to hold the line on costs,
5 unfortunately, we need to ask and we have asked our
6 Board for a rate increase.

7 We understand nobody jumps up and down and
8 says, "Yay, we have a rate increase." We
9 understand that, but we are not a for-profit
10 enterprise, so we don't make more money. Our
11 intent is to just cover our costs and ensure that
12 we can continue to provide the safe, reliable
13 service that you expect from us and we will
14 continue to do that.

15 But today isn't hearing from me. Today is our
16 opportunity to hear from you all. Our Board is
17 here, much of our Board is represented. They are
18 here today to hear what you have to say about this
19 change. And again, it's both a rate change and a
20 structure of change so that we put some of your
21 electric bill back in your hands.

22 So, those are the proposals and I will turn it
23 back over to Vicky. Thanks.

24 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. So, today's meeting is going
25 to, the agenda is going to be, first, we're going

1 to make some more introductions, we're going to
2 give an overview of the retail rate process and the
3 need for the adjustment, and then we're going to
4 move into the public comment portion of the
5 meeting.

6 So, for the record, the Notice of the proposed
7 rate adjustment and this meeting complies with FOIA
8 and the South Carolina Code Section 58-31-710. The
9 Notice was provided on June 10th of 2024, via First
10 Class Mail and electronically to customers. The
11 Notice was also provided via press, a news release,
12 and on Santee Cooper's website. The Notice of this
13 meeting was posted online and provided to the media
14 24 hours in advance.

15 So, at this time I'd like to introduce the
16 members of our Board that are present. So, we have
17 Kristofer Clark from the 3rd District; Director
18 Charles Dalton from the 4th District; Director
19 Steve Mudge, At-Large Member; Director Dan Ray
20 representing Georgetown County; Director David
21 Singleton representing Horry County; Director Stacy
22 Taylor representing the 2nd District; Director Herb
23 Leaird representing the 5th District; and then,
24 also with us today is Rob Ardis, who is an Ex
25 Officio Member on our Board. Rob, you were welcome

1 to come and sit up front. So, for the record, a
2 quorum of the Board is present today.

3 Also with us today are some other members of
4 Executive Management and our Staff. So, sitting
5 with me here is Pamela Williams; she's our Chief
6 Public Affairs Officer and General Counsel. And
7 then Mike Smith, the Director of Billing and
8 Pricing at Santee Cooper.

9 In the audience is Monique Washington; she is
10 our Chief Audit and Risk Officer. Rahul Dembla is
11 our Chief Planning Officer. We're happy to have
12 them with us today for their support.

13 I also would like to acknowledge the
14 appearance of the ORS, the Office of Regulatory
15 Staff, has representation with us today as well.

16 So, today this is a public meeting. A court
17 reporter is present and will transcribe the meeting
18 to create a public record. This transcript will be
19 provided to the Board prior to its consideration
20 and vote on the proposed rate adjustment.

21 The purpose of this public meeting is to
22 provide an overview of Santee Cooper's proposed
23 rate adjustment and receive information from you,
24 our customers, relating to the proposed rate
25 adjustments. We are looking forward to hearing

1 your comments today. We are receiving this, we are
2 receiving information only this afternoon with
3 respect to the proposed rate adjustments. If you
4 have questions about your existing account, we do
5 have Customer Service Representatives present to
6 assist you with any questions you may have.

7 With respect to the proposed rate adjustments,
8 no deliberations will be conducted today, no
9 decisions will be made today, and no votes will be
10 taken today.

11 Before we begin taking public comments, we're
12 going to have a brief overview of the proposed, of
13 the process and the proposed rate adjustment, and
14 I'm going to turn it over to Mike Smith.

15 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much, Vicky. Good
16 afternoon to everyone and welcome to our Public
17 Comment Meeting. My name is Mike Smith. I'm the
18 Director of Billing and Pricing at Santee Cooper,
19 and it's my pleasure to be here today.

20 My purpose here today is threefold. First, I
21 would like to talk about the reasons behind the
22 rate adjustment. Then, I'll talk about specific
23 aspects of the adjustment focusing on the
24 residential general service rate, and then I'll
25 talk about the process going forward from this

1 point.

2 First, why do we need the adjustment? Well,
3 if you look on the handout that you received as you
4 came in the door -- you should have received one.
5 If you did not receive one, please hold up your
6 hand and we'll have one delivered to you.

7 Take a look at the very first item at the top.
8 It asks, "Why is Santee Cooper proposing these
9 changes?" And it says, "Inflation has outgrown our
10 ability to manage it and revenues from current
11 rates will not cover our expenses in 2025."

12 Y'all are familiar with inflation and what it
13 has done to our economy over the past several
14 months and years. Our rates have been flat since
15 2017. As a matter of fact, the base information
16 used to develop those rates in 2017 is actually
17 from 2015. So, very old data that didn't
18 contemplate the type of inflation that we've seen.

19 Since April of 2017 all the way through the
20 end of 2023, inflation has increased prices by 25
21 percent, and during that time period, our rates
22 were flat. The prices for some of our heavier
23 components, like iron and steel, core commodities
24 that we use in our work at Santee Cooper have
25 increased anywhere from 60 percent to well over a

1 hundred percent. So, costs have increased
2 significantly.

3 In order to counter that, we made some
4 adjustments. Again, if you look at the handout, it
5 says that we've already cut budgets a hundred
6 million dollars in total refinanced debt, saving
7 customers 765 million dollars over time, several
8 years, and have strategically reduced our
9 headcount, actually reduced that via attrition by
10 about 10 percent, saving over 20 million dollars
11 for our customers. But even with all of those
12 changes, we still have the need for a rate
13 adjustment.

14 Another reason why we need a rate adjustment
15 is to continue to invest in our electric system to
16 maintain high reliability. The high reliability
17 that you deserve as our customers. Certainly, we
18 want to maintain that for the entire electric
19 system and for every customer on the system. At
20 the same time, we need to comply with regulations
21 that are imposed upon us and that costs money as
22 well. New regulations related to the environment,
23 grid operations, and security have all come out
24 over the last several years. We've had to invest
25 hundreds of millions of dollars to comply with

1 those regulations and as we've done that, that's
2 increased our costs of doing business.

3 One point I'd like to make when talking about
4 this adjustment is the point that Jimmy brought up.
5 We don't have shareholders except for the people of
6 South Carolina. We serve the people of South
7 Carolina. We're state owned, not-for-profit, and
8 an organization that exists for the state. So,
9 here is no profit. There is no dividend. We want
10 to collect our costs of doing business with this
11 rate adjustment.

12 Next, I'd like to talk about proposed changes
13 that are going to be, that have been introduced via
14 this adjustment. If you look right in the middle
15 of that handout, you can see a section that's
16 headed Proposed Changes for Residential Customers,
17 and it states, "Rate recommendations include a new
18 rate structure that lowers the energy charge by
19 approximately 40 percent and adds what's called a
20 demand charge."

21 A demand charge is simply related to the
22 amount of energy that you use in a specific hour in
23 a specific period of time. That's literally what
24 it is. And our specific period of time is called a
25 peak period, an hour within that peak period. It's

1 a three-hour window each day. In the summertime,
2 that's from 3 to 6 p.m. In the wintertime, that is
3 from 6 to 9 p.m.

4 MS. BUDREAU: A.M.

5 MR. SMITH: A.M., thank you. She's my boss, too.

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

13 And so, what that means is if you shift
14 outside of that window, you can save money. If you
15 flip over the handout, it shows you exactly how you
16 can save money. Just after Green Means Go, it says
17 "Use your higher-demand appliances during the 21
18 'green' hours to avoid system peaks and help
19 control your bill."

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

25 So, then moving down another section, How

1 Could This Impact Your Bill? This is the
2 interesting part. If you move down to the green
3 area at the bottom, the white and green, it says
4 "Monthly bill proposed." The median demand for our
5 customers, all 185,000 residential customers that
6 we have on our system, the middle demand is about
7 5.1 kW, 5.1 kilowatts. That's a middle number.

8 For a typical customer who uses an average
9 monthly energy of a thousand kilowatt hours per
10 month, what that means is their average monthly
11 bill will be around \$125.98. That's \$10.29 per
12 month greater than our current rates today. But if
13 that same customer, using the exact same amount of
14 electricity, is able to minimize their demand by
15 simply eight-tenths of a kilowatt, in other words,
16 move a water heater or a heat pump or a clothes
17 dryer outside of that window, and if it were only
18 eight-tenths of a kilowatt, what that customer
19 could do is lower their bill by about six bucks
20 down to \$119.35.

21 A key point here is simply by moving that
22 usage outside of the peak window, those three hours
23 of the day, simply by moving that electricity usage
24 outside of that peak window, a customer can use the
25 exact same amount of electricity and pay less.

1 That's the structure for our residential
2 general service rate. It's different than what
3 we've had in the past. We believe that this rate
4 will be effective for two reasons. One, it puts in
5 the hands of the customer the opportunity to save
6 money. You can save money as a customer. And two,
7 what it'll do is it'll minimize the demand on our
8 system during periods of high stress causing lower
9 costs for all customers over time. That's far and
10 away the largest change that we have in this rate
11 adjustment.

12 And then finally, I'd like to talk about
13 what's going to happen going forward with this
14 adjustment itself. This is a Public Comment
15 Meeting. You have an opportunity to speak here
16 today. This is the first of two meetings that
17 we're going to have in the area. We have an
18 additional meeting tonight at 6:00 in Myrtle Beach.
19 We'll also have a virtual meeting on the 24th of
20 this month. And then after that, we'll have a
21 meeting where we will present to the Board of
22 Directors, we being the Rates Organization, will
23 present to the Board of Directors all the public
24 comments that we have received, written and oral.
25 Those will be put together in a report and

1 delivered to the Board of Directors. That's on
2 October 8th that that meeting will be held.

3 Additionally, we'll also receive comments from
4 other customers, as well as other interested
5 entities at that point. ORS will speak at that
6 meeting, and several other entities will speak at
7 that meeting as well, directly to the Board of
8 Directors. After that, we'll take all of that
9 information and we'll modify, if need be, the rates
10 that we have now that have already been proposed
11 and noticed. And then after that, we will, on
12 November 7th, present modified rates, if they
13 should be necessary, to the Board of Directors on
14 that date and then the Board will vote on any
15 proposed rate adjustment on December 9th.

16 These rates will not go into effect, should
17 the Board approve them, until April 1st of 2025.
18 That's all I have. Now, I'd like to pass it to
19 Pamela Williams.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mike. Good afternoon and
21 welcome, everyone. I am the last person between
22 you and your comments. So, I do have to go over a
23 few ground rules for how we'll conduct the public
24 comment portion of the meeting.

25 So, I want to make you aware that the

1 registration list and the sign-in sheet will be
2 made part of the public record for the rates
3 process. And as Vicky said, we have a court
4 reporter here and we will make a transcript of the
5 meeting, and that transcript will be provided to
6 our Board, along with all the other comments Mike
7 talked about. The transcript will also be posted
8 on our website.

9 Now, we may decline to respond to some
10 comments that are inappropriate. So, for example,
11 if someone who's not a customer makes a comment, we
12 may not respond to that. This meeting is for our
13 customer comments.

14 Please silence your cell phones and be
15 respectful and courteous when others are speaking.
16 And we'll ask you not to clap or make noise when
17 someone is speaking, because that will interfere
18 with the court reporter's ability to catch what's
19 being said and to capture it for the transcript.

20 Only those who are registered to speak will be
21 called up here to speak. And so, if you have not
22 registered and you want to speak, please go back
23 outside and sign up, and we'll get you on the list
24 to provide your comments.

25 So, when your name is called, we're going to

1 ask you to come up to the podium. There's a
2 microphone there and we need you to tell us your
3 name, the name of your street but not your house
4 number, because remember this will be part of a
5 public record and we want to respect your privacy
6 of your exact address. We also want to know the
7 town or the county where you receive service, and
8 please confirm that you are a customer of Santee
9 Cooper. And so, we're going to limit each person
10 to three minutes of comments in the interest of
11 time.

12 As Mike said, we have scheduled four public
13 meetings. One we had earlier in Moncks Corner.
14 This is the second public meeting. We'll have
15 another public meeting this evening up in Horry,
16 County, and then we'll have a virtual public
17 meeting as well. Customers can make comments at
18 one of those four meetings. So, if you make
19 comments today, you'll not be permitted to make
20 comments at the other two remaining public
21 meetings. Mike also talked about a Board meeting
22 on October the 8th, so that will be another
23 opportunity for public comment. And we will be
24 taking written questions or reasonable requests for
25 information from the public, from customers, until

1 October 8th, the date of that Board meeting that I
2 mentioned.

3 And if anyone here, if you have a question
4 about your existing account or something that's not
5 related to the rates process, we have Customer
6 Service Representatives outside who can take those
7 questions. This is about taking questions on the
8 rates.

9 We will not be asking you questions. We'll be
10 listening to you and we ask that any questions that
11 you have, you direct to the staff who's here. Our
12 Board members are here and in their role of
13 considering the rates, it's not appropriate for
14 them to be talking to you right now about the
15 rates. They're here to listen and to hear what you
16 have to say, but we ask that you not direct
17 questions to them.

18 And so, those are all the rules, and at this
19 point I'll turn it back over to Vicky.

20 MS. BUDREAU: Okay. As Pamela said, when I call your
21 name, please come forward and state your name, your
22 street address, the town or county, and confirm
23 that you're a Santee Cooper employee or customer.

24 So, let's start with Mrs. Glynis Burnham.

25 (Pause for response.)

1 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She does not wish to comment.

2 MS. BUDREAU: Okay. Mr. Peter or Phillip Welch?

3 MR. WELCH: Good to go?

4 MR. SMITH: Yes.

5 MR. WELCH: Anyway, the first thing I'd like to do is

6 I want to actually express my appreciation to

7 Santee Cooper for, first of all, replying to the

8 comments that I sent in writing last month, and

9 also for the analysis that they've done for the

10 customers showing the comparison of the new rate,

11 you know, compared to our existing rate. I very

12 much appreciate it.

13 Look at mine, just for an example ---

14 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm sorry; could you go through your

15 name, and ---

16 MR. WELCH: Oh, I'm sorry. My name is Phil Welch,

17 and I live on Cutter Cove in Pawleys Island, and

18 yes, I am a customer. Did I cover it?

19 MS. WILLIAMS: That covers it.

20 MR. WELCH: Okay.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

22 MR. WELCH: Anyway, as far as my specific case is

23 concerned, our rate analysis, a couple of

24 observations. First of all, my rate is actually

25 going to go up on an average of 18 percent. Now,

1 that's twice the average, which tells me there's
2 many customers out there that are going to be
3 paying less than the average. I suspect these are
4 going to be customers who are currently using gas,
5 and also probably a lot of people who own second
6 homes that aren't occupied year round. But again,
7 I understand average is average, and some of us are
8 going to be in the high end, and some of us are
9 going to be in the low end.

10 The other thing I noticed is that with the new
11 rate, my actual cost is going to decrease during
12 the highest demand months of June, July, and
13 August, and the rate is going to go, my cost is
14 going to go up during the off-peak months,
15 primarily in spring and fall, which kind of makes
16 me wonder, if we're trying to reduce energy
17 consumption, what that's telling me is: Don't worry
18 about the summer, because you're already saving
19 money. You need to concentrate on the spring and
20 the fall, which are going to be harder to work
21 with, because of the lower energy use right now.

22 Again, I do understand the need for this rate
23 increase due to inflation and improvements.
24 However, I honestly believe that maybe a simpler
25 approach ought to be considered. One that might be

1 a factor would be, for example, just a across-the-
2 board increase for all classes, you know, a certain
3 percentage or whatever. That's obviously the
4 simplest. The other one would be a tiered rate
5 structure, which I'm familiar with, having lived in
6 Arizona for quite a time, and it would basically be
7 done, you know, it'd be a tiered structure based on
8 the overall energy demand, which again, there would
9 be peak periods and off peak periods. You know,
10 something like that, again, these would be a lot
11 similar.

12 The current proposal right now, one factor
13 that is very, very confusing, I think to me and
14 probably others, is the peak demand. My
15 understanding is that it's going to be, the peak
16 demand is going to be calculated on an --

17 (Three-minute alarm sounds.)

18 MS. WILLIAMS: That's the three minutes.

19 MR. WELCH: Okay. I guess I'm done.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: I'll let you finish your sentence.

21 MR. WELCH: Well, to make it simple, the bottom line
22 is, what I would recommend or what I would like to
23 see is that the following things be done. First of
24 all, for both of these, well, for the RG, which is
25 the one being proposed, as well as the RT, which is

1 also available as far as I know, I would request
2 that the peak periods be excluded from Saturday,
3 Sunday, and holidays, which is quite common in
4 these types of things, primarily because there's
5 not a lot of demand there. I mean, a lot of
6 businesses are closed. It would give families an
7 opportunity in order to get things done, you know,
8 done on weekends they couldn't get done during the
9 week.

10 The other thing that I think you need to
11 understand is that making adjustments with the peak
12 demand concept in there, basically means you have
13 to, as you said earlier, you have to do these
14 things outside of that three-hour period.

15 Well, the problem is during the winter, six to nine
16 in the morning because a very, very active period
17 for people that have kids in school, people that
18 have to go to work. And again, in the evening from
19 three to six is extremely important. That's when
20 the kids come home from school, that's when I get
21 home from work, and that's the time we have dinner.

22 And again, with a tiered system, what you can
23 do is you can actually go in there and I can
24 adjust. All right, for that first hour, I'm going
25 to cut back. For the second hour, I'll cook

1 dinner. For the third hour, I'll cut back. The
2 peak demand, you have no idea when that's going to
3 occur in that three-hour period until the bill
4 comes in.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

6 MR. WELCH: So, you really have less control on what
7 your options are.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Welch, thank you.

9 MR. WELCH: Thank you.

10 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you for your comments. Okay, next,
11 Mr. Freddie Young.

12 MR. YOUNG: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Freddie
13 Young, Jr. I live at [REDACTED] Turntable Road.

14 COURT REPORTER: Mr. Young?

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. Young, Mr. Young, could you, please

16 ---

17 MR. YOUNG: Are you sure? I said ---

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, so the court reporter ---

19 COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: She's the one asking.

21 MR. YOUNG: I am Freddie Young, Jr. Is it on?

22 MS. BUDREAU: Yes, sir, just put it close ---

23 MR. YOUNG: I live at [REDACTED] Turntable Road, Murrells

24 Inlet, South Carolina. Now, I ---

25 MS. BUDREAU: And you're a Santee Cooper customer?

1 MR. YOUNG: Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. BUDREAU: Yes, sir. Thank you.

3 MR. YOUNG: Now, we have 52 homes being built in my
4 neighborhood. Material costs for that development
5 is going to affect us in that neighborhood. And
6 you said something about the peak hour, looking at
7 your information, we can buy a smart thermostat
8 from Santee Cooper, because they'll probably have
9 to adjust the time period that we can use them.
10 You have a couple other things, like water heaters.
11 That means that we have to go out and purchase some
12 more appliances and stuff. Oh, thank y'all. I'll
13 cut to the good stuff. But however we can help
14 y'all out, we'll work with y'all. Thank you.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: How much time?

16 MS. BUDREAU: He's got two minutes left.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: You have two minutes left.

18 MR. YOUNG: What happened?

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Mr. Young, you have two minutes left.

20 MR. YOUNG: Oh, okay, okay. Thank you. Okay, now,
21 material costs, like I said with the 52 houses that
22 are coming in the neighborhood and all the houses
23 that are coming around here in this neighborhood,
24 it's as if we are going to buy material in order
25 for you to put in their homes, in order for

1 everybody to be satisfied, but if we do not have
2 the materials that you are asking us to get, then
3 we'll be in trouble.

4 Now, the adjustment rate, I don't know how
5 y'all do it or how it work, but the adjustment rate
6 for older customers should not affect us because,
7 like I said, you got other people coming in. It's
8 as if we are paying for them to come into our
9 neighborhood. I may be right, I may be wrong, but
10 that's the way I feel about that, and I know that
11 everything got to go up, but some kind of way we
12 got to work it out.

13 And like I say, I'm thinking that y'all want
14 us to buy the stuff that y'all have in order for
15 this to happen, and some of us cannot afford it
16 because some of us are on a fixed income. And
17 that's going to be it. Thank you.

18 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you, Mr. Young.

19 COURT REPORTER: Mr. Young, can you repeat your
20 street name, please?

21 MR. YOUNG: Somebody might be looking for me.

22 COURT REPORTER: I don't need the numbers; I just
23 need the street name.

24 MR. YOUNG: Turntable Road.

25 COURT REPORTER: Which road?

1 MR. YOUNG: Turntable.

2 COURT REPORTER: Turntable; I apologize. Thank you.

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you, ma'am. All right, thank y'all.

4 MS. BUDREAU: Okay, and I'm going to apologize if I
5 mispronounce this, Ms. Mary Budzisz.

6 MS. BUDZISZ: It's Budzisz, but that's okay; that was
7 very good.

8 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. Please state your name.

9 MS. BUDZISZ: Good afternoon. I'm Mary Gale, and it's
10 Budzisz. I live on Fieldgate Circle, Pawleys
11 Island, and yes, I am a residential consumer.

12 I understand rate changes and I understand
13 inflation and I understand this because I've been
14 here a long time. I know also that Myrtle Beach
15 has already gone to peaking hours. Is that
16 correct, sir? You're a representative.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: I believe what you're referring to is
18 Horry Co-op.

19 MS. BUDZISZ: Is it Horry Co-op?

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

21 MS. BUDZISZ: Well, it says Myrtle Beach area. So,
22 they've already started their peaking hours.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: I don't know that for certain. If you
24 read that in the newspaper, I ---

25 MS. BUDZISZ: Yes, I did. You've got a representative

1 over here from Myrtle Beach.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: He's a representative on our Board.

3 MS. BUDZISZ: Well, and he should know about Myrtle

4 Beach. So, we'll have six months before we

5 tentatively go to the same process, correct?

6 MS. BUDREAU: Yes.

7 MS. BUDZISZ: Okay. Now, what if everybody is so

8 wonderful that you're going to lose money? Do you

9 have any thought about that? That everybody does

10 go to peaking hours?

11 Now, other states in our country have been on

12 peaking hours for many, many years, many years.

13 They've built specific peaking plants to serve this

14 need of high usage of electricity at certain hours

15 of the day. So, we'll have six months; we'll check

16 on Myrtle Beach and we'll see what the story is.

17 And I understand raising rates. My one thing

18 that I'm concerned about is still this damn nuclear

19 plant that nobody knew what they were doing with.

20 I'm still seeing that we owe, or you owe, or I owe

21 3.6 billion dollars in unpaid debt. I would like

22 this in the record, you know, where this comes into

23 my rate of increase. That plant is supposedly

24 dead. We still owe money. Now, how are you going

25 to divide this up? Because Central Electric is

1 having a problem with you, Santee Cooper, from what
2 I understand. And as a consumer then, where am I
3 going to be given this debt to be paid?

4 Now, I don't hear anybody mentioning that. I
5 see all of your brochures that are beautiful and
6 colorful, but nobody mentions 3.6 billion. I'd
7 like to have some people address that issue when
8 you talk about rate change. That was ineptitude.
9 Whoever was on that and watched that for, what was
10 it, seven years that nothing was happening but
11 party time. I as a consumer am very irritated with
12 that and the bill still hangs over us.

13 So, somewhere in your negotiation process, I'd
14 like our residential consumers to be able to know a
15 little bit more about that. Thank you very much.

16 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you for your comments. Next up is
17 Mr. Cavaliere, Cavaliere.

18 MS. CAVALIERE: Oh, that's me.

19 MS. BUDREAU: Oh.

20 MS. CAVALIERE: My parents did me no favors with my first
21 name. My name is Randy Cavaliere. I live on Camden
22 Circle in Pawleys Island, and yes, I am a Santee
23 Cooper customer, relatively new because I've only
24 been living here a little under six years.

25 I received an email through a friend from the

1 Energy and Climate Program Director of the
2 Charleston Conservation Organization and in this
3 email, he points out that with the rate changes
4 that are being proposed, there could be a whopping
5 36 percent increase in our rates. Obviously, from
6 what I'm hearing from you, it would be because of
7 peak-hour usage.

8 So, I'd like to know how you justify this or
9 break it down for me, because I don't understand
10 why we're going from the rate you've printed in
11 your material, an 8.7 rate increase, to a possible
12 36 percent increase that the Office of Regulatory
13 Staff determined. The example that was shown in
14 this email is that with say family visiting for a
15 holiday, with additional use of air conditioning,
16 washer and dryer, dinners, dishwasher, that means
17 we could be stuck with a \$170 demand charge on top
18 of the fixed rate. So, how do you explain this and
19 what do people do who may not be able to afford
20 this?

21 As the first gentleman mentioned, there are
22 people on low income, fixed income, and then the
23 rest of us would keel over seeing that in our
24 bills. So, that's my question.

25 MR. SMITH: First, thank you for that comment. We do

1 appreciate it, and we understand there has been
2 some media out there. I cannot comment on the
3 number from the article. I'm not sure exactly how
4 it was developed. What I can say is that we do
5 have a tool that's on our website and a tool that
6 we'd like to use with you today, if you would like,
7 and we can actually tell you, based on your current
8 usage, what your bill will be. And then, we can
9 recommend some changes so you can minimize the
10 amount of whatever increase there is. So, we can
11 offer that up and we're happy to do that for you.
12 The customer service desk, I believe is willing to
13 do that right now.

14 MR. CAVALIERE: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate the time.

15 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. Okay, the next commenter,
16 Edward Allen.

17 MR. ALLEN: Good afternoon. I'm Everett Allen. I
18 live on Portrush Loop in Pawleys Island, and I am a
19 customer, and I might have gotten things wrong. I
20 actually have some questions, and hopefully I can
21 get an answer; I don't know.

22 It was proposed to me some six months ago that
23 you can buy an apparatus and put on your units,
24 especially your HVAC, that when it kicks on, it
25 doesn't peak the power draw, and this unit is going

1 to cost four or \$500, but I was told I'd save that
2 in a year or less because when your HVAC kicks on,
3 you have a big draw of power to power it up, and
4 ---

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, sir.

6 MR. ALLEN: --- and then it falls back down. Is this
7 a bunch of malarkey or is this ---

8 MS. BUDREAU: Mr. Allen, I, I would say we're here to
9 talk about the proposed rate adjustment, but we
10 have some reps in the back of the room that can
11 talk through that with you.

12 MR. ALLEN: Then next, I noticed winter peak hours
13 are six to nine. I also know that there's about
14 5,000 acres in Plantersville that's going be,
15 that's trying to put in solar. Solar from six to
16 nine in the morning hardly gets any sun at all; it
17 won't help you. I'm curious about all this money
18 we're spending on all this work in solar and how it
19 affects our electric bill, and if it's a help or
20 not. Thank you.

21 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Next up, Ms. Nola
22 Bacci.

23 MS. KOZIOL: Hi, I am Nola Koziol. I live on Deacon
24 Drive in Pawleys Island, and I'm Santee Cooper
25 customer and have been for many years.

1 I find it interesting that everybody's telling
2 us how we're going to save money, but we are here
3 to talk about rate increases. So, we're going to
4 save money. Let's just call it what it is.

5 8.7 is what the increase is going to be, and
6 then somewhere in here it says you're going to do a
7 fuel adjustment of 7 percent on top of that. So,
8 now we're up to 15.7. Then, my husband and I went
9 on your website and did the calculations based on,
10 you put in your address and then they tell you how
11 much you're going to go up. So, we have a 15 SEER
12 air conditioner. It's brand new. We keep it at 71
13 in the summer, 69 usually in the winter, and we
14 don't change it. We have all energy-efficient
15 appliances, and we do have a hybrid vehicle which
16 we hardly ever charge up, and probably are not
17 going to be able to charge it up much in the
18 future.

19 That amounts to more than a 15 percent
20 increase without the surcharge. When we went on
21 your website and we put in our information, based
22 on our current usage, our bill is going to go up 29
23 to 30 percent. That's a lot. And there are a lot
24 of people in this area that are retired. They're
25 seniors. They don't have that kind of spare cash.

1 They're just making it. I think that the
2 restructuring is an outrageous plan. I think you
3 ought to rethink that whole thing. And it's
4 unaffordable for many, many people, and it's
5 prohibitive for those on fixed incomes.

6 So, ours is going to be 30 percent. I would
7 recommend that everybody go onto the website and
8 see exactly how much their rates are going to go
9 up. Thank you.

10 Oh, I have one other question. Somebody said
11 that if you use peak demand, if you use, let's say
12 you have company over, it's Thanksgiving, you
13 cooked a turkey and your demand is on a peak hour,
14 you know, your rate is going to be based on that
15 for the entire month. How does that work? Is it
16 going to go up just for that day? Is it going to
17 go up for the entire month? How are you going to
18 calculate that? Can you answer?

19 MR. SMITH: Absolutely. Peak demand is the peak hour
20 for the month in the three hour window. Typically,
21 your billed on 31 days, 30 days of electricity
22 usage. The peak demand going to be measured within
23 the three-hour window.

24 MS. KOZIOL: I understand.

25 MR. SMITH: It's the maximum hour in that window.

1 So, if that occurs on a given day, the day that you
2 mentioned where you're cooking for folks there, if
3 that's your peak demand and your maximum amount of
4 usage for that month, that will be the number that
5 your demand charge is based on.

6 MS. KOZIOL: The demand charge will be based on one
7 hour of usage for the whole month? That's
8 ridiculous. That's outrageous.

9 MS. CARBERRY: I'm sorry; could you repeat that?

10 COURT REPORTER: I need your name, please.

11 MS. CARBERRY: Patricia Carberry.

12 MR. SMITH: Sorry. So, if you take a look here, it
13 shows the hours.

14 MS. KOZIOL: Yes, we understand that. We understand
15 that.

16 MR. SMITH: That's right. So, in a given month, your
17 monthly bill is based on your maximum. When we use
18 the bill calculator that you use now, it's based on
19 that peak hour in that window for the month. It's
20 only the maximum in that window for the month.

21 MS. KOZIOL: For the whole month?

22 MR. SMITH: Just the one hour for the whole month.

23 That's it. That's your demand charge. It's based
24 on the highest value that you use in that window,
25 just that one hour.

1 MS. KOZIOL: The one hour?

2 MR. SMITH: That's right.

3 MS. KOZIOL: Now, would that be ---

4 MR. SMITH: It's just one hour. So, it's not every
5 hour in that three-hour window. It's not two hours
6 in that window. It's just a single hour for the
7 month. Whatever your maximum is, that's the value
8 that's multiplied by the demand charge, just that
9 one hour of demand.

10 MS. KOZIOL: So, you're going to use that one hour to
11 calculate my monthly usage, not a median.

12 MR. SMITH: No.

13 MS. KOZIOL: Not an average, ---

14 MR. SMITH: That's for the demand charge.

15 Ms. KOZIOL: --- just one hour. That's not fair.

16 MR. SMITH: No, ma'am. Your energy usage is actually
17 going to be whatever it is. How ever much energy
18 you use, that's going to be based on the lower
19 energy charge, about 40 percent lower. The demand
20 charge is a separate component. The lower energy
21 charge, again, based on all of the energy used
22 during the month, but one hour is the peak hour for
23 demand. That's it.

24 MS. KOZIOL: So, if you have a peak hour, let's say of
25 \$80, you're going to be charged that once in the

1 month?

2 MR. SMITH: That's it, just once.

3 MS. KOZIOL: Once.

4 MR. SMITH: Just once for that month, If that's your
5 peak.

6 MS. KOZIOL: Not as a part of your calculated rate.

7 MR. SMITH: Well, again, that's part of the rate
8 itself. So, if \$80 is your peak demand number, in
9 other words the \$10.03 value that we have for
10 demand times 8 kW, let's assume that that one hour
11 in your peak is 8 kW. Then what happens is you
12 have about \$80 worth of demand charge there. It's
13 one hour times the kW demand charge. The rest of
14 the charges, again with the lower energy rate, will
15 be tied up in energy usage. That's how it works:
16 demand and energy.

17 MS. KOZIOL: And what about the 7 percent fuel charge,
18 the new fuel charge, that's going to be on top of
19 everything else?

20 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I can't comment on that 7 percent
21 number. That's not our number. What I do know ---

22 MS. KOZIOL: But we'll be paying it.

23 MR. SMITH: Oh, I am not sure where the number came
24 from is what I'm saying. I'm not sure if ---

25 MS. KOZIOL: It's in, it's in your material. It's

1 right in your material.

2 MR. SMITH: I didn't see it. I apologize. If you
3 could -- I'd be more than happy to look at it
4 later; I would. I'd be more than happy to take a
5 look.

6 Based on, based on our calculations, we see
7 very little change for fuel between the months of
8 December and January. Our projections, again,
9 these are our projections for fuel, very little
10 change between the months of December and January
11 for this year, this coming year.

12 MS. KOZIOL: Do we have any say in approving or not
13 approving this restructuring?

14 MR. SMITH: This is your, this is your opportunity,
15 ma'am, in your comments, and that's why they're
16 making a record. That's one of the reasons why the
17 Board is here. The Board is our approver. They're
18 the sole arbiter for rates, and so they are the
19 ones who will either approve or not approve our
20 rates.

21 MS. KOZIOL: Well, I think what you might want to do
22 is send something out to people and let them give
23 their input, because a lot of people didn't even
24 know about this meeting. I know you have it on the
25 internet, but a lot of people are not internet

1 savvy. And I had to tell friends that there was
2 going to be meeting today because they didn't know.

3 So, I would say a mailing where people could
4 say, yes, I approve of this or no, I don't would
5 give you a much better idea from the entire
6 community and not just from a few people who know
7 about this meeting. Thank you.

8 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. That is everybody that had
9 signed up to make comments today. I will ask, is
10 there any customers in the room that are interested
11 in making comments that did not sign up? (Pause
12 for response.) If you will, please state your
13 name.

14 MS. CURIOSO: Yes. My name is Shirley Curioso. I live
15 in Murrells Inlet, and I am a Santee Cooper
16 customer.

17 My comment really is to the -- I called the
18 State yesterday and I got the impression that --
19 yes, it has not been approved. In case anybody
20 doesn't realize that, it hasn't been approved yet,
21 but I did get the impression that we were to
22 comment to the State at these meetings that we
23 thought the charges were going to be outrageous and
24 cost prohibitive for retirees. So, I want to make
25 a comment so that if you're representing the State

1 Department, I think it is awfully high. I'm not
2 one of those people that uses a lot of peak-hour
3 stuff, but I can only imagine the families that do.
4 So, I wanted to go on record that are commenting to
5 the State, I think they shouldn't approve this.
6 That's all I wanted to say.

7 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. Yes, sir, please come
8 forward. Please state your name, the street you
9 live on, you if you're a Santee Cooper customer.

10 MR. BRENNAN: I signed up and nobody called me.

11 MS. BUDREAU: Oh.

12 MR. BRENNAN: It's Robert Brennan. You probably can't
13 read my writing, because I have Parkinson's and I
14 can't write.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Take the microphone.

16 COURT REPORTER: Mr. Robert, will you repeat your
17 last name, please?

18 MR. BRENNAN: My name is Robert Brennan, B-R-E-N-N-A-N,
19 and I live on Old Cedar Loop in Pawleys Island.

20 I read your article in the paper, the article
21 about this whole rate thing, and what you said
22 doesn't match what I'm reading. I am a retired
23 person. My wife is retired. We live on a fixed
24 income. When I read and saw how high the rates are
25 going, we started talking about maybe having to

1 move, because your rates are going to drive us
2 right out of our house.

3 Your peak hours for the summer running from
4 April to October, I have a pool, I have a heater
5 for the pool. That means I got turned my heater
6 off probably around September and let the water go
7 cold. It also means I can't turn it on in the
8 summer until, what was it, May or whenever the peak
9 hours are done there. So, I'm only going to get
10 about three months of use out of my swimming pool
11 because I can't heat the damn thing.

12 You know, and I know most of the people in the
13 area have heaters on their pool. So, you're taking
14 away our likelihood. My house is also totally
15 electric and when we have company on the holidays,
16 the peak hours for winter, Thanksgiving's in
17 November, we're going to get burned badly, because
18 when you got a whole family down, everybody's
19 taking showers, you're cooking a big meal in the
20 oven, that's one of the items you listed to don't
21 use, don't use your oven. Now do you cook a big
22 deal when you can't use your oven? It doesn't work
23 that way.

24 So, you guys got to get your act together a
25 little bit more, because what you read in the paper

1 does not match what you're talking about up here.

2 That's all I got to say.

3 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. Yes, sir?

4 MR. YOUNG: I have a question about the peak hours.

5 Is it every day or just one day that y'all select
6 that hour?

7 MR. SMITH: First, let me apologize. I think I may
8 not have been clear in my very initial discussion,
9 so I'll try to be as clear as I possibly can now.

10 The demand charge that you'll see during the
11 month is based on whatever the highest value is
12 during that peak period for one hour. It's one
13 hour during the entire month.

14 MS. HARRIS: But it changes the whole day ---

15 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry; I need your name, please.

16 MS. HARRIS: Jackie Harris.

17 COURT REPORTER: Harris?

18 MS. HARRIS: Harris.

19 MR. SMITH: So, during the three-hour window, let's
20 say it was a summer month, during that three-hour
21 window every day, what's happening is your demand
22 will be measured. In other words, the amount of
23 energy you use in an hour will be measured each one
24 of those hours, but each one of those hours will
25 not have a demand charge. Only the highest one of

1 those hours for the month.

2 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

3 MR. SMITH: Just one hour for the entire month. Just
4 one, whatever your peak hour is, that number will
5 have a demand charge calculated on it. Yes, sir?

6 MR. WELCH: I know I spoke before, but I think
7 there's a lot of confusion on this concept of peak
8 demand. I know how to explain it. It's very
9 simple.

10 My understanding based on what I've heard back
11 from your people was the fact that it's going to be
12 the highest 60-minute integrated period over the
13 three hour period.

14 In other words, six to -- let's just say the
15 six to nine, okay, for the widow. It's not going
16 to be if you have the highest demand between six to
17 nine. It's not going to be the highest demand
18 between -- in other words, it's not by hour. It's
19 integrated over the three hour period. Is that
20 that correct?

21 MR. SMITH: No, sir, that's not correct.

22 MR. WELCH: Okay. What's it integrated over then?

23 MR. SMITH: Over one of the hours in the three-hour
24 window.

25 MR. WELCH: Okay, so it's either going to be

1 integrated over six to nine, between -- I'm sorry,
2 between six to seven, seven to eight, or eight to
3 nine?

4 MR. SMITH: Yes, sir.

5 MR. WELCH: Okay. So, a customer has no way of
6 knowing beforehand which one of those hours is
7 going to have the peak demand. So, in other words,
8 in order to control use, it's going to be very,
9 very difficult, without knowing in advance. I can
10 control what I use between six and seven, I can
11 control what I use between seven and eight, I can
12 control what between eight and nine, but you're not
13 going to have that ability. Okay? That's why I
14 think the tiered system would probably be much more
15 appropriate. Then each individual can decide, I
16 want to save money, therefore I'm not going to use
17 these high-energy appliances between, you know, six
18 and seven, or I'm going to restrict my breakfast
19 for the family, okay, between seven and eight, and
20 therefore I won't be using the stove or oven those
21 hours. But in the system you're talking about,
22 that's not going to be possible, and I believe
23 there are some people that are going to be very,
24 very upset as a result of this, because that peak-
25 demand charge at \$10 per kW actually turns out in

1 many cases be more than 50 percent of your bill,
2 which I think people are going to find very, very
3 disturbing.

4 MR. SMITH: Thanks for your comment.

5 MS. BUDREAU: All right, so anybody that hasn't spoken
6 before, would you like to come up and speak?

7 MS. BROWNER: Yeah. My name is Caryl Browner,
8 B-R-O-W-E-R, and I live Da Gullah Way in Pawleys
9 Island and I'm a customer. I'm a consumer
10 commercial as well as residential.

11 We went through this exercise with our
12 business last year. And the question I have again,
13 and I'm sorry you're getting beat up here, but is
14 that that peak rate, that \$10 that is per kilowatt,
15 it's not for the hour, right?

16 So, if we used 10 kilowatts, that would be a
17 hundred dollars, right? I mean, \$10 for ---

18 MR. SMITH: Yes, ma'am, if it were integrated over the
19 entire hour. And that's the key, it's integrated
20 over the hour. So, if you turn on a 10 kW load,
21 you have it on for five seconds, and then you turn
22 it off, then that's only a very small portion of
23 the entire usage for the hour. That's a key. But
24 yes, ma'am, if it were 10 kW, yes.

25 MS. BROWNER: One time a month?

1 MR. SMITH: If that were your peak for the entire
2 hour.

3 MS. BROWNER: And how do we track our peak?

4 MR. SMITH: The peak is actually on your bill. It
5 should be there now. You should be able to see
6 that so you know how much you've used. Real-time
7 information is not available. However, real-time
8 information on all the appliances that can be
9 avoided is. So, an electric water heater, there
10 are timers that would be available in our
11 marketplace that you'll be able to purchase,
12 install it on your water heater, and have it not
13 turn on during that three-hour window.

14 MS. BROWNER: That was the equipment that gentleman was
15 referring to?

16 MR. SMITH: That's it exactly.

17 MS. BROWNER: Will it notify you if you are close to
18 the peak? Because there is some equipment like
19 that as well.

20 MR. SMITH: Our systems will not do that.

21 MS. BROWNER: Okay.

22 MS. BUDREAU: Has anybody that has not spoken?

23 MS. WILLIAMS: He's already spoken.

24 MS. BUDREAU: Yeah. Any customers that have not spoken
25 who would like to speak at this time? (Pause for

1 response.)

2 Okay, hearing none, on behalf of ---

3 MS. KOZIOL: I have a question.

4 MS. BUDREAU: Yes, ma'am?

5 COURT REPORTER: I need a name.

6 MS. KOZIOL: Just to clarify, Monday, I have peak and

7 a 10 charge ---

8 MS. WILLIAMS: So, so to be fair to everyone, we want to

9 hear people that ---

10 (INDISCERNIBLE TALKOVER.)

11 MS. WILLIAMS: You've already spoken, and I do want to

12 say, if you all have specific questions about

13 usage, we have Customer Service Reps who will, as

14 Mike said, walk you through exactly what your bill

15 has looked like and what it will look like and

16 answer some of these questions and help you

17 determine how you can reduce the peak usage.

18 So, if it's a specific question, again, in the

19 interest of time and in fairness to everyone here,

20 I would ask you to take those questions outside.

21 If you have a question about the rate structure ---

22 MS. KOZIOL: It's the rate structure, yes.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: So, quickly. So, she needs your name.

24 Again, the reason we're trying to be ---

25 MS. KOZIOL: Nora Koziol, I live on Deacon Drive, and

1 I'm a Santee Cooper customer. Let's keep it
2 simple. Monday, I have peak usage; I get a \$10
3 charge, right? Tuesday, do I get another \$10
4 charge if I have usage, peak usage? Only one
5 charge per month, that's what I need clarification
6 on.

7 MR. SMITH: That's correct, one hour per month.

8 That's it.

9 MS. KOZIOL: The highest ---

10 MR. SMITH: One demand charge.

11 MS. KOZIOL: One demand charge for one hour.

12 MR. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. KOZIOL: Thank you.

14 MS. BUDREAU: Thank y'all.

15 MS. SHANNON: May I? My name is Irene Shannon. I live
16 on Boatmen Drive in Pawleys Island, and yes, I'm a
17 customer and have been since '96. I guess one of
18 the reasons we came here is the electric rates were
19 better. I understand everything's changed. You
20 also have inflation now. But it's an odd feeling
21 because I feel like Santee Cooper is coming into my
22 home and telling me that at hours where -- you
23 know, normal people eat like from three to six, and
24 that's when you'd be using your stove, using your
25 dishwasher, or whatever. But I'm being told by a

1 company when I can turn on my air conditioner, when
2 I can turn on my heat, when I can use my oven, my
3 dishwash. It's like, I mean, it's my home. I
4 should be able to do it when I please, not with
5 someone that I don't even know and that's a company
6 who's supposed to be working for my benefit, tells
7 me I cannot use it at that time. I don't like it.

8 MS. HARRIS: I'm here representing a HOA Board.

9 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: You need to say your name ---

11 COURT REPORTER: And use the microphone please.

12 MS. HARRISS: Jackie Harris, I live on ---

13 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry; I can't hear you.

14 MS. BUDREAU: You have to hold it closer to your mouth.

15 MS. HARRIS: We have to turn our street lights on ---

16 COURT REPORTER: I need to know the street.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: So, your name, the street you live on,

18 and ---

19 MS. HARRIS: Jackie, Jackie Harris.

20 COURT REPORTER: I didn't hear the street; I'm sorry.

21 MS. HARRIS: Hidden Oaks.

22 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

23 MS. HARRIS: Okay, we have to turn our street lights

24 on 5:30, 6:00 through the winter. So, we will be

25 hit with a high charge every night. Is that how it

1 goes? It'll be peak hours.

2 MR. SMITH: So, in the winter, November to March,
3 what happens is the peak hours shift from 6 a.m. to
4 9 a.m.

5 MS. HARRIS: Okay. So, you don't have, okay, and the
6 fountain runs all day with a light and, you know,
7 running. Is that every day a charge?

8 MR. SMITH: Well, it depends on what's contributing
9 to your peak demand. Some loads, and I'm not sure
10 what the water fountain load is, but there are some
11 loads, especially small motor loads, they're really
12 tiny. They don't contribute very much to demand.
13 However, some heavily resistive loads, we talked in
14 the past about a hot water heater or a clothes
15 dryer, something like that, that has a significant
16 demand, those are really the items that we're
17 recommending that you shift to off-peak periods,
18 because those are typically easy to adjust.

19 So, those types of things. There are some
20 smaller loads that are going to run all the time.
21 Those loads are just going to run. But the things
22 you want to minimize are those things that you can
23 control.

24 MS. HARRIS: Okay. All right, thank you.

25 MR. SMITH: You're welcome.

1 MS. BUDREAU: Thank you. One last call, I guess, any
2 more customers who haven't spoken who would like to
3 speak? (Pause for response.)

4 Okay, hearing none, we appreciate you being
5 here. On behalf of the Board and the staff of
6 Santee Cooper, we appreciate your comments and
7 hearing the feedback on our proposed rate
8 adjustments.

9 Thank you for your time. I know it took time
10 out of your day to come here and be with us. The
11 meeting is adjourned.

12 (There being nothing further, the
13 meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.)

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

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) C E R T I F I C A T E
COUNTY OF HORRY)

BE IT KNOWN, that I, Cara-Leigh V. Richardson,
took the foregoing proceeding and hereby attest:

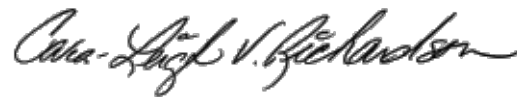
That I was then and there a notary public in and
for the State of South Carolina-at-large and that by
virtue thereof I was duly authorized to administer an
oath;

That the foregoing Public Comment Meeting was
taken down by me and reduced to written form by means
of Stenomask with backup;

That the foregoing transcript represents a true,
accurate, and complete transcription of said Public
Comment Meeting at the time and place aforesaid to the
best of my skill and ability;

That I am neither a relative nor an employee of
any of the parties hereto, nor of any attorney or
counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor interested
in the outcome of this action;

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto
affixed my signature and title.



Cara-Leigh V. Richardson

Date: September 18th, 2024
Notary public for South Carolina
My commission expires July 10, 2025