Control Number: 46831

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Re: Docket 46831

5-14-17

Dear PUC,

I have written you several times before about the repeated and unwarranted rate increases by the ~~monopoly~~ monopoly - El Paso Electric. Yet another article in our local paper states the same concern. I hope you will take into consideration the opinions of community leaders regarding the unfairness of EPE's rape of El Paso electrical consumers.

Thanks for your time,

Robert Lenhart

El Paso, Tx.

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

Bob Lenhart
1709 Mike Hill Dr
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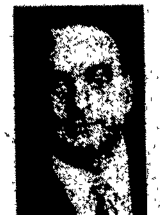
332

Alternative energy

Tax credits help cut reliance on El Paso Electric monopoly



TALKING TAXES
DAVID LEEPER

Mayor Oscar Leeser complained in a recent column in the El Paso Times that El Paso Electric was again seeking another rate increase to cover its operating expenses. He pointedly described the $3 million compensation to its CEO and $2.5 million to its 11 directors as unjustified. Leeser ended his comments by stating his opposition to El Paso Electric's treatment of solar eergy users.

TheEO responded that she felt th mayor comments did not reflect "th sentimnt of all the people in El Paso."

A rmal person would be hard presse to explain her tone-deaf re sponsel think I can.

A fe years ago, I was invited to a di ner paty attended by several member of El Paso Electric management. As th evenin unfolded, some of those mem bers soke out in defense of rate in crease in the face of specific manag ment dcisions that had cost the ratepa ers of l Paso a great deal of money. Ap parently, the company has a monopoly on electricity sales in El Paso, which guarantees it a rate of return.

Let me say that in a different way. I think what was being said is that no matter how poorly the company is run and how poor its investments might be, the company is and should still be guaranteed a profit. And according to Leeser's comments, the operating expenses of the company include the cost of extravagant salaries and benefits paid to its CEO and directors.

Having these thoughts in mind, perhaps there are ways to reduce our reliance on electricity from the electric company. Today, let's look at the tax benefits of acquiring alternative energy sources.

1. Residential energy credit

The federal tax code allows individuals who purchase qualified solar electric property to reduce their taxes by 30% of the cost of that solar property. This is called a residential energy efficient property credit. This 30% is a tax credit a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes and not merely a deduction.

See LEEPER, Page 5D

El Paso Times 5-14-17 re: Docket 4681