



Control Number: 49421



Item Number: 771

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DeAnn T. Walker
Chairman

Arthur C. D'Andrea
Commissioner

Shelly Botkin
Commissioner

John Paul Urban
Executive Director



Greg Abbott
Governor

Public Utility Commission of Texas

2019 DEC 4 4:11:13

TO: Central Records

FROM: Shelah J. Cisneros
Commission Advising

SSW

RE: Correspondence related to P.U.C. Docket No. 49421; *Application of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC for Authority to Change Rates*

DATE: December 4, 2019

Chairman Walker and Commissioners D'Andrea and Botkin received the attached correspondence pertaining to the above-styled docket.

Please note that a member or employee of a state agency assigned to render a decision in a contested case may not directly or indirectly communicate in connection with an issue of fact or law with any state agency, person, party, or representative of those entities, except on notice and opportunity for each party to participate. See Administrative Procedures Act, Texas Government Code § 2001.061.

Commission Advising is filing the correspondence. Parties will not be served copies of the attached document, but can access it through the PUC Interchange at <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.

cc: All Parties (without attachment)

Q:\CADM\Memos\Exparte\49421 ex parte communication to Commissioners.docx



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Dwyer, Davida

From: ahenkel@mutilityinvestors.org
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:06 AM
To: CommissionerBotkin
Cc: Dwyer, Davida
Subject: CenterPoint Energy Rate Case #49421 filing
Attachments: 49421 MUI letter filed with PUCT.pdf

WARNING: EXTERNAL SENDER. Always be cautious when clicking links or opening attachments. NEVER provide your user ID or password.

Commissioner Botkin -

Attached is a copy of the letter we recently filed with the Commission regarding decisions in CenterPoint Energy's rate case.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annette Henkel
President
Minnesota Utility Investors
651-227-7902

English, Barksdale

From: ahenkel@mutilityinvestors.org
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:05 AM
To: CommissionerDAndrea
Cc: English, Barksdale
Subject: CenterPoint Energy Rate Case #49421 filing
Attachments: 49421 MUI letter filed with PUCT.pdf

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Commissioner D'Andrea -

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annette Henkel
President
Minnesota Utility Investors
651-227-7902

Oetken, Tammy

From: ahenkel@mnutilityinvestors.org
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:04 AM
To: ChairmanWalker
Cc: Brandt, Adrienne
Subject: CenterPoint Energy Rate Case #49421 filing
Attachments: 49421 MUI letter filed with PUCT.pdf

WARNING: EXTERNAL SENDER. Always be cautious when clicking links or opening attachments. NEVER provide your user ID or password.

Chairman Walker –

Attached is a copy of the letter we recently filed with the Commission regarding decisions in CenterPoint Energy's rate case.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annette Henkel
President
Minnesota Utility Investors
651-227-7902



413 Wacouta Street, Suite 230
Saint Paul, MN 55101
p. 651-227-7902
t. 888-660-5171
www.mnutilityinvestors

DATE: December 3, 2019
TO: Public Utility Commission of Texas
RE: CenterPoint Energy Rate Case
Docket No. 49421

On behalf of the nearly 23,000 members of the Minnesota Utility Investors (MUI), many who are shareholders of CenterPoint Energy living throughout the United States including in Texas, I am writing to respectfully request the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to consider the broad sweeping/national impact your decisions will have on our members.

MUI members are on average 65+ years old; long-time investors in utilities because of their stability and reliability; and they rely upon their utility dividends for much of their livelihood. To these mom/pop retail shareholders, utility regulatory stability is one of the appealing factors that contribute to our members investment.

The recent decisions by the PUCT have had a significant negative impact on the company and many unintended consequences – not just in Texas.

One of the concerns with the initial decisions of the PUCT is the likely negative position it will put CenterPoint Energy compared to other utilities throughout the nation – making it an unfavorable investment for current shareholders and potential investors.

Your decisions could limit CenterPoint Energy's ability in raising the funds they need to maintain a reliable utility and stable investment.

The financial markets were paying attention to the PUCT Proceedings on CenterPoint Energy's rate case. Their stock has taken a tremendous hit as well as being downgraded by SunTrust Robinson to "hold" and numerous financial analysts have cut their price targets last week - to lower the average target. Most recently, Moody's has placed CenterPoint Energy on review for downgrade and they were downgraded at Wells Fargo as well. These downgrades harm all CenterPoint Energy shareholders and customers.

Before you issue a final decision, we strongly encourage you to reevaluate the issues surrounding their ROE and their Capital Structure of equity/debt ratio and consider the far-reaching impacts they will have on our members in Texas and throughout the U.S.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annette P. Henkel', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Annette P. Henkel
President

EMPOWERING INVESTORS