

Letter to the editor 2/15/11

Cut Off Date for Rate Increase Protests is Next Wed. (23rd)

Last Friday I picked up a copy of the SEC Advice Notice No.64 and a protest form. Mrs. Latasa informed me that she just received these and hadn't had a chance to look them over herself, this was one week after the clock started running for those interested in filing a protest.

Those who may wish to file a protest to the recommended rate increase need to get their protest to Santa Fe by the 23rd of this month. Beside the original protest, there should be 5 copies included as well.

Notice 64 (& attachments) Comments:

Mr. Joseph M. Herrera, the new SEC General Manager, has his signature on the revision to rate's forms.

Interim manager's signature is absent from the RUS Form 7, dated Dec'10.

"Statement of comparisons of the new rates" is an attachment, one page in length, which refers the reader to the Enchantment magazine notice. This comparison is lacking. This is just a reference to the old rates vs. the new rates. Possible grounds for protest here. I expected to see what the rates were for the surrounding communities, for comparison.

"Statement of need for rate adjustment" is also an attachment which is lacking substance and is possibly grounds for a protest. The RUS requires an Operating TIER of 1.1 and the SEC has failed to do so for 2009 and 2010. The reason why we have failed to have a higher operating margin goes unexplained. If we don't have a projected budget for 2011 and do not know where all the money is going, why should this increase fix our problem? Of course it doesn't. The problem is poor management by the board of trustees.

The last monthly board meeting showed a clear reason why the SEC is operating so poorly. A non-viewable (by board trustees) contract was presented by the interim manager without any competitive bidding. When asked to let this matter lie until the new general manager was on the job, the board refused to discuss it and quickly voted their will on us, again.

For some reason the board of (dis)-trustees, does not want to allow other board members to see the books. Possibly it is criminal, possibly it is just spite, possibly it is out of embarrassment that this board cannot explain to the owner-members just how it spends our money.

Doug Scott

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